



CENTER FOR  
Health & Hope

Focusing on Global HIV and AIDS

# 2025 Annual Report

Visit to Rwanda,  
July 2025

## Letter from the Executive Director

The year 2025 marked my first full year as the Center's Executive Director - and what an inspiring year it has been. At a time when global health funding is becoming increasingly scarce, you stepped forward to meet the moment with compassion and generosity.

Because of your help, the Center was able to respond to urgent needs around the world. In Kenya, donors helped sustain the "**Kenya 46**," members of the Meru community who lost critical nutritional assistance when **PEPFAR funding was cut** - many of whom are living with HIV. Along the Congo-Rwanda border, **308** individuals received humanitarian support, including many people impacted by HIV and a military conflict out of their hands. In Kolkata, India, we launched a new People Aging with HIV program, providing care and companionship to **148** individuals. And here in Colorado where the Center is headquartered, the Center was proud to help organize Denver's annual World AIDS Day observance, bringing together dozens of local nonprofits and health care providers in a powerful demonstration of collaboration and hope.

Thanks to your generous support, the Center awarded nearly **\$300,000 in grants** in 2025 - a record amount - to sustain programs both locally and globally. In the pages that follow, you will find stories of impact and recognition of the many individuals who make this work possible. As I often say, this work is truly about people helping people.

Thank you for your partnership in lifting lives. On behalf of the Center's Board of Directors and staff, we are deeply grateful for your compassion, commitment, and care.

Justin Levy  
Executive Director



# Making an Impact

The impact of the Center's programs begins with you. Through the generosity of donors, the dedication of volunteers, and strong partnerships both locally and globally, we are able to provide education, health services, nutrition, and compassionate care to communities affected by HIV and AIDS.

## *School Nutrition in Byahi Cell, Rwanda*

Zahara M. is a single mother raising two children, including her son Obed, who is living with HIV. Through the Center's school nutrition program, **Obed and 319 other children** receive daily meals - an essential foundation for health, especially for children managing HIV.

"When the Center began supporting Obed's school meals, my heart found peace," Zahara shared. "I know that at least during the day, my child eats." Beyond providing nutrition, the Center is working alongside Zahara to strengthen her family's future through a small income-generating project. With your support, we're creating greater stability, dignity, and hope for Zahara, Obed, and their family.



## *Post-Secondary Scholarships in Kitale, Kenya*

Tony Mwiti is a Clinical Medicine and Surgery student at Kenya Medical Training College. Thanks to the generosity of donors like you, he is one of **30 post-secondary students** in Kenya who are able to pursue their educational dreams through the Center's scholarship support. For Tony, this opportunity represents more than a degree—it is a chance to give back.

"I am determined to emulate your example by supporting other talented students from underprivileged backgrounds and contributing my skills to the community," he shares.

With the support of compassionate donors, students like Tony are gaining the education and training needed to strengthen the health and well-being of their communities.



“

*I am really grateful for your endless love and support in my academic journey. Your kindness has changed my life.*

”

—Keende K. - Karatina University, Kenya



## Confronting Stigma in Mukamira, Rwanda

Fighting stigma and discrimination—and encouraging regular HIV testing and prevention—remains a priority of the Center's work. On World AIDS Day, the community of Mukamira came together for a special observance focused on awareness, support, and hope.

Village leaders and the Mukamira health officer offered words of encouragement, reminding community members that knowledge, compassion, and testing are key to stopping the spread of HIV and supporting those living with the virus. Through gatherings like this, the Center helps create safe spaces for conversation, education, and solidarity—empowering communities to confront stigma and take meaningful steps toward healthier futures.



## Vocational Training in Kolkata, India

Puja is one of the students supported by the Center through the Snehakunja Children's Home in India, a program created to support children impacted by HIV and AIDS. Today, **50 children** receive educational support, nutrition, and health care through this initiative.

With encouragement, mentorship, and professional training, Puja has grown into a confident young woman. Once deeply shy, she is now enrolled in Nursing Training School at Imambara District Hospital. Puja approaches her studies and responsibilities with clarity and self-belief, preparing for a future where she can care for others. Her journey reflects how opportunity, guidance, and compassion can transform lives.



## Global Connections & Lasting Impact

Each year, the Center offers immersive trips that allow volunteers and supporters to see our programs firsthand and connect with the communities we serve. In 2025, Center volunteers and team members traveled to **Kenya, Rwanda, and India**—experiences that deepen understanding and strengthen relationships. These visits provide meaningful opportunities to meet local leaders like **Glorie Gitonga**, a social worker and the **2025 Meru Human Rights Activist of the Year**, who oversees the Gift of H.O.P.E. program. They also create powerful moments of connection with the children and families whose lives are touched by this work. Through these shared experiences, partnerships grow stronger and our global community becomes even more connected.



# Impact by the Numbers

To learn more about the Center for Health and Hope's expansive reach globally and locally, visit our "Projects" page at [centerforhealthandhope.org](http://centerforhealthandhope.org) or scan the QR code.



- 1200** Young women received sanitary pads, hygiene kits, and health education in Kenya and India.
- 800** School uniforms for students in Meru, Kenya.
- 600** Attendees at six seminars addressing stigma, discrimination, HIV and AIDS in Colombo, Sri Lanka.
- 320** Students in Gisenyi, Rwanda received daily nutritional support.
- 315** School fees, uniforms, nutritional and health support for children affected by HIV and AIDS in Meru, Kenya.
- 308** Emergency nutritional relief and hygiene supplies for individuals in Goma, Congo.
- 200** Health insurance policies provided in the Gisenyi region, Rwanda.
- 148** Participants in a new Aging People Living with HIV program in Kolkata, India.
- 120** Innerwear for school boys in Meru, Kenya.
- 100** Participants in HIV and AIDS workshop for nursing students in Kolkata, India.
- 50** HIV positive children receiving nutritional, health, and educational support in Kolkata, India.
- 46** Individuals who lost PEPFAR support in Meru, Kenya received nutrition.
- 42** Community Health Workers who work to identify vulnerable children and families in Meru, Kenya.
- 30** HIV positive women receiving nutritional supplements and skills training in Chennai, India.
- 30** Students in Kenya and Rwanda who are active post-secondary scholars.
- 25** Trans-women received mental health support, housing, and vocational training in Chennai, India.
- 15** Homes built for families and children orphaned by AIDS in Meru and Maua, Kenya.
- 14** Children who received tutoring in Chennai, India.
- 9** Students in Kenya who graduated from post-secondary studies.
- 8** Students in Kenya and Rwanda who received post-secondary scholarships.
- 2** Medical camps were held for 400+ through the Methodist Treatment Centre in Meru, Kenya.
- 1** New out-patient clinic was opened at the Methodist Treatment Centre in Meru, Kenya.

# Philanthropic Partners

Thanks to donors like you, thousands of individuals are receiving life-changing support through our programs of education, nutrition, care, and treatment.

**\$25,000+**

Newendorp Family Charitable Foundation Fund - Anonymous - Claudia Svarstad & Beckie Harkey

**\$10,000+**

Rachelle Schaap - Don & Bonnie Messer - Anonymous - Sue Calvin - Bacon Family Foundation

**\$5,000+**

Justin & Cari Levy - Shirley Struchen - Ben & Jean Galloway - Longs Peak United Methodist Church - Sue Hamm - Armstrong Family Foundation - Marla Petrini & Kelly Triplett - Larry Sondgeroth - Denise Van Huele - Burton & Lee Golub - Reena Jabamoni - Dorothy Lindsey - Jan & Douglas Hazlett - Peter Hilb - Marjorie Bayes

**\$2,500+**

Bill Graf - Billie Ann Day - Laraine Guyette - John & Claire Young - Max & Pam Graham - Damita & Aaron Holland - Alan Severn - Robert & Barbara Sample - Bruce Berger & Ruth Ann Russell - Fort Family Foundation - Judy B Mills - Clyde & Patricia Oakley - Ron & Sue Ann Glusenkamp

**\$1,000+**



[View Additional Donors](#)

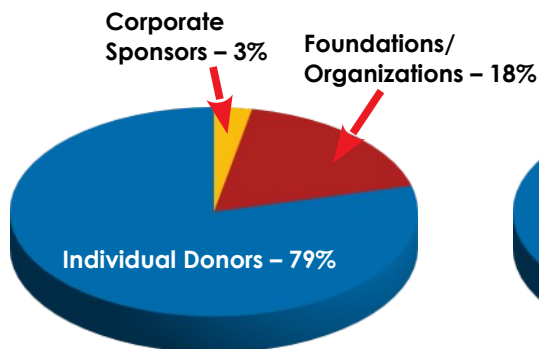
Clietta Terry - Leslie Eber - Gilead Sciences - Rhonda Hanna - David & Florence Harlor - Cynthia HeatherM - First UMC Albany, GA - Jolain Graf - James & Keitha Swaim - Colleen Abdoulah - Jim Henry - Alpine Bank - Dee & Jeff Booton - Frank Ptak - Mountain Sky Conference of the United Methodist Church - Steve & Ingrid Burnett - Philip Miller - Curi Capital - FirstBank - Linda Garrity - Charles Ledbetter - Kendall Millard - Carol Pierce & Kaye Crandall - Margaret & John Simmons - Rick Small - Ricky & Sandra Stewart - Walker Music Academy - Doug & Patsy Wilson

The donor recognition list includes gifts to the Center from January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025. 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](mailto:centerforhealthandhope@gmail.com) or 720.984.6267.

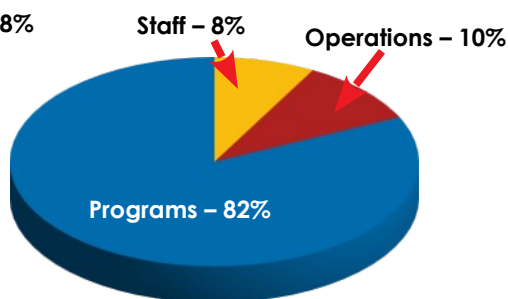
## Financials

A dedicated group of Center "Above & Beyond" supporters are specifically funding the Executive Director's salary, so that 82% of the Center's fundraising goes directly into programs supporting those impacted by HIV and AIDS.

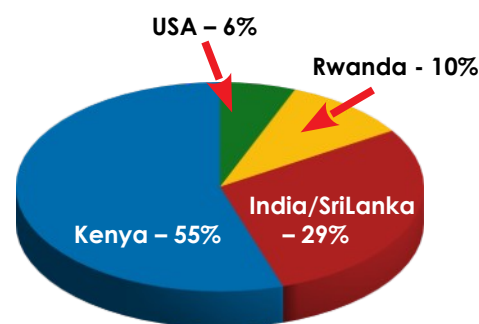
**Income: \$ 470,273**



**Expenses: \$450,635**



**Distribution of Grants**





# Creating & Celebrating Community

The Center offers multiple in-person touchpoints throughout the year to foster connection, curiosity, and collaboration. Scan the qr code to see our events on our website. Scan the QR code for the full calendar.



## *The Smithsonian's "The Bias Inside Us"*

In February, a group of 30 Center supporters explored the thought-provoking exhibit at the Boulder Jewish Community Center, followed by a post-tour discussion and conversation with Liz Elsen, *The Center on Colfax's* Director of Education and Training.



## *The Red Concert*

Since 2015, the Center and the *Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (TIHAN)* have collaborated on a benefit event in Arizona to support both non-profits. The 2025 edition in March raised a record amount for HIV awareness and care programs, while honoring Scott Blades (founder of TIHAN) for his many years of service.



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

The sold-out brunch at the University of Denver in April featured a keynote speech by Carlotta Walls Lanier, a member of the Little Rock Nine, the first Black students to attend Little Rock Central High School in Arkansas. Funds were raised to support 315 children orphaned by AIDS in Meru, Kenya.



## *Community & Conversation*

The Center hosted two social hours (one in May and September) at LGBTQ+ friendly breweries (Goldspot and Lady Justice) giving Center supporters and those curious to learn more a chance to connect in a casual, after-work environment.



## Denver Pride Fest

The Center was proud to share a table with Aurora's *It Takes A Village* at Denver Pride in Civic Center Park, in addition to a presence at Pride on South Pearl Street in Denver.



## Swinging @ AIDS Golf Tournament

Over 100 golfers came together in August at Denver's City Park Golf Course to raise funds for the Center's programs in India. Our popular silent auction brought in a record amount, as patrons snapped up Broncos and CO Symphony tickets, dinner certificates, and much more.



## Gathering to H.E.A.L.

A sold-out breakfast at Hope United Methodist Church raised funds for post-secondary scholarships in Kenya. Original Center board member, John Blinn, was honored with the Center's Leadership Award for his many years of dedication to the marginalized and stigmatized.



## World AIDS Day

With close to 40 community partners and sponsors, Denver's observance of World AIDS Day at Park Hill United Methodist Church set an attendance record, and the most inclusive, community-centered World AIDS Day in the Center's history. Colorado's Attorney General, Phil Weiser, shared stirring remarks, along with a keynote speech by Positive Women's Network's, Barb Cardell.



“

Thank you so much for hosting such a great event. The turnout was amazing; I got emotional before the walk seeing all of the people that were gathered there for such an important event. I am really glad we were able to participate.

”

--Karen D - World AIDS Day 2025





Center for Health & Hope  
P.O. Box 202977  
Denver, Colorado 80220  
Tel: 720-984-6267

[centerforhealthandhope.org](http://centerforhealthandhope.org)



## Staff

Jann Folsom  
Administrative Specialist  
Justin Levy  
Executive Director  
Pam Merrill  
Financial Administrator  
Bobbie Jo Morrell  
Communications  
Chris Werner  
Records Administrator

## Legacy Circle



Legacy Circle members have included the Center in their estate plans, standing up for the vulnerable and marginalized, with a gift that will continue to deliver a legacy of compassion and care for generations to come.

### Current members:

Sue Calvin  
Dr. Sue Hamm  
Beckie Harkey  
Dr. Cari and Justin Levy  
Drs. Bonnie & Don Messer  
Inez "Iny" Smith\*  
Shirley Whipple Struchen  
Claudia Svarstad  
Rochelle Tisdale  
Denise Van Huele

*\*of blessed memory*

## International Advisory Board

Senator Tom Daschle  
Dr. Kent Millard  
Jim Mitulski  
Dr. Mary Elizabeth Moore  
Dr. Pauline Muchina  
Mintu Kumar Rai  
Shirley Whipple Struchen  
Ashirafu Tuyishime

## 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  
Imani Latiff  
Dr. Bonnie Messer  
Elizabeth Scott  
Larry Sondgeroth  
Claudia Svarstad  
Clietta Terry

## Volunteers

Thank you to our 2025 volunteers, whose generosity of time and talent supports every aspect of our work. From assisting at events to serving on committees, their contributions make our mission possible. For volunteer opportunities, please reach out to [centerforhealthandhope@gmail.com](mailto:centerforhealthandhope@gmail.com).

|                      |                   |                  |
|----------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Pilar Athaide-Victor | Cagzmier Jumper   | Susan Sanderman  |
| Stefani Barry        | Jon Kraus         | Devin Saunders   |
| Karen Bergman        | Jessie Lause      | Jodi Sentre      |
| Mike Bergman         | Charlie Ledbetter | Scott Sentre     |
| AJ Boglioli          | Veronica Ledezma  | Aaron Shipman    |
| Joanie Calhoun       | Sue Lee           | Jerome Sibulo    |
| Erin Crawford        | Cari Levy         | Susie Sigman     |
| Stuart Fisher        | Josh Levy         | Sarah Silverman  |
| Brad Folsom          | Lisa Levy         | Chin Tan         |
| Ace Gallagher        | Soraya Levy       | Ahmad Terry      |
| Burt Golub           | Dot Lindsey       | Berta Thimming   |
| Tim Green            | Mandy Louis       | Daryl J. Walker  |
| Ryan Grundy          | Dana Manyothane   | Virginia Wu      |
| Laraine Guyette      | Joseph McCormack  | Sally Walker     |
| Beckie Harkey        | Nora Messer       | Wendi Walker     |
| Jonathan Hawkins     | Philip Miller     | Jess Wiederholdt |
| Peter Hilb           | Judy Mills        | Hudson Weyls     |
| Anna Jackson         | Pat Moore         |                  |