



the
Montrose
Center

2014 IMPACT REPORT

Empowering LGBT Houston



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FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

When I can come to you year after year and tell you that more than 90 percent of the funding received by the Montrose Center goes to direct client services, I know that each and every one of our staff honors the trust we are given.

For example... Our outreach team is effective in teaching harm reduction techniques to reduce HIV transmission for those engaging in at-risk behavior. Our education staff travels North and South, East and West to deliver information about Cultural Sensitivity, HIV and STIs. The unsung heroes who make up our administration department handle thousands of calls, keep our infrastructure sound and secure, and maintain our building and the technology needed to serve tens of thousands of people each year. Our direct services staff includes those who connect weekly with LGBT youth and LGBT seniors, reducing their isolation in a world that isn't always friendly to them. Case managers and therapists provide individual, couples and group support that can be—with no exaggeration—the difference between life and death. We couldn't do all this without the hundreds of volunteers who reach out through us to help others in the LGBT community.

We are impassioned to make the Montrose Center the excellent and efficient organization you've come to expect.

In 2014, I celebrated my 25th anniversary working for this strong, openly LGBT organization. In the years to come, I hope to be here telling you I've spent more than half my life working here. In my measure, it's a life well spent!

Sincerely,



Ann J. Robison, PhD
Executive Director

Montrose Counseling Center, Inc. dba

the Montrose Center

MISSION

The Montrose Center empowers our community – primarily lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) individuals and their families – to live healthier, more fulfilling lives.

VISION

We envision a healthier society marked by permanent, positive changes in attitudes and behaviors toward the LGBT community, and the ability of all LGBT individuals to realize their fullest potential.



A BANNER YEAR

We respond. That's what we do. We respond on behalf of Houston's LGBT communities. This was a banner year for LGBT equality on the national front, and we incorporated many of these strides into our local programming, connecting the issues to services we've become known for in our 35 years of doing this.

Once the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the Defense of Marriage Act as unconstitutional, we held a panel discussion on understanding the new "post-DOMA" America, and what that meant in terms of immigration, social security, taxes, survivorship, and custody. Attendance was well over 100.

LGBT employment issues made news when President Obama signed an executive order barring federal government contractors from discriminating against LGBT employees and job applicants, and this sent a very strong and positive message to Houston's corporate giants. The U.S. Labor Department also determined that Title VII of the Civil Rights Act extended to transgender persons under the broader category of sex discrimination.

Montrose Center staff embraced the color purple for Spirit Day in October, a national anti-bullying campaign.





*Mayor Annise Parker and revelers at the **Big Gay Block Party**.*

We responded to the new employment climate by launching a new career resources program including a **Job Search Support Group** for the unemployed, underemployed, recent college graduates, career changers, first-time job seekers, and those re-entering the workforce after a long absence.

To celebrate the increased vibrancy of our community and the services we provide, a building make-over was in order and a celebration by way of a **Big Gay Block Party**. Center guests continue to comment about how much better they feel coming into the building with its new splashes of color, the new bike rack designed by Houston artist Gertrude Barnstone, and the “welcoming committee” of **Q-cons** painted by volunteers – including Judge Steven Kirkland – on our ground floor.

In the winter, we were able to make the holidays brighter for 100 of our neediest clients by giving them **Holiday Baskets**, each with a turkey and fixings for a complete holiday dinner, plus additional food, toys and home goods – all thanks to a generous donation from longtime supporter Bunnies on the Bayou.

*Volunteer Lewis representing
the Montrose Center at
the Creating Change conference*



The tides started to turn with regard to marriage equality in Texas when a federal judge determined the state ban on same-sex marriage as unconstitutional. The change lit a fire among LGBT advocates even though the ruling was stayed while the decision made its way up to a hearing before the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals.

The National LGBT Task Force brought its **Creating Change** conference to Houston with the Montrose Center as one of its local partners. Committee meetings were held in our Cultural Center throughout the year to plan for this, the country's largest LGBT conference. We were able to get a little help from our friend and honorary board member Houston Mayor Annise Parker, who virtually posed for photographs with the Creating Change attendees, welcoming them to our fair city.

The Montrose Center has been a proud United Way agency since 1991, and after 23 years, we became closer to fully embracing the nondiscrimination policy of United Way of Greater Houston when the Sam Houston Area Council followed the National Boy Scouts of America by lifting its ban on gay and bisexual scouts. We eagerly anticipate that the Boy Scouts soon will extend that policy to scout leadership.

We expanded our social networking presence with new Facebook pages and prevention campaigns dedicated to HIV risk reduction in African American men who have sex with men (MSM), **Brothers Get It**, and one for Spanish-speaking MSM, **Salud Es Vida**. The Center remains committed to increasing access to affirming care for sexual minorities of color. 20% of all consumers of our behavioral health services in 2014 were African-American. 23% were Latino, which represents a steady increase of almost 70% since 2011.

Sadly, it was a year that we had to say good-bye to a dear friend. Community stalwart **Jimmy Carper** passed away, leaving behind a rich legacy. Jimmy was the longest-serving volunteer with the Center's **LGBT Switchboard** (formerly Gay & Lesbian Switchboard Houston) and was part of the help and crisis line's humble beginnings, working out of a garage in the 1980s. He trained throngs of volunteers, who like him, answered calls "with no hang-ups." Jimmy also appears in our **SPRY** videos, educating senior consumers and service providers about the programs available through the Center.



Jimmy Carper and Judy Reeves, long-time friends and co-curators of the Gulf Coast Archive & Museum of GLBT History, aka "GCAM."

As a regular host of KPFT 90.1 FM's After Hours radio show, Jimmy reached out to the young "Hatchlings" of our **Hatch Youth** program to start their own monthly segment. In every show, he would give out the number of the LGBT Switchboard for listeners in crisis. The Center, the LGBT community and our entire city is greater because of Jimmy Carper. Through his contribution, countless lives were bettered, if not saved.

In March, the tragic murders of young lesbians Brittney Cosby and Crystal Jackson made the news, shedding light on hate crimes and family violence issues. An employee with the Montrose Center went to meet with family members immediately after their bodies were discovered, and we worked with the community to hold a vigil in Brittney and Crystal's memory. Brittney's father was arrested on charges relating to their murders, however, investigators were not able to press charges against him for the murders.

Heading into the summer, Executive Director Ann J. Robison submitted an open letter Houston Mayor Annise Parker and the members of the city council advocating for the **Houston Equal Rights Ordinance**. Several staff members took personal time to testify at the public hearings in favor of HERO, as the Montrose Center exists, in part, because of discrimination against and the disparities in affordable services for LGBT individuals. The nondiscrimination ordinance passed in an 11-6 vote of the city council.



Volunteers stand proudly before the mural they painted of our Q-con "welcoming committee," which now greets all visitors to the Center.

EMPOWERING LGBT HOUSTON

111

LGBT seniors (60+)

socialized and enjoyed free hot lunches in the Montrose Diner

188

LGBT seniors (60+)

received support and advocacy through



267

LGBTQ youth (13-20)

received support & mentoring at



108

LGBTQ high school students

received peer support through Safe Zones Project

1467

LGBT & Persons with HIV/AIDS

received professional counseling

2778

Persons with HIV/AIDS

received case management services

200

Persons with HIV/AIDS

received rent & utility assistance



EMPOWERING LGBT HOUSTON

188 adults with addictions received outpatient treatment in our 

168 LGBT violence survivors received advocacy & support services with **34** in safe shelter

610 callers received help through 
switchboard
24 Hour Helpline

19682 community members received education on LGBT sensitivity & health issues

1017 community members visited our Cyber Center for computer and Internet access

13161 persons at risk for HIV & STIs were educated via street outreach

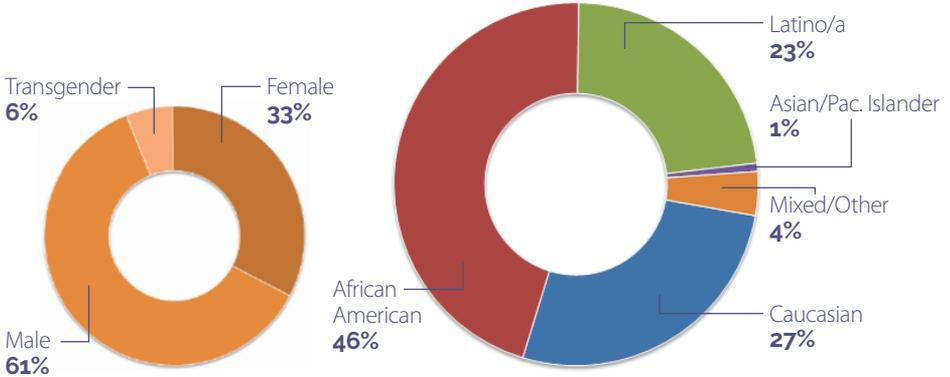
300+ community members participated in free wellness and peer groups

40K+ community members attended meetings & events in our Cultural Center

EMPOWERING LGBT HOUSTON

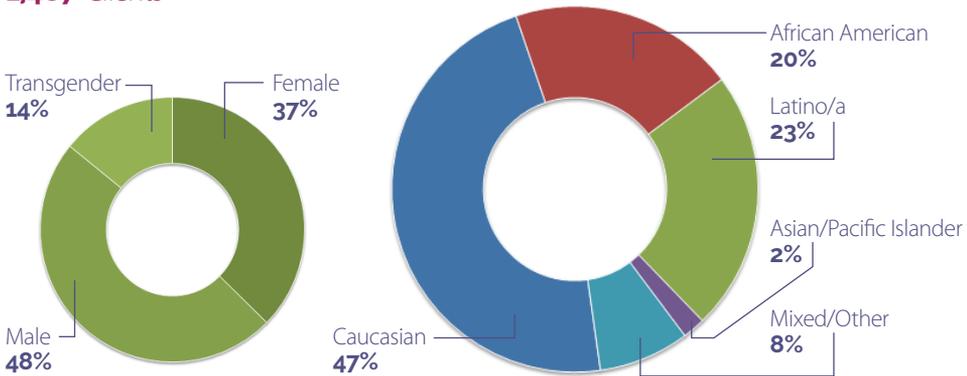
EDUCATION & OUTREACH

36,083 Contacts



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

1,467 Clients



Incomes less than \$15,000 **67%**

Uninsured / Under-insured **36%**

FINANCES

REVENUE (Audited)

Government Grants & Contracts*	\$3,851,086
Foundations & Corporations	\$ 282,345
United Way of Greater Houston	\$ 121,450
Client/Participant fees	\$1,235,563
Donations	\$ 195,342
Devaluation of pledges	\$ (20,779)
Special Events (net)	\$ 39,920
Other income incl. space rental	\$ 66,007
TOTAL	\$5,791,705
In-kind Donations	\$ 128,282

*Detail:

Texas Department of State Health Services	\$1,591,552
City of Houston	\$ 888,623
U. S. Department of Health and Human Services	\$ 674,996
Harris County – Ryan White Care Act, Part A	\$ 268,795
U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development	\$ 100,939
Texas Office of the Governor, Criminal Justice Division	\$ 93,620
Texas Office of the Attorney General	\$ 70,849
Health and Human Services Commission	\$ 58,356
Other	\$ 103,356

SEPTEMBER 1, 2013 -- AUGUST 31, 2014

FINANCES

EXPENSES (Audited)

Personnel	\$3,162,878
Fringe Benefits (Health & Other Insurance, Retirement Plans)	\$ 468,673
Payroll Taxes	\$ 236,796
Professional & Contract (Audit, Evaluator, Staff Support Group, Legacy)	\$ 242,852
Direct Client Assistance	\$ 615,030
Depreciation	\$ 107,861
Supplies	\$ 37,833
Insurance (Liability & Operations)	\$ 13,218
Telecommunication	\$ 23,470
Postage	\$ 2,847
Occupancy	\$ 504,673
Equipment Lease	\$ 5,823
Printing	\$ 7,832
Local Travel	\$ 54,457
Licenses & Permits	\$ 5,659
Special Events & Community Involvement	\$ 14,318
Professional Development	\$ 28,458
Bad Debt Expense	\$ 22,653
Capital Payments to Endowment	\$ 9,387
In-kind Professional Services	\$ 134,062
Leased Space Expense	\$ 64,435
Miscellaneous (Bank Charges, Interest, Board Expenses, Volunteers and Board Recognition)	\$ 41,513
TOTAL	\$5,804,984

SEPTEMBER 1, 2013 -- AUGUST 31, 2014

6.1%
Management / General

2.9%
Fundraising

91.0%
Direct Services



BY PROGRAM (Audited)

Case Management & Outreach	\$2,525,738
Way Out Recovery Program	\$ 581,172
Anti-Violence Program	\$ 505,664
Education	\$ 502,329
LIFE Program (General Counseling)	\$ 471,688
HIV/AIDS Counseling	\$ 463,881
SPRY Seniors	\$ 249,745
Management/General	\$ 351,287
Fundraising	\$ 170,882
TOTAL	\$5,822,386

Montrose Counseling Center, Inc. dba the Montrose Center

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As of August 31, 2014

Aaron Masterson, MBA	President
Michael Kauth, PhD	Vice President
Gretchen Myers	Treasurer
Chris Robertson	Secretary
Joel Dietz, MS, SPHR	At-Large
Jackie Cayton	
Tara Kelly	
Daryl Shorter, MD	
Shannon Simpson	
Angela Young, MLA	

Montrose Counseling Center Permanent Endowment

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As of August 31, 2014

Robert Bois	President
Ralph Herring, OD, MHA	Vice President
Eric Liston	Treasurer
Michael Sirimatueros, PharmD, BCNSP	Secretary
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Jason Doxey	

CLINICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

As of August 31, 2014

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Brenda Sprinkle, PhD
Diana Storms, LCSW
Lisa Weaver, PhD



HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS

As of August 31, 2014

Marion E. Coleman
Former State Representative Debra Danburg
Former City of Houston Councilmember Sue Lovell
City of Houston Mayor Annise Parker



the Montrose Center

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