



# Center for Health & Hope

# 2024 Annual Report

## Letter from the Executive Director

I am delighted to share the Center's **2024 Annual Report** with you, our valued donors and volunteers. This report reflects on a year of transformation, compassion, and gratitude.

In October, the Center for Health and Hope marked a pivotal moment with the appointment of a new Executive Director. This transition was made possible by the dedicated efforts of our succession committee, led by Claudia Svarstad, with invaluable support from the Center's founder, Dr. Donald Messer, as he stepped into his new role as Chair of the Board.

Thanks to your unwavering support, the Center provided \$245,000 in grants—our third-largest annual total—to programs serving individuals affected by HIV and AIDS, particularly in marginalized communities. The following pages showcase the work we are proud to have supported.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to all who made financial commitments to our “Above & Beyond” campaign, co-chaired by William Bradford and Chin Keong Tan. Your donations and pledges raised \$500,000 to strengthen our capacity, including the establishment of a full-time Executive Director position.

In these uncertain and challenging times, the work of the Center is needed more than ever. Your continued commitment to our humanitarian work is crucial. On behalf of our Board of Directors and staff, thank you for your commitment in 2024. We are excited to make an even greater impact in 2025, transforming lives both locally and globally.



With Gratitude,

Justin Levy  
Executive Director

# Our Impact

Globally and locally, the Center is focused on helping the marginalized, supporting LGBTQ+ communities, and those affected or infected by HIV and AIDS.

## Kenya

Nearly 400 girls participated in life skills and menstrual hygiene training sessions, which included the distribution of reusable sanitary supplies. In addition, we supported the nursing education of two students: Denis, who completed his training in November, and Hope, who is set to graduate in 2025.

The Center also funded the salary of Catherine Mutua, Executive Director and Founder of **the Methodist Treatment Centre**.



The Treatment Centre provides crucial services to individuals struggling with substance abuse, offering counseling, detoxification, and follow-up care, in addition to medical camps for Meru and neighboring communities.

Furthermore, the Center for Health & Hope funds the salary of Glorie Gitonga, a social worker with the Kaaga Synod, a district of the Methodist Church of Kenya. Glorie's work includes supporting the local LGBTQ+ community through income generating efforts and support groups, managing 35 post-secondary scholarships for deserving young adults, and addressing the needs of the 318 children supported by the Center, ensuring they have access to nutrition, education, and basic necessities.

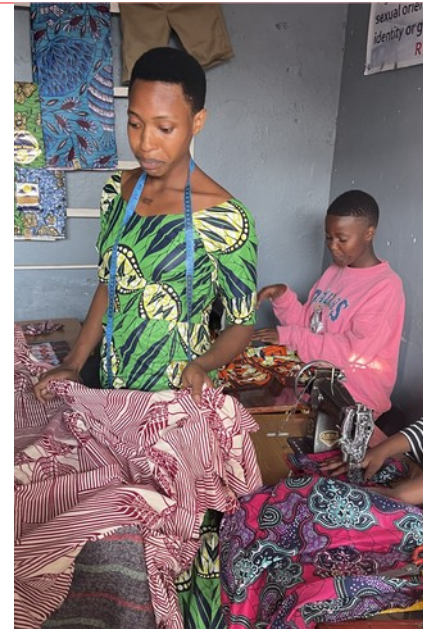


## Rwanda

Through our partnership with the Inclusive Mission for Health and Hope (IMHH), we were able to make a significant impact in several areas. A total of 123 families received health insurance, ensuring access to essential care. Additionally, 300 children from disadvantaged backgrounds were provided with nutritional support, helping them remain in school. Temporary shelter was also provided to individuals experiencing homelessness.

We also supported small businesses, including brick-making, a hair salon, and a sewing project, all of which provided employment opportunities to marginalized LGBTQ+ individuals. In August, IMHH hosted an HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention workshop in Rubavu and Kamonyi, furthering efforts to educate and prevent the spread of the virus.

The Center remains committed to the education of Claudine Bahati, who is currently in her third year of law school.



## Malaysia

The Center supports SEED Malaysia with unrestricted funds, instrumental to empowering and uplifting the transgender community in Kuala Lumpur. SEED's work includes the distribution of 94,000 safe sex kits and the facilitation of group and peer counseling sessions.

## India

In collaboration with the Tambaram Community Development Society (TCDS), we are proud to support a range of programs dedicated to providing care and assistance. The C.A.R.E. Center in Namakkal, a free clinic for women and children affected by HIV and AIDS, serves over 1,400 patients annually. The Center covers 75% of its operating costs, offering vital services such as nutritional supplements, eye care, and general health services.

TCDS also operates the New Hope and Better Health project in Chennai, which assists 30 families who have lost their primary wage earner due to AIDS or illness. This initiative offers comprehensive support, including medical care, mental health services, educational resources, nutritional supplements, and income-generating training.



In Kolkata, the Center provided funds for the construction of a new girls dormitory at the Snehakunja Children Home, providing a safe space for children in need. Additionally, 10 children were enrolled in the Bishop Canning College of Management, gaining valuable skills for future employment opportunities. To further enhance their learning, the Center donated six computers to establish a computer lab, benefiting eight children with training. Furthermore, 49 students received educational support through the Center's initiatives.

## Sri Lanka

School bags and books are provided to 150 HIV infected children to continue their education through the organization Lak Punarodaya.



IT TAKES A VILLAGE



**TIHAN**

Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network

Helping People with HIV to Live Well

## United States

With support provided by the Center, It Takes a Village in Aurora, CO, provided emergency housing assistance to 16 families, in addition to 10 makeovers for transgender women who face rejection and discrimination. Many of these individuals are living with HIV and are migrants or have recently been released from incarceration.

Additionally, the Center continues its financial support of the Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (TIHAN) in Tucson, AZ. TIHAN delivers a range of vital services to individuals living with HIV, including educational classes, resources, a lunch program, and much more.

# Events

While fundraising and awareness-building events are crucial, in-person gatherings are equally valuable for fostering community, curiosity, and encouraging collaboration. 2024 featured five such events:

## The Red Concert

March 3 (Tucson): Over 200 guests danced to the music of Little House of Funk as we raised money for the Center and the Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network, presenting the 2024 Leadership Award to Jess Losoya.



L to R: Scott Blades, Jess Losoya, Don Messer, Pat Fox, George Vissichelli, Claudia Svarstad, Beckie Harkey, Arlan Colton

## Spring is a Time for H.O.P.E.

April 6 (Denver): A sold-out room of 140 people at the University of Denver heard the story of Mintu Kumar Rai, an AIDS orphan from India, who is now studying in the US at Dordt University. The 2024 Humanitarians of the Year award was presented to Jim and Joanie Calhoun.



Mintu Kumar Rai

Jim & Joanie Calhoun

Dr. Don Messer

## Swinging @ AIDS Golf Tournament

August 13 (Denver): Over 100 golfers enjoyed a round of golf at Overland Park Golf Course. The 2024 tournament was held in honor and memory of Richard Marsh, a humanitarian at heart, who championed the human rights of the LGBTQ+ community and those living with HIV.



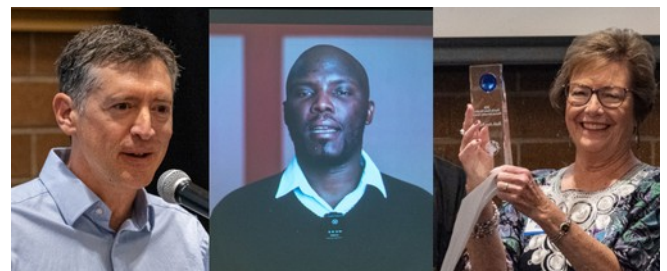
Claudia Svarstad

Brian, Sofie, & Burt Golub

Bruce Berger

## Gather to H.E.A.L.

September 28 (Greenwood Village): The Center celebrated the legacy of Ann Fort on what would have been her 100th birthday. Ruth Ann Russell was presented the Paul & Paula Murphy Award, and the attendees at the breakfast got to hear remarks from our new Executive Director, Justin Levy.



Justin Levy, ED

Silas Kaimenyi

Ruth Ann Russell

## World AIDS Day

December 1 (Denver): Over 120 people attended the annual World AIDS Day observation hosted by Park Hill United Methodist Church, the Center for Health and Hope, and other community partners. Imani Latif, the Executive Director of It Takes a Village, shared her inspiring story of addressing the HIV and AIDS epidemic since the 1980's.



Imani Latif

Candlelight March

Rev. Dr. Valerie L. Jackson

# Philanthropic Partners

Thanks to our donors, the work of the Center is possible. People helping people! We extend our warmest thank you for your commitment to uplifting people both regionally and globally.

**\$25,000+**

Rachelle Schaap - Bacon Family Foundation - Anonymous - Newendorp Family Charitable Foundation

**\$10,000+**

Claudia Svarstad & Beckie Harkey - United Methodist Church of Estes Park - Drs. Don & Bonnie Messer - Clyde & Patricia Oakley - Bruce Berger & Ruth Ann Russell - Fort Family Foundation - Marla Petrini & Kelly Triplett

**\$5,000+**

Longs Peak United Methodist Church - Larry Sondgeroth - Dr. Sue Hamm - Armstrong Family Foundation - Dr. Marjorie Bayes - Harlor Family Fund - Dr. Burton & Lee Golub - Raphael Levy Memorial Foundation - Dr. Billie Day - Sue Calvin & Inez Smith - Denise Van Huele - Dorothy Lindsey & Roberta Thimmig - Katherine Kim - Central United Methodist Church

**\$2,500+**

John & Elaine Blinn - Jan Hazlett - Dr. Ben & Jean Galloway - Shirley Struchen - James & Mildred Thomas - Justin & Cari Levy - Clietta Terry - Bill Graf - James Swaim - Anonymous - Dr. Laraine Guyette - Shirley Meier - Kayden Svarstad Inc. - Methodists Helping Methodists Foundation - Damita & Aaron Holland - Dr. Kent & Cheri Millard - Karen Hansen & Mary Lou Fenili - Rhonda Hanna - Jay Patterson

**\$1,000+**

Robert & Barbara Sample - Laura May Bacon - Bishop Fritz Mutti - Stephen & Claire Parker - Ingrid Ringler - Judy Mills - Ron & Sue Ann Glusenkamp - Jim Henry - Charles Miller - Tron & Alva Allen - Darrell & Twyla Schaap - Kathy Schuster - Rolland Loomis - Scott Blades & Jesse Losoya - Revs. Megan & Elizabeth Burg - Leslie Kahn - Steve & Ingrid Burnett - Colorado Gives Foundation - Rev. Annie & Eric Arnoldy - Karrie McBryde - Michael & Beate Myers - Donita Wickersheim & Jim Garcia - West Ohio Conference UMW - Christopher & Linda Brooks - Raymond & Kathryn Jordan - Charles Ledbetter - Dr. Jim & Joanie Calhoun - Christina Werner - John Grinager - United Methodist Church of Evergreen - Peter & Linda Chase - Senator Tom Daschle - Kenneth Fong & Betsy Keyack - Linda Garrity - Jim Hankins - Ben & Barbara Lewis - Harvey & Judy Martz - Kendall Millard - Rick Nagel - Ray & Nancy Nunn - Margaret & John Simmons - Judy Vohs - Doug & Patsy Wilson



[View Additional Donors](#)

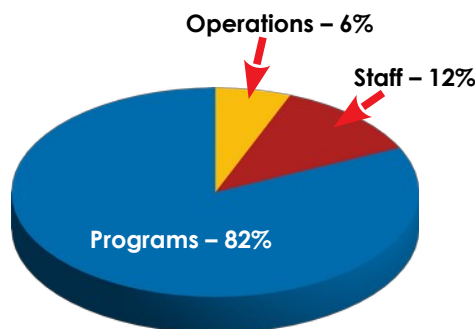
*The donor recognition list includes gifts to the Center from January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024. If you have questions about the donor listing or giving to the Center for Health and Hope, please contact Justin Levy at centerforhealthandhope@gmail.com or 720.984.6267.*

# Financials

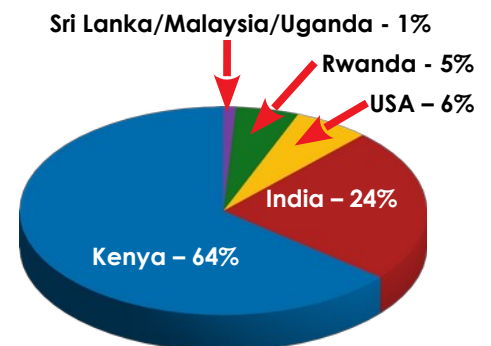
**Income: \$320,328**



**Expenses: \$299,318**



**Distribution of Grants**



# Our Staff



Jann Folsom

Assistant to the Executive Director



Bobbie Jo Morrell

Communications



Chris Werner

Records Administrator

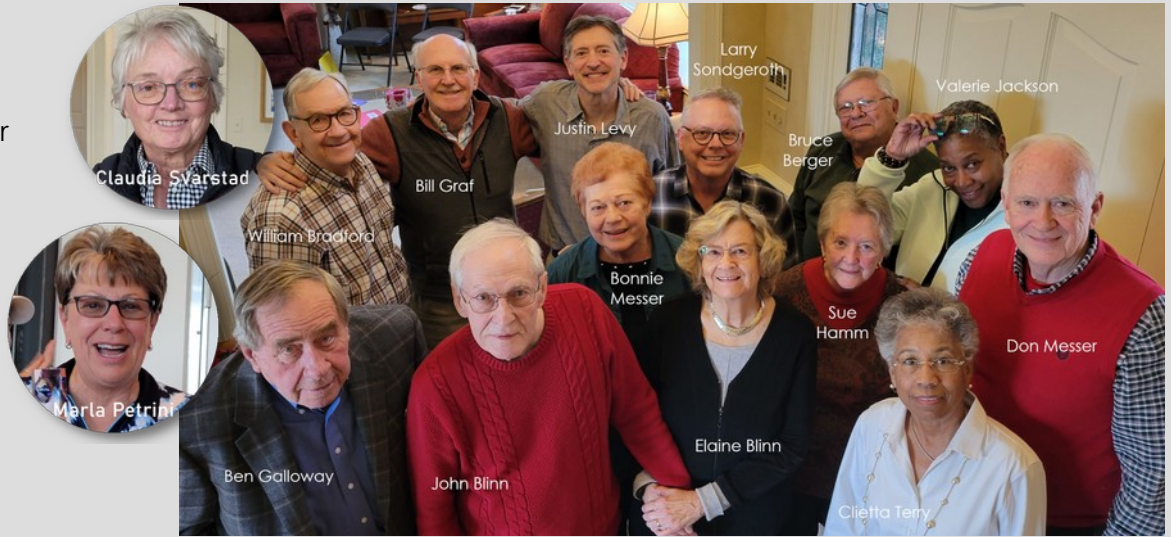


Pam Merrill

Financial Administrator

# Our Board

Dr. Don Messer – Chair  
 Dr. Sue Hamm – Vice Chair  
 Bruce Berger – Treasurer  
 John Blinn – Secretary  
 Elaine Blinn  
 William Bradford  
 Dr. Ben Galloway  
 Bill Graf - Honorary  
 Dr. Valerie Jackson  
 Dr. Bonnie Messer  
 Marla Petri - Honorary  
 Larry Sondgeroth  
 Claudia Svarstad  
 Clietta Terry



# Our Volunteers

Thank you to our 2024 volunteers!

Our dedicated volunteers not only help make sure our events run smoothly, but they also participate in committee work, and so much more.

- |                  |                 |                   |                  |
|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Cheryl Arnold    | Anne Dingle     | Imani Latif       | Vanellope        |
| Annie Arnoldy    | Rick Fort       | Charles Ledbetter | Santibanez       |
| Eric Arnoldy     | Robin Fort      | Sue Lee           | Jodie Senter     |
| Stefani Barry    | Jean Galloway   | Kassidy Liggins   | Scott Senter     |
| Karen Bergman    | Dawn Givens     | Dot Lindsey       | Jacqui Shumway   |
| Mike Bergman     | Burt Golub      | Shirley Meier     | Chin Keong Tan   |
| Lauren Bourgoyne | Lee Golub       | Nora Messer       | Danielle Taylor  |
| Linda Brooks     | Laraine Guyette | Judy Mills        | Berta Thimming   |
| Megan Burg       | Becky Harkey    | Pat Moore         | Kelly Triplett   |
| Jim Calhoun      | Cagzmier Jumper | Jeff Rainwater    | Daryl J. Walker  |
| Joanie Calhoun   | Jon Kraus       | Dustin Raymond    | Christina Werner |
| Erin Crawford    | Mintu Kumar Rai | Ruth Ann Russell  | Roz Wheeler-Bell |
| Billie Day       |                 |                   | Tim Zeckser      |

For volunteer opportunities, contact Justin at [centerforhealthandhope@gmail.com](mailto:centerforhealthandhope@gmail.com)



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