



The LGBT Resource Center for the 7 Rivers Region Annual Report January 2009

From the Board President Mary O'Sullivan

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AmeriCorps Member
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During 2008, the Center grew from a largely volunteer organization, to a full-fledged service agency for the 7 Rivers Region, LGBT people, and our allies. It was an incredible year for the Center with exponential growth of services provided and activities organized. This was due in large part because Rosanne St. Sauver was hired as our first Executive Director in August and immediately set about expanding the Center. Her work has made the Center more visible with many more people utilizing its services. To see what was accomplished each year as the Center grew from 2003 until today, visit the Accomplishments Page on our Center website:

<http://www.7riverslgbt.org/accomplishments.htm>

Many people have supported the Center with their dollars and their labor over these past 5 years and I am grateful to have been a part of the development of an organization that I believe is positioned to become a significant resource in our community. Of course, we all need to continue to support the Center with our dollars and labor, but I know the Executive Director and board have the commitment and skills necessary to take the Center to its next level.

My term on the board and as board president ends with our January 17, 2009 annual meeting. I intend to continue working for the Center as a volunteer, and I invite you to join me in supporting your 7 Rivers LGBT Resource Center in all the ways that you can. Together we will celebrate this year's milestone of a 5th anniversary and together, we can look forward to celebrating the Center's 10th anniversary and those beyond as well.

From the Executive Director

Rosanne St. Sauver

Many things changed for the Center in 2008. I became the first staff member. We expanded our hours, added group opportunities, hosted rallies and protests. We offered training for local service providers on Interpersonal Violence in LGBTQI Relationships, and more. This year the Center came into its own. The Center is guided by a Strategic Plan that was developed in the fall of 2007 with the board of directors, Nancy Noelke a Consultant, and community members. It is a viable document which we have committed to review and to revise as necessary this winter. We continue to work towards fulfilling the original goals: develop a visible presence in the community and work toward a solid financial base.

We will continue to advocate for the LGBT Community and to provide opportunities for community members to get involved. In addition we will work to meet the needs of allies and local service providers to ensure that we are all able to provide our best for the LGBT Community. We will build additional connections throughout the community and engage various civic groups, nonprofits, and local businesses.

As is the nature of the business of a nonprofit we will continue to develop creative ways to raise funds to ensure our ability to provide the services of the Center. Financial stability and diversified funding sources for the Center are vital. In 2008, we held our first Coming Out For Equality Event at the Radisson and celebrated with 154 people. We have collaborated with the Eagles Aerie 1254 to host People Helping People Fish and Steak Fry's. Through our collective desire to sustain the LGBT Resource Center for the Seven Rivers Region we can develop a continuous stream of fundraising dollars to fuel the work and services of the Center.

The Center has an assortment of pride and ally items in our Rainbow Boutique, we offer WIFI and two computers with internet access for the community, and we have DVDS, VHS, and books available in our Christa Matter Library. The Center has copies of Lavender, The Second Supper, The Advocate, and other magazines available for your perusal. We continue to offer resources, services, and items that help you live out and proud. Stop in and see what we have to offer.

It is only fitting with the start of a new year that the Center also makes resolutions; here is what we will strive for in 2009:

Resolutions, Goals, and Hopes for 2009

- 🌀 We resolve to stand firm in our belief that all individuals deserve equal rights.
- 🌀 We resolve to be a strong ally to those that are out and those that cannot be.
- 🌀 It is our goal to become more visible in the community and welcome new allies.
- 🌀 It is our goal to speak up, speak out, and demand discrimination stop based on sexual orientation and gender identity/expression.
- 🌀 We hope for an inclusive ENDA (Employee Non Discrimination Act).
- 🌀 We hope for the right to marry and have our relationships recognized.
- 🌀 We hope to make the world a friendlier place for LGBT people so we can all live out and proud.

I look forward to working with you for a phenomenal 2009!

Mission Statement

The LGBT Resource Center for the Seven Rivers Region, Inc. **provides service to foster understanding** and **build connections** on issues related to sexual orientation and gender identity to the 7 Rivers Region through **education, events,** and **programming.**

This is how the Center fulfilled its mission in 2008:

provides service to foster understanding

- Presentation: Interpersonal Violence in LGBTQI Relationship -- 22 attendees
- Presented to 95 local service providers at the Practicing Inclusiveness/Embracing Diversity Community Resources Panel

build connections

- Increased newsletter subscription to over 335
- Rm2breathe Training
- HIV Community Planning Network
- 2008 WI LGBT Health Leadership Forum
- Women's Fund Luncheon with Mavis Leno
- La Crosse Community Funds Annual Meeting and Awards
- Hosted a book signing for June Kjome: The Making of an Old Lady Activist
- Hosted a holiday potluck on December 23, 2008

education

- Showed "Life Support" on World AIDS Day
- Collaboratively presented "For the Bible Tells Me So" with Our Saviors Lutheran Church
- Rm2breathe smoking cessation work

events

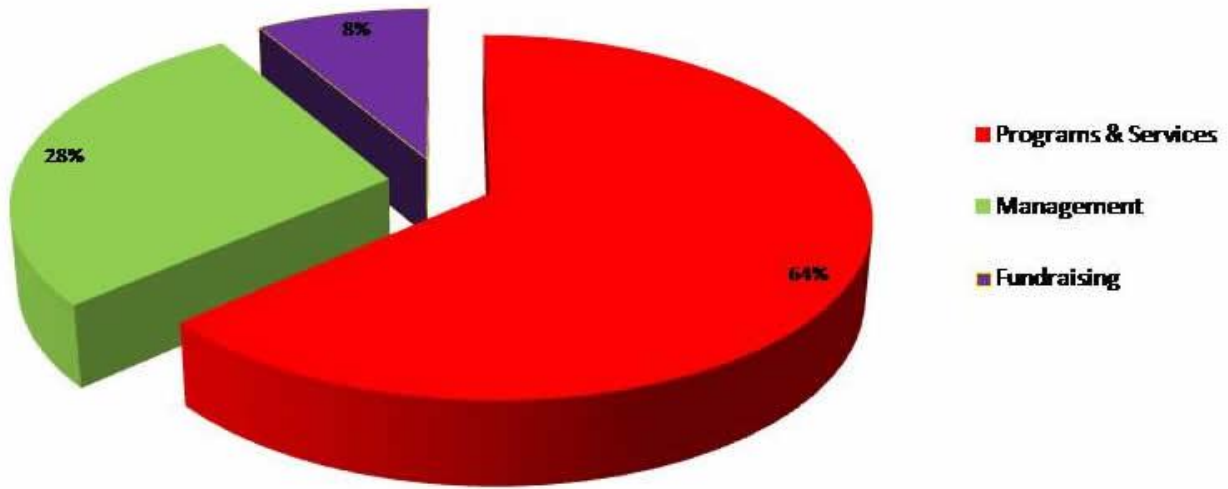
- Pride in August had the best attendance ever
- Spanning the bridge on National Coming Out Day a Silent Rally For Equality involved 115 people and 3 dogs
- First Annual Gala Event: Coming Out For Equality had 154 attendees
- National Day of Protest as part of Join the Impact's response to Prop 8 in California drew 60 people
- Gay Rights March in December had 47 people walking

programming

- Weekly LGBT parenting group
- Transgender/gender queer gathering
- Speed Dating Event
- PFLAG
- Drop-in Group
- Monthly Out and About social group
- AA Group

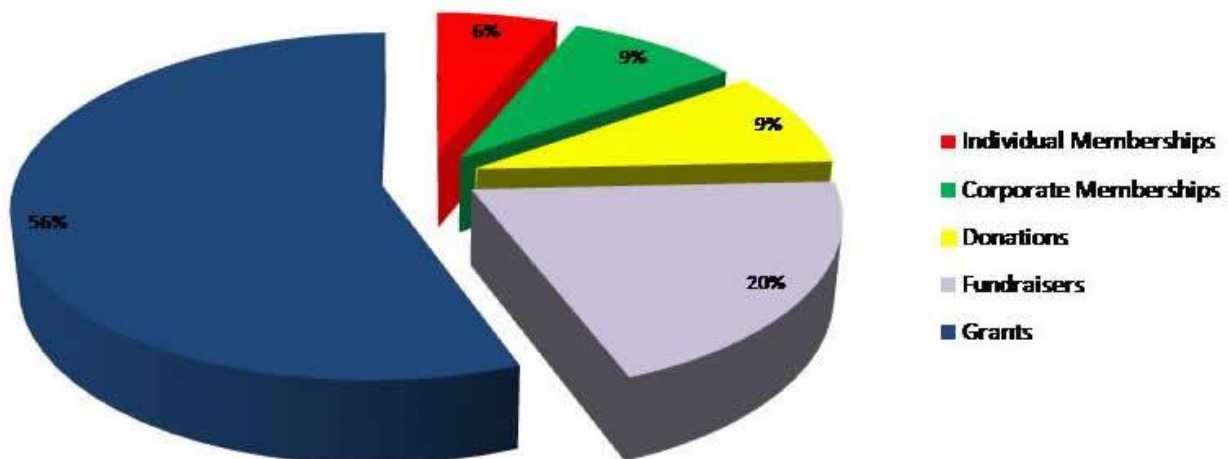
Budget

2009 Projected Expenses \$53,297 total expenses



The current projected expenses reflect the fact that the Center is entering a new stage of development with the hiring of an executive director in August.

2009 Projected Funding Sources \$55,600 total income



Through 2008, the Center has relied on grant monies for much of its support. The Bridge Builders Fund from the La Crosse Community Foundation, Astraea, and other national funding organizations have supported our initial efforts. In addition, through our work with the other LGBT Centers in the state, we are part of several grants to support LGBT citizens of the state. This cooperation among Centers helps all of our agencies and we expect it to continue to grow. In addition, the Center sponsored several local fundraising events:

- 4th Annual Rummage Sale
- 2 Brat Barns
- One Stop Shop
- People Helping People Fish Fry
- New Year's Eve Drag Show-45 attendees

Finally, our goal is to expand membership, corporate membership, and major donors, both individual and corporate. Even though memberships make up a small percentage of the Center's income, they are important as signs of community support for our work. The size of our membership demonstrates to funding sources that we have the support of our local community.

2008 Corporate Sponsors

Special thanks to our corporate sponsors, who gave time, space, and monetary support.

- Gundersen-Lutheran
- Radisson Hotel of La Crosse
- Johns, Flaherty and Collins Attorneys at Law
- My Place
- Players
- Illusions