



# Center for Health & Hope Newsletter

## Featuring our 2024 Annual Report

### Spring 2025

www.centerfor  
healthandhope.org

Justin Levy  
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P.O. Box 202977  
Denver, Colorado 80220

### In this Issue

Spring Brunch Features Congressional Gold Medal Recipient	1
Your Support is Needed in Kenya	
2024 Annual Report	2-7
Imani Latif Joins Board	8
Aug. 5 Golf Tournament	

## Spring Brunch Features Congressional Gold Medal Recipient



Carlotta Walls Lanier

Join the Center on **Saturday, April 5** for the annual **Spring is a Time for H.O.P.E (Helping Orphans by Providing Essentials)** brunch. All the proceeds are used to support over 300 vulnerable children in Kenya and India.

We are honored to have **Carlotta Walls Lanier**, one of the courageous Little Rock Nine, whose pivotal act of bravery helped to shape the American Civil Rights Movement, as our keynote speaker. Plus, music from **Sophia Eliana** and Master of Ceremonies, **Shannon Ogden** from Denver7.

Join us for this vital cause and help us honor the Center's **2025 Humanitarian of the Year, Laraine Guyette**.



Laraine Guyette



Shannon Ogden



Sophia Eliana

## We Need Your Support

With the unprecedented stop-work order by our current administration to end PEPFAR, families and individuals are starting to suffer. We are looking to raise \$7,500 to support 46 people (including 13 who are HIV positive) who have seen their monthly food support from the Feed the Future program abruptly end.

\$163 will support one person with nutrition for an entire year. This is a number in the Kabbalah tradition that represents divine love, mercy, and kindness. Please consider a gift of \$163 or any size to help!





# 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.

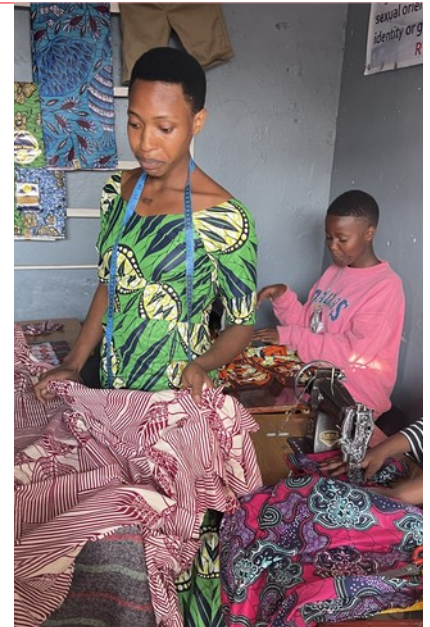


## Rwanda

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.



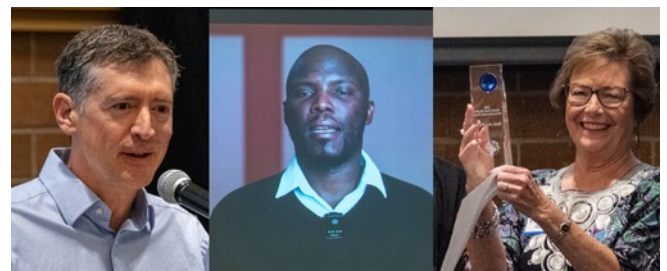
Claudia Svarstad

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

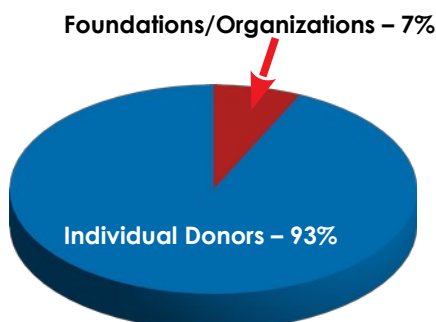


[View Additional Donors](#)

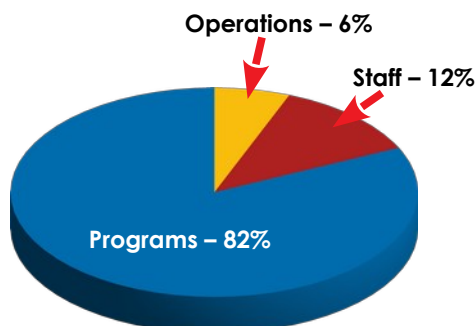
*The donor recognition list includes gifts to the Center from January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024. If you have questions about the donor listing or giving to the Center for Health and Hope, please contact Justin Levy at [centerforhealthandhope@gmail.com](mailto:centerforhealthandhope@gmail.com) or 720.984.6267.*

# Financials

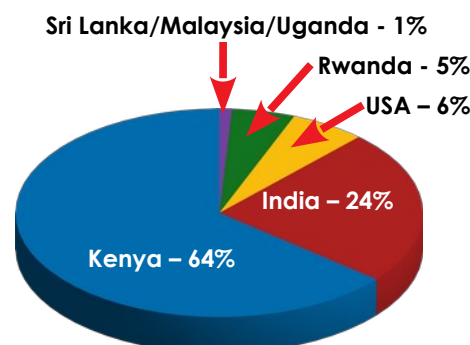
**Income: \$320,328**



**Expenses: \$299,318**



**Distribution of Grants**





## Our Staff



Jann Folsom

Assistant to the  
Executive Director



Bobbie Jo Morrell

Communications



Chris Werner

Records Administrator

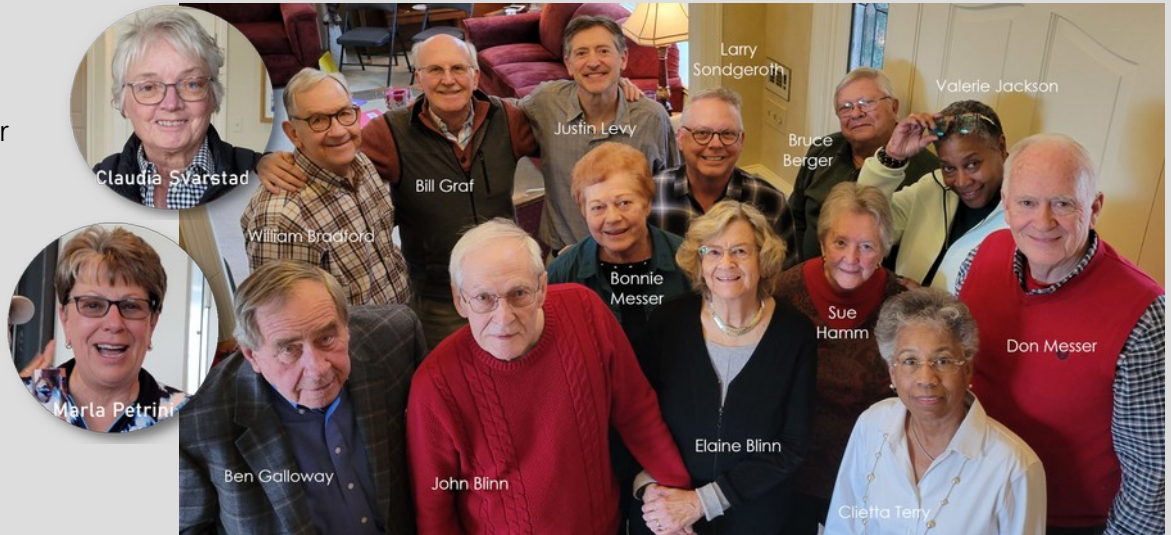


Pam Merrill

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 Petrini - Honorary  
Larry Sondgeroth  
Claudia Svarstad  
Cietta 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  
Annie Arnoldy  
Eric Arnoldy  
Stefani Barry  
Karen Bergman  
Mike Bergman  
Lauren Bourgoyne  
Linda Brooks  
Megan Burg  
Jim Calhoun  
Joanie Calhoun  
Erin Crawford  
Billie Day

Anne Dingle  
Rick Fort  
Robin Fort  
Jean Galloway  
Dawn Givens  
Burt Golub  
Lee Golub  
Laraine Guyette  
Becky Harkey  
Cagzmier Jumper  
Jon Kraus  
Mintu Kumar Rai

Imani Latif  
Charles Ledbetter  
Sue Lee  
Kassidy Liggins  
Dot Lindsey  
Shirley Meier  
Nora Messer  
Judy Mills  
Pat Moore  
Jeff Rainwater  
Dustin Raymond  
Ruth Ann Russell

Vanellope  
Santibanez  
Jodie Senter  
Scott Senter  
Jacqui Shumway  
Chin Keong Tan  
Danielle Taylor  
Berta Thimming  
Kelly Triplett  
Daryl J. Walker  
Christina Werner  
Roz Wheeler-Bell  
Tim Zeckser

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



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



## Imani Latif Joins Center Board of Directors

We are thrilled to share that the Founder and Executive Director of **It Takes a Village, Imani Latif**, is joining the Center's Board of Directors in March. "Imani has dedicated her entire life to reducing health and social disparities among people of color," shared the Center's Executive Director, Justin Levy. "We could not be more happy to have her knowledge and compassion join our talented board." Established in Aurora in 2002, It Takes a Village is a free HIV testing clinic that offers social services and support groups for many.



## Calling All Golfers!

### 2025 Swinging@AIDS Golf Tournament

Tuesday, August 5, 2025  
Denver's City Park Golf Course  
7:00am registration opens  
8:00am Shotgun Start  
Sign up as an individual or as a team:  
\$150/golfer or \$600/foursome

All proceeds benefit the Center's projects in India and general operations.

## Thank You So Much!

Subscribe to our newsletter at [centerforhealthandhope.org](https://centerforhealthandhope.org). Follow us on social media!



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Denver, Colorado 80220