



SOUTHERN ARIZONA SENIOR PRIDE

2024 **Annual** **Report**

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A Message from Leadership

Celebrating 20 Years of Senior Pride

To Our Senior Pride Community:

As we reflect on our 20th year, we are filled with pride and gratitude for the resilience and strength of our community. 2024 brought new challenges but also renewed energy and purpose to our mission of celebrating, supporting, and uniting LGBTQI+ older adults in Southern Arizona. Thanks to the dedication of our Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, donors, and partners, we grew our staff, expanded programming, deepened community connections, and made critical strides in advocacy and inclusion. Whether through vibrant cultural events, support groups, educational workshops, or outreach to isolated individuals, we remained steadfast in our commitment to creating a safe and affirming space for LGBTQI+ older adults.

Our work is far from over, but the progress we've made this year gives us hope for what lies ahead. Every conversation, every meal shared, every new face at a gathering reminds us why this work matters. As we move into a new chapter, we remain committed to our mission. Thank you for standing with us—and with each other—as we continue to build a community rooted in dignity, connection, and joy.

With Pride & Gratitude,



Mary O'Donoghue

Mary O'Donoghue
Executive Director



Luis F. Ortega

Luis F. Ortega
Board Chair

Mission



[Click to Video Watch on YouTube](#)

Southern Arizona Senior Pride's mission is to celebrate, support, and unite LGBTQI+ adults aged 55+ and their younger allies.

We fulfill our mission by:

- Delivering supportive services: Community Cares Program, Grief & Loss Support Groups, Elder Trans Support, Advanced Medical Care Planning, and Memory Cafes.
- Providing social programming in the areas of Social & Learning, Health & Wellbeing, and Arts & Culture.
- Vetting and sharing LGBTQI+ information and services offered by other organizations and our community partners.
- Advocating for and increasing awareness of LGBTQI+ and aging issues.

Southern Arizona Senior Pride is committed to improving equity, creating a sense of belonging, and reducing social isolation.

Current Board of Directors



Luis F. Ortega
Board Chair



Jenny Swift
Vice Chair & Treasurer



Linda Phillips
Secretary



Robert Bell



Kell Olson



Linda Hollis



LeeAnn Landphair

Current Staff



Mary O'Donoghue
Executive Director



Fred Rodriguez
Development Director



Lev Meadow
Business Manager



Harrison Orr
Communications
Coordinator



Kim Hamel-Brown
Executive Assistant



Ryder Rodgers
Program Coordinator



Erin Russ
AMCP Coordinator



Landon Sheat
Volunteer Coordinator

Impact

In 2024, Senior Pride hosted 484 events and activities, an 83% increase from 2023, averaging 40 events per month with a total of 3,976 participants.

Support Services

In the area of support services, Senior Pride facilitated over 183 support groups, workshops, and trainings that engaged over 1,105 participants. This includes 20 Advanced Medical Care Planning workshops and 1:1 coaching sessions, 18 Memory Cafes in collaboration with Pima Council on Aging, and 125 Grief & Loss Support Groups. Our Community Cares Program, which provides support and companionship to homebound and isolated LGBTQI+ older adults, grew to provide 1,231 friendly phone calls and visits to 14% more recipients than in 2023.

Social Programming

Senior Pride hosted over 189 social events and activities with 65 in the area of Social & Learning, 77 in Health & Wellbeing, and 47 in Arts & Culture, engaging 1,925 participants. Enriching the lives of LGBTQI+ older adults while building community and connection, these events and activities highlighted LGBTQI+ authors and artists, presented health-related topics, and provided meaningful engagement and learning opportunities.

"Senior Pride has given me the LGBTQI+ community I needed. As an older transgender person, I finally know where I belong."

-Senior Pride Constituent

"It is more important than ever for allies of the LGBTQI+ community to do their part and stand up against inequality. As an ally and Senior Pride supporter, I have seen this wonderful community grow and have made incredible friends. LGBTQI+ older adults live vibrant lives full of joy when love and support surrounds them."

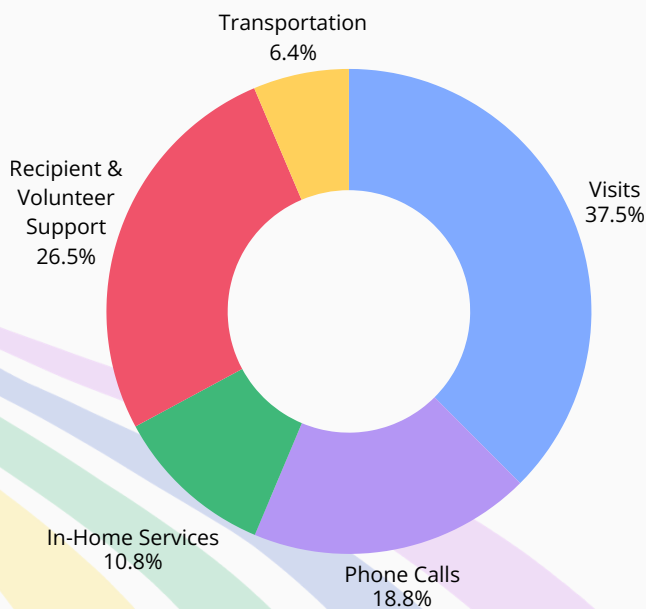
-Senior Pride Supporter

Support Services

In 2024, our support services made a big impact, empowering LGBTQI+ older adults to navigate their most challenging moments in life. 204 individuals received vital and compassionate support through Grief & Loss Support Groups, Memory Cafes, and Advanced Medical Care Planning workshops & 1:1 coaching sessions.

It was a transformative year for Senior Pride's Community Cares Program (CCP). In addition to friendly visits and phone calls, we expanded our vital services to include transportation and errands, pet care support, caregiver relief, and light housekeeping, home maintenance, and yard work. These services ensure that LGBTQI+ older adults can age safely at home. When needed, our trained volunteers helped recipients navigate a safe transition to care facilities. For those who resided in care facilities, we provided 1:1 visits and engagement with identity affirming connections to community.

CCP Services Types Provided by Hours



CCP Program Growth from 2023 to 2024



"My volunteers really listen to my concerns. I get information about resources I need. My volunteers care about me more than others in my life. They are a lifeline!"

-Community Cares Program Recipient

Social & Learning

We loved getting together with our Senior Pride community for social activities and events, such as our monthly potlucks and our community dances & gatherings in Himmel Park. Our Oh-So-Fabulous Holiday Gathering and Senior Pride 20/20 History Roundtable were big hits. We got together monthly for a little friendly competition at Gayme Day and began hosting Tech Time. These volunteer-led social and learning experiences enriched the lives of our constituents.

Holiday Gathering

LGBTQI+ older adults came together to celebrate the holiday season and our community at St. Francis in the Foothills UMC. DJ Big Papa spun upbeat tunes while Fluxx dished out incredible food. Emcee Penelope Starr delighted the audience and a group of storytellers shared hilarious and heartwarming holiday memories. All of this was topped off by a polaroid photo booth with backdrop designed by Lex Gjurasic. In the spirit of giving, we collected donation items for individuals living with HIV.



Photo Credit: Rachel Marie Photography



Senior Pride 20/20 History Roundtable

A panel of LGBTQI+ older adults contributed oral histories to a roundtable conversation commemorating our 20th anniversary. The panel was moderated by Senior Pride Board Chair Emeritus Bruce Hyland.

Health & Wellbeing



Whether they were meditating on Sundays, walking on Tuesdays, or playing pickleball on Thursdays and Saturdays, our constituents stayed active and healthy with PRIDE in 2024! Our Dolphin Swim Club provided swimmers with the resources and support needed to track their progress and stay focused. In addition to weekly and monthly activities, we hosted workshops and information sessions about Medicare enrollment, dementia care, fall prevention & balance, and more.

Medicare Information Sessions

Our Medicare information sessions served 32 LGBTQI+ older adults, providing them with important information and resources. Participants learned about changes to Medicare and the open enrollment process, allowing them to make informed decisions about their medical coverage.



Arts & Culture

2024 was a big year for arts & culture programming at Senior Pride. We organized tours at the Southern Arizona African American Museum, the Tucson Jewish Museum & Holocaust Center, and Mission Garden, as well as a mural walk. In addition to our ongoing drawing circle, book club, and writing group, we hosted drawing classes and a storytelling workshop. Our constituents took center stage at 20/20 Vision and we welcomed two acclaimed LGBTQI+ authors for a conversation and book reading.



20/20 Vision: Looking Back & Looking Forward

Senior Pride partnered with Tucson Queerstory in celebration of our organization's 20th Anniversary. Held on June 15th at The Screening Room in Downtown Tucson, the event featured 6 storytellers from the LGBTQI+ community, and was hosted by Penelope Starr of Odyssey Storytelling and Senior Pride Executive Director Mary O'Donoghue. Listen to the event recording [here](#).

Conversation Between Authors

Senior Pride partnered with the Tucson Chinese Cultural Center to host a conversation between authors Curtis Chin and Carlos Valenzuela at the Martha Cooper Library. The inspiring and entertaining conversation was facilitated by Senior Pride Communications Coordinator Harrison Orr. In addition, both authors read excerpts from their latest books.



Photo Credit: Curtis Chin

Volunteers

Volunteer Appreciation Event



Senior Pride is powered by its dedicated group of volunteers. We are truly amazed every day by their talents. Volunteers facilitate activities, help out in the office, visit isolated LGBTQI+ older adults, and so much more. Volunteers are vital to the mission of our organization.

Our passionate cohort of highly-skilled volunteers committed 7,670 hours of their time, equivalent to a \$266,839 value to our community.

Equivalency calculated by Independent Sector



Community Partners

We are fortunate to have collaborated with incredible community partners in 2024. Together, we furthered our mission of supporting, celebrating, and uniting LGBTQI+ older adults while fostering a more inclusive and connected Southern Arizona community.

Arizona Alliance for LGBTQ2S+ Equity in Aging (AZALEA)

Arizona Theatre Company

Cornerstone Fellowship

Desert Voices Chorus

ELDER Alliance (United Way)

Fluxx Productions

Habitat for Humanity

Harmony Community Healthcare

Museum of Contemporary Art Tucson

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)

Neighbors Care Alliance (PCOA)

Odyssey Storytelling

Pima County Health Department

Reid Park Zoo

Reveille Men's Chorus

Roots & Roads

SAGE USA

Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF)

Southern Arizona Volunteer Management Association (SAVMA)

Tucson Chinese Cultural Center

Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network (TIHAN)

Tucson Jewish Community Center

Tucson LGBT Chamber of Commerce

Tucson Peace Center

Tucson Pride

Tucson Queerstory

Visibility Matters (PCOA)



A Transformational Gift from Harald Brekke & Adil Karimbux



We are incredibly humbled and honored to have received a transformational gift from the estate of Harald Brekke and Adil Karimbux in 2024. These funds have allowed us to increase our staff and grow our programming and will help ensure stability for our organization's future. It was a joy and privilege to be presented with this gift by Harald's brother, Olaf Brekke, and niece, Kirsten Brekke Albright. We will forever be inspired by the lives and legacy of Harald and Adil.



Photo Credit: Tammy Wyant

"It is with deep pride and genuine joy to present your organization with this bequest on behalf of our beloved uncles, brother, and friend. Harald and Adil experienced first-hand what it was to "age while gay." While their time in Tucson in the relative comfort of their senior living community was supportive, it could have been more.

It is inspiring to know their legacy may, in small ways, help to better understand the needs of supporting the LGBTQI+ community through their second and third chapters of life. Everyone deserves to be seen, celebrated, honored, and protected as they age."

-Kirsten Brekke Albright

On behalf of the Brekke Karimbux Family

Financials

We are grateful to our donors, grantors, and legacy givers for their incredible generosity. They made 2024 a year of remarkable growth and expansion, allowing us to leverage our resources to address unmet needs and better serve LGBTQI+ older adults in Southern Arizona. We are confident that continued support from our community will ensure Senior Pride’s bright future for generations to come.

2024 Institutional Supporters

- AARP Arizona
- Arizona Commission on the Arts
- City of Tucson Housing & Community Development Department (HCD)
- Contexture (partnered with Unite Us)
- Community Foundation for Southern Arizona:
 - Hellene Henrikson Legacy Fund of the Lutheran Church of the Foothills
 - Jack Challem Fund
 - LGBTQ+ Alliance Fund
 - Shaaron Kent Endowment Fund
 - Stonewall Foundation Fund
- F*ST! Female* StoryTellers
- Helping Others Thrive Together (HOTT)
- Kellenberger & Tollefson Center for LGBTQ Philanthropy at the Arizona Community Foundation
- Nicholas W Genematas II Foundation
- Phoenix Pride
- Pima Council on Aging (PCOA)
- SCAN Health Plan
- Shell USA Company Foundation
- Speedway Veterinary Hospital Inc.
- St. Francis of the Foothills UMC
- Unitarian Universalist Church of Tucson

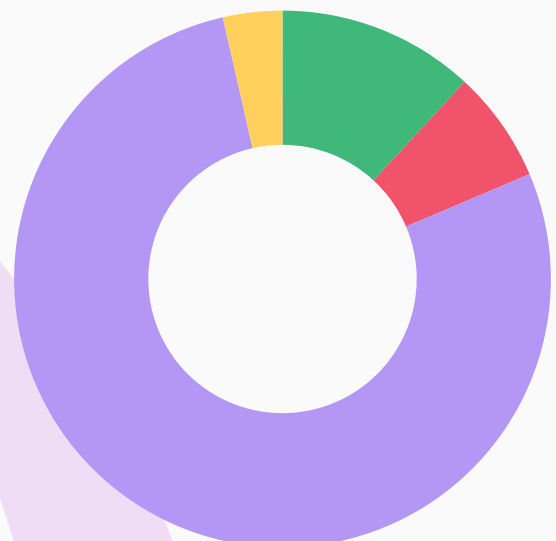
Revenue by Funding Source

- Individuals/DAFs
- Legacy Giving
- Grants/Sponsorships
- Government



Expenses by Category

- Admin
- Development
- Programs/Outreach
- Volunteers



The Joyce Bolinger & Lavina Tomer Legacy Society



Joyce Bolinger and Lavina Tomer founded their namesake legacy society to help ensure our bright future. We are grateful to our legacy society members, many of whom were integral to the founding and early days of Senior Pride, for their unwavering commitment to our older LGBTQI+ community.

Leave Your Legacy



Current Legacy Society Members

Joyce Bolinger & Lavina Tomer
Robert Bell & Tom Buchanan
Kathy Altman & Ivy Schwartz
Leanna Crosby
Bruce Hyland
Michael Mayes
William Kowaleski & John Sayers

Get Involved

Senior Pride has lots of options for getting involved and staying connected! Explore the options that work best for you. We love having you as part of our community. Click the icons or scan the QR codes!



[Join Email List](#)



[Volunteer](#)



Southern Arizona Senior Pride is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

Gifts are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. Our tax ID# is 85-3355472

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