



7 Rivers Region 2010 Annual Report

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January-July, 2010

**And many wonderful,
talented Volunteers!**

From the Board President

Kathryn Hietbrink

I am so grateful to the commitment and contributions of so many people in our LGBTQ and Allied community that have been instrumental in making this year another successful one for our Center! Without your support, donations, participation and efforts on behalf of the LGBT Resource Center, we wouldn't be here today celebrating another year with an increase in programming, trainings, leadership and people served under the extremely creative, capable, courageous and compassionate leadership of our Executive Director, Rosanne St. Sauver. Specific highlights of 2010 are noted in the annual report.

The LGBT Resource Center of the Seven Rivers Region is truly a community center that opens its door and works beyond the walls of our small space to meet the needs of all who come by or call in need of information, support, inspiration, networking opportunities, friendship, advocacy, educational materials, trainings, programs, groups, or events to attend. Our circle continues to widen as we reach out to all nine counties in the three states we serve. We chose to meet in La Crescent, MN for the 2011 annual meeting as part of our outreach and service expansion especially into more rural areas.

This past year was filled with challenges, opportunities, rewards and new supporters that have strengthened our mission and increased our limited resources to "foster understanding and build connections on issues related to sexual orientation and gender identity to the 7 Rivers Region.." When it looked like we might not be able to pay our bills (or Rosanne's salary) at one point I put out a call for help from former board members and am very grateful to Mary O'Sullivan, Sara Sullivan and especially Alice Benson, who spearheaded our newly formed grant-writing committee. Thanks to this group's efforts, along with Rosanne's; you can see from the Income graph that 41% came from grants! With an increase in fundraisers (the first annual For the Love of Art- the 2nd one is Feb.4th, 2011), GALAXY funding and donations, we came into the black this year by \$13,000. That is not much of a buffer and is not enough at this point to meet our financial goals but we are on our way. I don't know of another organization that does so much with so little in terms of income and minimal expenses while expanding programs and services offered. Rosanne does this with finesse! We still intend to find a larger, more comfortable and attractive location that allows us to continue to grow (and doesn't have leaking pipes) and to offer Rosanne a much overdue increase in her salary and benefits.

In 2010 our board of directors revised our Strategic Plan and reorganized our committees in order to increase sustainable funding, visibility, outreach and participation at Center events. Each of our committee chairpersons will present their goals today for the coming year as we work together with you toward a future that supports the continual growth and viability of a Center that reflects the truly magnificent and diverse community that we proudly represent, and serve. Thank you for your presence today as well as your much appreciated and essential support of our Center in the year ahead!

From the Executive Director

Rosanne St. Sauver

What an amazing year 2009 was for the Center! Throughout the year, we added programs, trained 16 volunteers to help staff the Center, and continue to expand our services to meet the needs of LGBT people, allies, professionals, and community members to help further our mission. As we continue to move forward with a committed staff, volunteers, board of directors, and the generous support of people like you we will continue to realize our potential as a community organization focused on meeting the needs of the LGBT community throughout the tri-state area.

With the addition of GALAXY in March, we have been able to partner with Diverse and Resilient to help fund this life-saving program for LGBTQ youth and their allies ages 13-20. Currently, GALAXY meets twice per week on Tuesdays and Saturdays, we have had over 46 different youth participate in our program. Five GALAXY youth attended the Young Womyn's Empowerment Conference and we sent six GALAXY youth and two leaders to Diverse & Resilient's HIV Institute. Part of the Institute's focus was to develop a plan as a group on what you wished to take back to your community and develop a course for implementation. The Center is blessed to get to work with youth that understand the importance of giving back to their community; our youth chose to volunteer once per month as a group for one year. With the support of other GALAXY youth, staff, and leaders we all contributed to develop a volunteer plan. Thus far we have staffed WAFER, assisted with Come For Supper at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, litter clean up downtown which resulted in our filling a 45 gallon trash can, and helped collect donations for Warm for the Holidays 2 to benefit families served by the ARCW.

We are in our second year of our **rm2breathe** grant which is a state-wide anti-tobacco program for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people in Wisconsin. This initiative is funded by The University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health's Wisconsin Partnership Program and implemented by Diverse & Resilient in partnership with the Center, University of Wisconsin School of Medicine & Public Health, Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, OutReach, the LGBT Community Center of Madison, LGBT Community Center of the Chippewa Valley, SAGE in Milwaukee, Wisconsin Department of Health Services, University of Wisconsin Center for Tobacco Research and Intervention, American Lung Association of Wisconsin and Milwaukee City Health Department. The next step for this grant in 2010 is to provide a Quit Group. It has been beneficial for the Center to collaborate with other providers focused on improving the quality of life and health of LGBT people in Wisconsin. For more information and to get involved with this initiative visit www.rm2breathe.org

The Center will continue to work with Fair Wisconsin, other LGBT Community Centers, and our legislators to help influence policies, laws, and strengthen protections for the LGBT community. 2009 proved to be a year of small but necessary gains for the LGBT community in the Midwest, in Wisconsin the passage of the Domestic Partnership Registry, in Iowa legalized marriage for same sex couples, and in Minnesota the Saint Paul City Council passed a Domestic-Partner Registry Ordinance. In our quest for equality the steps will be many, the challenges at times enormous, but it is in our collective efforts that we shall persevere.

Our Mission:

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.**

Highlights of 2010:

provides service to foster understanding

- Participated on a LGBTQQIAA Panel with UWL students for La Crosse Roads students at Logan High School
- Presented on Interpersonal violence in relationships to Winona State University students
- Keynote at the Fall Chamber Diversity Breakfast, La Crosse, WI
- Participated and helped plan the LGBTQA Out in the Workplace Panel for the Wisconsin Association of Colleges and Employers (WI-ACE)
- Organized a peaceful sit in “Gay Families Are Real Families”, Riverside Park, La Crosse

build connections

- Increased newsletter subscription to over 475
- Hosted a Rainbow Potluck Feast in November and held our first Rainbow Holiday Appetizer Potluck which included Holiday B*I*N*G*O* in December
- Coordinated the 3rd Annual Warm For The Holidays donation drive to benefit the families served by the ARCW-La Crosse
- Joined the Domestic Abuse Task Force
- Presented collaboratively with La Crosse Schools and a PFLAG mom to Behavioral Health Service Providers at Gundersen Lutheran

education

- Breast Health Initiative training and educational events
- Continued work on collaborative statewide grant rm2breathe, to educate about smoking cessation
- Presented “Girlhood for LGBTQ Teens” at the Re-claiming Girlhood Conference
- Hosted FREE HIV Testing Days once a month at the Center with Laura Runchey, ARCW
- World AIDS Day we held an Open Office with AIDS themed movies playing all day, refreshments, FREE Testing with Laura, ARCW and ended with a Candle Light Vigil at 5:00 pm

events

- Pride in August, hosted 2nd Annual GALAXY Talent Show
- National Coming Out Day Activities:
 - Held our 1st Speak Out prior to the Silent Rally, Representative Jennifer Shilling, Tawny Kind, John Medinger, Pediatrician Anne Budzak, June Kjome, UW-L Student groups, and many more people committed to social justice and equality attended
 - Silent Rally for Equality we had 271 people, 7 dogs, and 2 cats for equality
 - Coming Out For Equality with Alfonso Weneker, PFUND,
- Numerous Fundraising and Friend raising events throughout the year, such as: For the Love Art, Equality 5K, Progressive Dinner, Holiday Home Tour, Drag For All Ages, GALAXY Reunion and more

programming

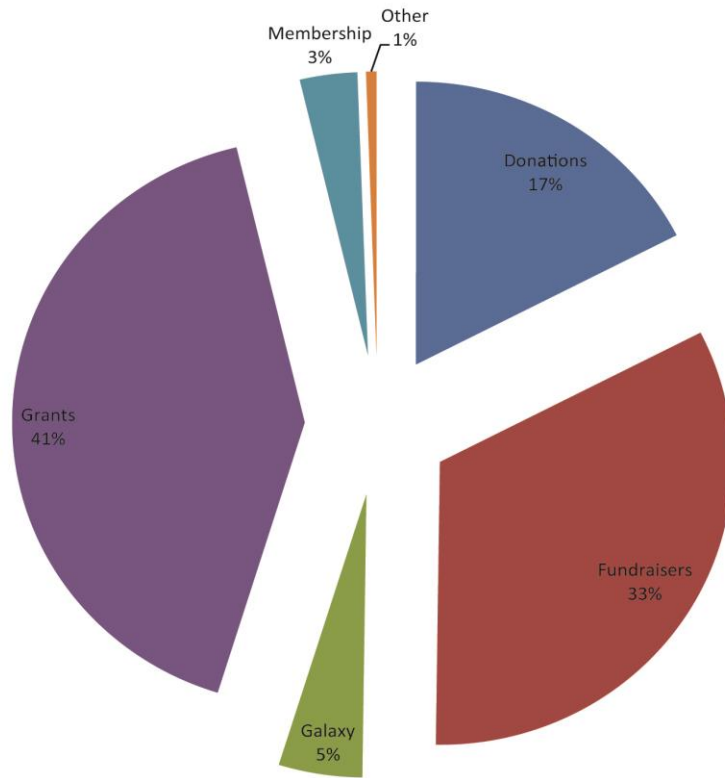
- GALAXY, continued to provide two weekly meeting times, with over 520 group contacts
- Transgender/ Gender Queer Gathering meets monthly
- Monthly Out & About
- Drop In Group
- GLENDA

For more fabulous happenings in 2010, please visit our website www.7riverslgbt.org

2010 Budget

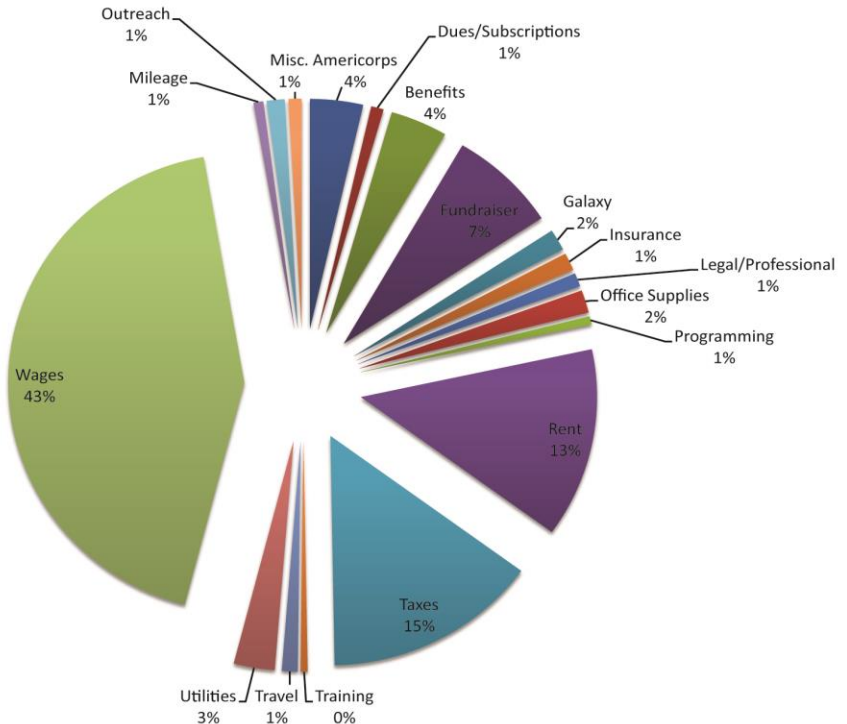
2010 Income

Category	Amount
Donations	\$ 12,173.00
Fundraisers	\$ 22,864.00
Galaxy	\$ 3,210.00
Grants	\$ 28,904.00
Membership	\$ 2,215.00
Other	\$ 400.00
Total	\$ 69,766.00



2010 Expenses

Category	Amount
Americorps	\$ 2,050.00
Dues/Subscriptions	\$ 481.00
Benefits	\$ 2,211.00
Fundraiser	\$ 4,192.00
Galaxy	\$ 850.00
Insurance	\$ 700.00
Legal/Professional	\$ 540.00
Office Supplies	\$ 900.00
Programming	\$ 330.00
Rent	\$ 7,560.00
Taxes	\$ 8,320.00
Training	\$ 267.00
Travel	\$ 609.00
Utilities	\$ 1,585.00
Wages	\$ 24,427.00
Mileage	\$ 374.00
Outreach	\$ 691.00
Misc.	\$ 500.00
Total	\$ 56,587.00



collaborative initiatives, donations, fundraisers, our newly founded “I ♥ My Center” Campaign, memberships, and more. We continue to be creative in our efforts to fund the vital work of the Center. Our Development Committee and Grant Writing Committee are both comprised of dedicated volunteers that help write grants, develop events that raise friends and funds, and work to develop a solid financial foundation for the Center. We look forward to working with you our supporters in 2010 to have another successful year of events.

In addition to the above, the Center sponsored several local fundraising events, including:

6 th Annual Rummage Sale	Progressive Dinner
Brat Barns	Coming Out for Equality Gala Event
Holiday Home Tour	Equality 5K Run/Walk
New Year’s Eve Drag For All Ages	Kickapoo Country Fair
Macy’s Shop For A Cause	GALAXY Talent Show
For the Love of Art	SUTRA Global Sales

2010 Corporate Sponsors

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

- By James
- Caring Hands, Kathy Blencoe
- Christina Mae Olson, CFP
- Family Tree Floral & Greenhouse
- Johns, Flaherty and Collins Attorneys at Law
- Illusions
- Impulse
- La Crosse Community Theatre
- Macy’s
- Monet Flowers and Gifts
- Midwest Family Broadcasting, Inc
- My Place
- Players
- Radisson Hotel of La Crosse
- Stylist Lisa Anne, 2nd Street Hair Gallery
- Travel Leaders-Goli's Avenues of Travels, Annette Peterson, ACC
- UW-L Theatre Department
- Vendi Advertising

Volunteer of the Year

2009 Erik Stephenson was this year’s recipient. He was selected for his continued support, work, and dedication to the Center and our library. Erik started with the Center as an AmeriCorps member and has chosen to remain a Center Volunteer. Every Saturday, except for over the holidays when he goes home to New Jersey, Erik opens the Center and facilitates the Saturday Movie Time. Erik exemplifies daily the qualities of a great volunteer.

2008 Johnnie Schmeckpepper