

THE CENTER

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NYC's LGBT Community Center Raises Over \$500,000 at 25th Annual Women's Event

The Center honored Elisa Crespo, Jen Hatch, and Milk Makeup for their extraordinary impact on LGBTQ+ New Yorkers.

NEW YORK — November 7, 2022 — New York City's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center ("The Center") raised over \$500,000 to support its work for LGBTQ+ New Yorkers at the 25th anniversary of its annual Women's Event fundraising gala. Women's Event is New York City's premier event highlighting the contributions of LGBTQ+ women. More than 400 people gathered Saturday, November 5 at the Ziegfeld Ballroom to support The Center and celebrate honorees including activist, nonprofit executive, and politician Elisa Crespo; President of Christopher Street Financial Jen Hatch; and clean beauty brand Milk Makeup.

"Since 1997, Women's Event has been a space for LGBTQ+ women to come together and celebrate the outstanding achievements and progressive visions of leaders within our community," said Glenda Testone, The Center's Executive Director. "It has also been a critical fundraiser for The Center, ensuring we can continue serving LGBTQ+ New Yorkers for years to come."

Elisa Crespo received the Community Impact Award for her advocacy that centers the economic, health, racial, and gender identity justice needs of the most marginalized members of the LGBTQ+ community. Crespo is the Executive Director of the NEW Pride Agenda, a nonprofit focused on LGBTQ+ rights advocacy and education in New York State.

During her acceptance speech Crespo said, "I am so grateful for this recognition...and I kept coming back to the magnitude of this moment. There is a well funded, and well coordinated effort to control our bodies, to tell us who we are, who we can and cannot be. Trans people have always been here fighting...so join us as we work to continue creating change!"

Jen Hatch, President of Christopher Street Financial, received the Trailblazer Award for her decades-long work to provide a safe space in financial services. She has dedicated herself to meeting the unique legal and financial needs of LGBTQ+ people in New York.

"Christopher Street Financial was founded in the decade after Stonewall over 40 years ago. The mission was...to help, to care for, to support, to advocate for people in the LGBTQ community," explained Hatch. "We have the privilege at Christopher Street Financial to help people in our community on their personal financial journeys—and help them to make sound, brave, decisions about their one life on this planet."

**THE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL &
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The Center honored Milk Makeup, the clean makeup brand born out of NYC's famed Milk Studios, for how they uplift LGBTQ+ New Yorkers—including through a partnership with The Center that supports young LGBTQ+ adults with strengthening their personal economies. Co-Founder and Creative Director Georgie Greville Jasper accepted the Corporate Impact Award on Milk's behalf, stating, "We are proud to be a launching partner of the GET IT Fellowship (Get Employed Through Industry Training), which has introduced new systems of work readiness and long-term employment opportunities that actually level the playing field. Together with The Center, we are working hard to create a foundation that supports meaningful, lasting change."

The night concluded with a performance from renowned Broadway star Jenn Colella, who sang "At Times Like This" from Lucky Stiff and "Everybody Says Don't" from Anyone Can Whistle.

NOTABLE ATTENDEES:

B. Hawk Snipes, Chanel Lopez, Chely Wright, Crystal Hudson, Dee TrannyBear, Emira D'Spain, George Hahn, Joshua Allen, LaLa B. Zannell, Rebecca Seawright, Trevi Moran, and Victoria Brito.

Photos from the event can be found on [Flickr](#). (Photo Credit: Photography by Tamara Fleming)

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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