Dear Friend:

LGBT Community Centers change lives. From coast to coast and in the heartland, over 180 Centers help to build a better world for everyone who cares about freedom and fairness and the health of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

That is why we are all involved in CenterLink, the only organization dedicated to supporting the sustainable development of LGBT Community Centers all over the nation, and now in other countries as well. We believe this work is vital to the success of our larger social justice movement. That is why CenterLink is important to everyone.

In fact, the Community Center movement has always been about supporting and strengthening the LGBT community wherever it is and meeting the needs that local communities prioritize. It is the reason that CenterLink works with Centers in cities, suburbs and rural areas. It is why we spend so much time listening to local stories, finding out what individual community centers are doing, identifying how we can assist, and helping community centers connect with each other. Through the listening, helping, and connecting, we have facilitated tremendous growth and change in communities.

It is an enormous privilege to play a role in supporting the diverse and remarkable work being done by LGBT Community Centers everywhere! Our work is incredibly rewarding as we get to help and watch Community Centers grow and better serve their local communities.

2008 was a momentous year for the LGBT community, and we at CenterLink are proud of the vital role Centers played in our movement. In countless communities across the country, Community Centers serve as the primary recreational, social, mental health, healthcare, and civil rights organization for the LGBT community. In fact, Centers serve more people in more places than any other kind of LGBT organization.

Looking to the future, we remain committed to helping LGBT Community Centers achieve their missions more effectively and to providing a national voice for all Centers that are continually building and representing strong, healthy and politically powerful LGBT communities. This is the backbone of our movement and CenterLink is here to support that.

This year, our annual report gives you a snapshot of our recent accomplishments, a chance to look forward with us, and our vision of the Community Center movement. At CenterLink, we pride ourselves on responding to the emerging needs in our community, as we work tirelessly to support the growth and development of strong, sustainable LGBT Community Centers.

We couldn’t do this work without our Community Center partners and our network of generous supporters. Thank you for helping to make our work possible!

Sincerely,

Lorri L. Jean
Co-Chair

Dolph Ward Goldenburg
Co-Chair

Terry Stone
Executive Director
LOOKING AT 2008

Overview of Accomplishments

- Added **22 community centers as first-time members** of CenterLink, making for over 100 members total, including one center in Vancouver, Canada.

- Maintained online Center directory of over **180 community centers** in the United States and internationally.

- Individuals living in Romania, Nigeria, Puerto Rico and Peru have contacted CenterLink requesting information regarding how to create a center in their countries.

- In collaboration with the Movement Advancement Project, produced the 2008 Community Center Survey Report, providing the most comprehensive picture of LGBT community centers’ staffs and boards, program priorities, constituencies, fundraising, budgets, and technical assistance needs since CenterLink’s founding. **The report identified that Centers serve over 40,000 people weekly.**

- Provided **one-on-one coaching to over 400 community center representatives** on such areas as community needs assessment, how to start a center, membership program development, cultural competence, executive transitions, requests for model policies and procedures, crisis management, local/regional funding, board and staff roles, and numerous other topics.

- Hosted the **Annual Executive Directors Summit** in Las Vegas for 52 individuals, focusing on providing practical tools for sustaining community centers and sharing best practices.

- Collaborated with the LGBT Community Center of New York on the national Promote-the-Vote project to provide materials and assistance to 170 community centers nation-wide to **increase LGBT voter registration.**

- Provided a full day of fundraising training at the 2008 Creating Change Conference designed for the **unique fundraising challenges of centers.**

- Began collaboration with the LGBT Pipeline Project to **identify the barriers to leadership for LGBT people of color** and strategize ways to enhance their inclusion in leadership throughout the LGBT movement.

- Created the “**Business Plan Workbook for LGBT Centers,**” a resource currently distributed to all start-up groups and part of the “Center-in-a-Box” ongoing technical assistance resource project.

- After a year-long **rebranding process,** changed the organization’s name, adopted a logo and developed a new website.
CenterLink is proud to represent a community of LGBT centers across the country, and now around the world, that serve the largest and most diverse segment of the LGBT community everywhere. **As we look ahead, we can see what a vital role community centers and CenterLink will continue to play in the LGBT movement.** CenterLink will continue to be at the forefront of the federal advocacy landscape, helping to ensure the voices of the community center movement are heard. We will also continue to expand our vital everyday programming for Centers, some of which provides much-needed funding and resources.

CenterLink will continue to listen to the needs of community centers and the needs of the people that centers touch, which reach over **40,000 people weekly**. LGBT Center Awareness Day 2009 has the theme of “My Community Center Changed My Life,” because we are committed to supporting those life-changing efforts, and making sure that everyone at every level recognizes what an impact the community center movement has every day.

Everyone at CenterLink is thrilled to move forward with this vision, as we see the centers as the backbone of our LGBT movement, **and we can’t wait to hear how your community center changed your life.**

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**CenterLink Supporters for 2008**

**Individuals**
- Randall L. Arnold
- Laura Bradford & Valerie Larabee
- Robbin Burr
- Marjorie Cage
- Colleen Dermody
- Sue Doerfer
- Michael Fouquet & Ming-Jer Lee
- Dolph Ward Goldenburg
- Lorri L. Jean
- David Kilmnick
- Lester L. Neblett III
- Daniel H. Renberg
- Guido Sanchez
- Paul Scott
- Leslie Ann Thompson
- George Westerman

**Organizations**
- American Airlines
- American Legacy Foundation
- Arcus Foundation
- Barefoot Winery
- Better World Advertising
- Casswood Insurance
- Cyndi Lauper & True Colors Tour
- David Bohnett Foundation
- Dennis R. Neill Equality Center
- FriendsYouKnow.com
- Gay & Lesbian Leadership Institute
- Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley
- H. Van Ameringen Foundation
- Johnson Family Foundation
- L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center
- Lotus Blossom Consulting
- National LGBT Tobacco Control Network
- One Step Printing
- Orbitz
- OutCast Films
- Outword Magazine
- Prudential Foundation
- Rainbow Endowment
- RainbowFlyers.com
- Sodexo
- ZippyDogs.com
### Revenue

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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2008 Unrestricted</th>
<th>2008 Temporarily Restricted</th>
<th>2008 Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>$135,417</td>
<td>$9,583</td>
<td>$145,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Membership dues</td>
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<td>$35,325</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-kind</td>
<td>$15,618</td>
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<td>$15,618</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
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<td>$63,957</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conference income</td>
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<td>Interest income</td>
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<td>Net assets released from</td>
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<td>purpose &amp; time restriction</td>
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<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td>$257,607</td>
<td>$9,583</td>
<td>$267,280</td>
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#### Expenses

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<td>Program services</td>
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<td>General &amp; administrative</td>
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<td>Fundraising services</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td>$216,925</td>
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#### Change in Net Assets

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<tr>
<td>Net Assets, Beginning of year</td>
<td>$39,180</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Assets, End of year</td>
<td>$79,952</td>
</tr>
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</table>

### Expense Allocation

- Fundraising Expenses: 7%
- General & Administrative Expenses: 1%
- Program Expenses: 92%

### Sources of Revenue

- **Annual Conference**: 54%
- Contributions: 24%
- In-Kind: 13%
- Membership Dues: 6%
- Interest: 3%
- Grants: 1%
Board of Directors

*Dolph Ward Goldenburg, Co-Chair
William Way LGBT Community Center
Lori L. Jean, Co-Chair
L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center
George D. Westerman, Secretary
IBM
Valerie Larabee, Treasurer
Utah Pride Center
Richard Burns
Arcus Foundation
Robbin Burr, Chair Emeritus
Prudential
Maggi Cage, PhD
Milwaukee LGBT Community Center
Ann DeGroot
Minneapolis Youth Coordinating Board
Colleen Dermody
Wileck-Combs Communications
Sue Doerfer
LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland
David Kilmnick
The Long Island GLBT Community Center
Jude Medeiros
Sodexo
Lester L. Nebbett III
Sacramento Gay & Lesbian Center
Ajaiae Sellers
shOUTAmerica
Leslie Ann Thompson
Affirmations

Staff

Terry Stone [left]
Executive Director
Guido A. Sanchez [right]
National Manager of Membership & Development

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http://www.lgbtcenters.org

Center Awareness Day:
http://www.myCenterLink.org

http://www.causes.com/Centerlink
http://www.twitter.com/Centerlink