Five years ago, the New Haven Pride Center’s Board Co-President Joshua O’Connell announced the Center’s intention to hire its first staff member. At the time the Center’s annual budget was between $25,000 – 35,000 and was operated by a small core group of volunteers. Today, five years later, the Center is operating on an annual budget of half a million dollars and has a staff of nine! The past year, since the onset of COVID-19, the Center has experienced many highs and lows. There were times where we were unsure if the Center would survive, however thanks to the effort and willpower of our community the Center has emerged from the pandemic as a leader.

The Center responded to the impact of COVID-19 by stepping up, launching new initiatives, increasing the Center’s advocacy-based initiatives, paying artists and thought leaders to shape our programming and virtual events, and offering tele-case management to so many in the community.

As I close out this letter, I have to take a moment to recognize and thank the incredible group of folks that I have the privilege of working beside every day. We started as a small nonprofit on a small budget with a big dream, and every day when we come together to do this work, we get a step closer to that dream where no one in our community goes without the services, programming and support that they need. The team working at the New Haven Pride Center is unmatched in so many ways and I appreciate each of you for what you bring to the table and for being a part of building a space where folks can be their authentic selves and we can celebrate the rich diversity of the LGBTQQIP2sAA community.

Thank you to our community. We look forward to many more years of shared experiences together.
The New Haven Pride Center’s COVID-19 response has been second to none. At the onset of the pandemic and lockdown restrictions in Connecticut, we responded to help provide for our community in the absence of real relief from local, state, and federal authorities.

Thanks to a $10,000 seed grant from Yale University, we launched a food distribution program that fed hundreds of individuals across Greater New Haven, distributing 65,000 pounds of food for several months over the summer before winding down due to funding constraints.

**VIRTUAL CASE MANAGEMENT**

1,000+ hours VIRTUAL CASE MANAGEMENT

**TOTAL INVESTED**

OVER $30,000 & 750+ volunteer and staff hours

**FOOD PANTRY PROGRAM**

- **175** HOUSEHOLDS SIGNED UP FOR OUR WEEKLY DELIVERY PROGRAM
- **65,000** POUNDS OF FOOD GIVEN AWAY
- **200-300** INDIVIDUAL WEEKLY PARTICIPANTS

**MOST FREQUENT COMMUNITY REQUESTS**

- Mental Health Referrals
- Housing Assistance
- Unemployment/Stimulus Assistance
- Food Assistance
- Social Support/WarmLine
Art is how a community heals, and the LGBTQ+ community is no different. The New Haven Pride Center is committed to developing and protecting LGBTQ+ art, expanding from our Great Room Gallery space in Downtown New Haven to two additional spaces for the 2021-22 season. We’re excited to feature up-and-coming LGBTQ+ artists at spaces curated by us at the Health Care Advocates International office in Stratford as well as at the historic Chez Est bar and entertainment venue in Hartford. LGBTQ+ art is often overlooked by the mainstream and just as often not shown in mainstream galleries, making our investment in artists all the more essential.

Being featured in a New Haven Pride Center art exhibit isn’t just an opportunity for artists to gain exposure and recognition, it’s also an opportunity to sell their work. In 2020, despite the pandemic’s effects on in-person gallery visits, thousands of dollars of art were sold from our exhibits, providing a lifeline to artists who have been struggling with the effects of the pandemic. Our gallery spaces uplift artists who may not get the opportunity to showcase their work elsewhere and our spaces introduce LGBTQ+ art to a wide audience through virtual tours hosted on Facebook, YouTube, and Instagram.
This year’s community engagement was a little different. With the move of all of our programming to the virtual spaces of Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube our programs became even more accessible than before. Allowing us to reach a broader audience.

Over 4,000 Likes
1,000 followers
2,000 followers
200 subscribers

Over 50,000 Views on all of our digital programs

THANK YOU TO THE BOARD FOR THEIR LEADERSHIP

from top to bottom, left to right: Tia Lynn Waters, Bilal Tajildeen, John D. Allen, Ed.D., Dolores Dégagé Hopkins, Jonathan Joseph, Joshua O’Connell, Julie West, Lindsey Pembrooke, Maureen Thomas, Ph.D., Luciana Q. McClure, Nicholas Bassett, and Richard Luedeman. No photographed Ebony Mc Cleese Not photographed: Ebony Mc Cleese

Photos by RahVisions
COMMITMENT TO OUR STAFF & VOLUNTEERS

100% STAFF RETENTION

+3 NEW HIRES

+5 INTERNS

Successful transition to work from home resulting in zero disruption of services and support groups. We made 3 new hires, 2 part-time, 1 full-time, and onboarded 5 new interns.

33 NEW VOLUNTEERS

OVER 300+ HOURS OF VOLUNTEERING

MEET OUR STAFF

Left to Right top to bottom: Patrick J Dunn, Juancarlos Soto, Laura Boccadorro, Maia Leonardo, Max Cisneros, Ala Ochumare, Miranda Rector, Elliot Olson, Devanté Dodgens

Photos by RahVisions
This year more than ever our community needed to celebrate PRIDE. PRIDE New Haven Virtual allowed us to do just that.

**VIRTUAL PRIDE 2020**

- **24 Talks & Workshops**
- **70 Speakers, Trainers, and Performers**
- **$7975 Invested in Artists and Performers**

**PRIDE IN PERSON**

- **42 Artist & Performers**
- **$7575 Invested in Artists and Performers**

Over 2,500 in-person and online participants

By following strict social distancing and CDC guidelines, we were able to host a PRIDE In Person event, allowing us to safely enjoy performances, community, and some Zumba!