

THE CENTER

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NYC's LGBT Community Center Revives Annual Cycle for the Cause

Nearly 350 people will journey from Boston to NYC to raise funds and awareness to end HIV/AIDS

NEW YORK — September 6, 2022 — Today, New York City's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center ("The Center") announced the return of Cycle for the Cause, a 275-mile, three-day bike ride beginning September 16 that funds the fight to end AIDS. This year marks the first Ride since 2019, after two years of virtual adaptations due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since its inception in 1995, Cycle for the Cause has raised more than \$17 million for the continuation and expansion of The Center's HIV/AIDS prevention, education, and support services.

"LGBTQ+ and HIV positive communities have a long history of mobilizing to support one another in times of crisis. We continue to do so today, as we bear the weight of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and fight back against the emergence of MPV. This makes The Center's services all the more important. Cycle for the Cause will ensure we are able to assist our community with vital needs such as getting tested, enrolling in health insurance, caring for their mental health, and finding housing," said Glenda Testone, The Center's Executive Director.

The Center was founded in 1983 in direct response to the AIDS crisis. HIV/AIDS services have been a cornerstone of the organization's programming ever since, with current efforts focused on prevention, education, and support for youth and adults who live with, or are at risk for contracting, HIV and AIDS. Cycle for the Cause raises the awareness and funds that enable these programs to exist as long as they are needed, and to weather the emerging health crises of the present and future.

"While we are making progress in the fight to end AIDS, serious disparities still exist—and that's where The Center focuses our work. For example, Black and Latine communities in New York City continue to see higher HIV diagnosis rates, with less access to support and medical care. And LGBTQ+ people, people of color, and low-income communities experience more barriers to accessing health care overall. We're committed to being a resource for these groups in particular, with connections to high-quality medical care, prevention methods, and holistic support," said Natasha Jones, The Center's Senior Director of Community Programs.

Money raised during the Ride funds The Center's:

- Free, rapid HIV and Hepatitis C testing, available three days a week
- Tailored education and prevention programs for youth, transgender and gender nonconforming individuals

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- Assistance accessing HIV prevention medications PrEP and PEP
- Safer sex kits distributed to thousands of youth and adults each year
- Referrals to health insurance and housing options, as well as LGBTQ+ affirming doctors who specialize in HIV/AIDS
- Individual, couples, family, and group counseling

Cycle for the Cause extends from Boston to New York City, with overnight stops in Westborough, MA; Mashantucket, CT; and Trumbull, CT. The Ride will conclude on Sunday, September 18 at Pier 84 in New York City, with a closing ceremony that is free and open to the public. Visit cycleforthecause.org to learn more.

About The Center

Established in 1983 as a result of the AIDS crisis, New York City's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center has grown and evolved over the last four decades, creating and delivering services that empower people to lead healthy, successful lives. We currently operate in-person and virtually, providing recovery and wellness programs, economic advancement initiatives, family and youth support, advocacy, arts and cultural events, and space for community organizing and connection. For more information, please visit gaycenter.org.

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