ABOUT US

Callen-Lorde is the global leader in LGBTQ healthcare. Since the days of Stonewall, we have been transforming lives in LGBTQ communities through excellent comprehensive care, provided free of judgment and regardless of ability to pay. In addition, we are continuously pioneering research, advocacy and education to drive positive change around the world, because we believe healthcare is a human right.

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Callen-Lorde’s grassroots heritage dates back over 50 years to the St. Mark’s Community Clinic and Gay Men’s Health Project - two volunteer based clinics that provided free, culturally competent health services to LGBTQ communities, primarily related to sexual health. In response to the AIDS crisis, these two clinics merged in 1983 to form Community Health Project, Inc., which remains our legal name today.

MICHAEL CALLEN (1955–1993)
Michael Callen was born in Rising Sun, Indiana, and began his career as a successful composer and singer. In 1982 he was diagnosed with AIDS (then known as Gay-Related Immune Deficiency) and quickly became a leader in the response to the growing epidemic. In 1985, he became a founding member of the People with AIDS Coalition, the first organization to spring from the AIDS self-empowerment movement. As a leading authority in the community, Michael was called to testify before the President’s Commission on AIDS and both houses of Congress. In 1990 Michael chronicled the stories of long-term survivors in his book *Surviving AIDS*. With Peter Allen and Marsha Malamet, he co-wrote the song “Love Don’t Need a Reason” and was a founding member of the a cappella group The Flirtations. Michael continued his work in the community and in music until his death at age 38. He is survived by his partner, Richard Dworkin.

AUDRE LORDE (1934–1992)
The daughter of Caribbean immigrants, Audre Lorde was born in New York City and wrote her first poem at age 12. In the 1950s while at Hunter College, Audre worked as a librarian and educator and became a leader in the early lesbian activist community in Greenwich Village. Her poetry was published regularly throughout the 1960s and 70s and gained wide recognition with the publication of her book *The Cancer Journals* in 1980, which chronicled her experience with breast cancer. In this groundbreaking work, she examined her own fears, anger and ultimately, her strength and hope. Her published writings include nine volumes of poetry and five books of prose. Audre was named New York State’s Poet Laureate in 1991 by Governor Mario Cuomo, a post she retained until her death at age 58 after a 14-year struggle with breast cancer. She is survived by her children, Elizabeth and Jonathan, and her partner, Dr. Gloria Joseph.

THEA SPYER (1931–2009)
Thea Spyer, PhD was a brilliant psychologist, avid violinist, golfer and dancer. Born to Elisabeth Ketellapper and Willem Spyer in Amsterdam, Dr. Spyer immigrated to the United States during World War II. In 1963 she met Edie Windsor, who would soon become her partner for the remainder of her life. Dr. Spyer earned her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Adelphi University. She interned at St. Vincent’s Hospital and the NYC Veterans Administration, and later became Director of the Psychiatric Clinic at the International Center for the Disabled. She was then Clinical Consultant in Rehabilitation at St. Vincent’s Hospital Westchester before concentrating exclusively on her private practice, where she cared for her patients until she passed away from aortic stenosis in 2009 at the age of 77.
A LETTER FROM
OUR INTERIM
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends and Supporters,

My name is Jonathan Santos-Ramos, and I am honored to introduce myself as Interim Executive Director of Callen-Lorde. I have had the privilege of serving this incredible organization for the better part of 20 years as an employee, but just a few years before that, I was a beneficiary of the lifesaving services provided by our mobile medical unit – finding Callen-Lorde on Christopher Street as a teen, right off the piers, along with so many others like me.

From my time as a patient, to working on the front lines as an HIV counselor, to eventually serving as Director of Prevention and Outreach, working up the ranks to my most recent role as Senior Director of Planning & Sustainability, and now, as Interim Executive Director, I am moved to be able to steward an organization that I love through this interim process.

Together, we will continue to be there for our communities, helping all our patients express their health to the fullest so that they can not only survive, but so that they can thrive. I am so grateful for your support and partnership in this mission.

In partnership,

Jonathan Santos-Ramos
Interim Executive Director

A LETTER FROM
OUR CHAIR OF THE BOARD

Dear Readers,

The past year has been one of immense change and growth. We welcomed a new Interim Executive Director, transitioned to an entirely new electronic health records system, and began to slowly and cautiously emerge from wave after unrelenting wave of COVID-19 variants. We did all of this together, with your support.

When I began as a patient without health insurance in 2004, Callen-Lorde had one location and a staff of about 50. Now, nearly 20 years later, Callen-Lorde has four locations, nearly 500 dedicated staff, and I am so proud to help steer this incredible organization through yet another chapter as Chair of the Board.

In the coming pages, you will read some of our accomplishments, and meet some of the people whose lives have been touched by our work. As you read on, keep in mind the people behind these stories, behind the data, and behind the facts – who work tirelessly to make this all possible.

Yours in partnership,

Lanita A. Ward-Jones
Chair of the Board of Directors
Over the last year, we cared for 17,814 patients, who made 108,801 total visits.

Total revenue $98,678,945
Ending net assets $39,412,627

Information from our FY21 audited financial statement
To request a copy of our full statement, contact development@callen-lorde.org or visit callen-lorde.org/about.

BY THE NUMBERS

Over the last year, we cared for 17,814 patients, who made 108,801 total visits.

Location:
- 34% Brooklyn
- 30% Manhattan
- 12% Queens
- 11% Bronx
- 12% Outside of NYC
- 1% Staten Island

Race/Ethnicity:
- 44% White
- 15% Hispanic/Latinx
- 19% Black/African American
- 6% Asian/Pacific Islander
- 5% More than one race
- 11% Unreported
- 1% Unreported

Insurance:
- 39% Private
- 37% Public (Medicaid, Medicare)
- 24% Uninsured
- 9% Unreported

Gender Identity:
- 47% Cisgender Man
- 30% Transgender/Nonbinary
- 13% Cisgender Woman
- 9% Unreported

Expenses:
- 80% Patient care
- 19% Administrative costs & overhead
- 1% Fundraising

Age:
- 23% 35-44
- 37% 25-34
- 14% 45-54
- 9% 55-64
- 3% 65+
- 1% Under 18
- 13% 18-24

More than one race

Cisgender Woman

Cisgender Man

47% Public (Medicaid, Medicare)

Total revenue $98,678,945
Ending net assets $39,412,627
Information from our FY21 audited financial statement
To request a copy of our full statement, contact development@callen-lorde.org or visit callen-lorde.org/about.
In addition to directly providing high-quality, culturally responsive healthcare services, Callen-Lorde advocates on the local, state, and federal level for legislation, regulation, and sustainable sources of revenue and funding to support the health and wellness of our TGNB, Queer, and BIPOC communities. Our patient and community advocacy platform – Care with Action – engages Callen-Lorde patients and broader community members in our grassroots efforts to advance health equity and racial justice. Members of Care with Action receive action alerts and invitations to ‘show up’ by attending protests, rallies, and events; ‘speak out’ by contacting legislators and other decision-makers; and ‘share a story’ by providing testimonials and statements to help inform and educate the public about the importance of LGBTQ+ health. Studies have shown that getting involved in collective advocacy builds a sense of personal agency, empowers individuals, and is a beneficial tool for resilience for all. Participating in Care with Action is one way to promote self-determination while fighting policies that lead to further marginalization of our communities.

Recent policy wins:
- A bill amending Public Health Law §2504 to permit runaway and homeless under the age 18 who are receiving approved crisis or support services to consent to medical, dental, health and hospital services.
- A bill to create a new “Transgender and Gender Non-Binary Wellness and Equity Program Fund”, to support programs that coordinate inclusive health care, increase capacity of health care professionals who provide gender affirming care, behavioral health services, educational and vocational training programs, and to improve data collection on gender identity and expression in NYS.
- A bill to break down barriers to vaccination by ensuring that individuals’ personal information is kept safe throughout the vaccination process and that information shared to receive a vaccine cannot be used to criminalize or deport anyone or to take away their children.

Learn more or sign up at callen-lorde.org/action.
Since the U.S. Monkeypox (MPV) outbreak began in early June, Callen-Lorde has been at the forefront of the response, providing tests, treatment, and vaccines, while advocating in coalition with community partners to urge the federal government to improve their response. On July 12th, we sent a letter to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention calling for a more equitable distribution of JYNNEOS™ vaccine. Days later, we co-sponsored a rally in Foley Square with community partners to demand access to testing, vaccines, and treatment.

On July 14, Callen-Lorde held a virtual panel featuring Commissioner of the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Dr. Ashwin Vasan, alongside our Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Peter Meacher; Senior Director of Research and Education, Dr. Asa Radix; and Clinical Director of Sexual Health, Dr. Marcus Sandling. Nearly 400 community members were in attendance, contributing dozens of questions for the panelists.

Callen-Lorde’s experts were sought after by national and local press to share what we knew about MPV and how our communities could stay safe. We also mobilized our clinical expertise to share accurate information with our communities as it was becoming available through our social media channels and our in-clinic digital signage about symptoms, transmission, vaccines and treatment.

At the same time, cases were sharply rising, and New York was quickly becoming the epicenter of the outbreak. Our call center was flooded with concerned patients, and our triage and nursing teams were inundated with screenings and tests.

As one of the only research study sites for the investigational drug TPOXX, our research team pivoted entirely to the cumbersome work of enrolling patients, gathering consents, and spending hours on the documentation necessary to help get the medication to patients in desperate need. By early August, Callen-Lorde and our team of researchers were responsible for one in four TPOXX prescriptions city wide. To date, we’ve successfully prescribed TPOXX to nearly 477 patients.

Providing vaccines proved to be another challenge. Due to the limited supply, vaccines rolled out slowly and were plagued by the same inefficiencies that came with the early COVID vaccine distribution. After demands for equity and transparency, the NYC Department of Health began to partner with community-based organizations - like Callen-Lorde – to create a referral system for patients to access vaccines. To ensure equity within our referral process, we implemented a model of patient prioritization using health information to ensure those most at risk for poor health outcomes were offered vaccine appointments. As supply increased, Callen-Lorde began to offer vaccines in-clinic to our patients, conducting targeted outreach as eligibility slowly expanded to encourage those who had not yet been vaccinated to do so.

As vaccine supply and public health campaigns have increased, cases have begun to drop – but experts warn we are not yet out of the woods. Just as one case in the U.S. spread to nearly 80,000, infections must be curtailed entirely in order to declare this public health emergency over. We are continuing to do our part to help lead the way, with in-reach to our most vulnerable patients, spreading awareness through health education, and by training other healthcare professionals on best practices in MPV care.
Callen-Lorde is committed to research that is patient-centered, community-engaged, and health equity-focused. As part of this commitment, Callen-Lorde established a new Research Subcommittee of the Community Advisory Board to inform projects at all stages of project design, data collection, analysis, and dissemination of findings.

**Aligned with our stakeholder-centered values, Callen-Lorde contributed to two major LGBTQ-stakeholder collaborations:**

- “Nothing About Us Without Us” Convening, facilitated by researchers at City University of New York – Hunter College, assessing the research priorities of LGBTQ+ health centers and their communities, building research capacity within community health centers, developing strategies for increasing training opportunities and representation of LGBTQ individuals in all aspects of the research process, and opportunities for cross-center collaboration; and

- “We Care Collaborative,” led by the Whitman-Walker Institute, a project built to ensure that LGBTQ patients are both represented and involved in high-quality patient care, and that care is inclusive of transgender and gender minority. Our Research Team has also supported national efforts to collect patient-informed data on sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression (SOGIE) for large population surveys on the national level.

Internally, Callen-Lorde’s research team has provided support across the agency, ranging from program-based data collection, quality analysis, and evaluation, for programs such as our SAMHSA award for establishing our own Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC), COIN Clinic, our free healthcare program for sex workers in an affirming, supportive environment, and our TGNB Perioperative Program.

In the past 12 months, Callen-Lorde has published over 40 peer-reviewed articles, many of which have informed evidence-based practice in LGBTQ health, such as the WPATH Standards of Care 8, HIV testing guidelines, and sexual health care practices nationally.

For more information about the research conducted at Callen-Lorde, visit callen-lorde.org/research.
“Places like Callen-Lorde are safe havens, and I am so grateful for the care I have received to help me be where I am today.”

My name is Joanna Rivera, I’m a trans woman and I’ve been a patient at Callen-Lorde for over 10 years now. Before coming to Callen-Lorde, I was on black market hormones. I didn’t know there was a place that I could transition medically, legally, and safely.

When I started coming here, I was 21. I started going to the Health Outreach to Teens (HOTT) youth group and we would meet once a week. I met so many friends and other trans people there - it was so eye opening. I was doing sex work at the time to survive and in the youth group, I heard about a job opening at a syringe exchange program as a peer educator. The counselor of the HOTT group, Abigail, helped me to get my resume together and apply. I got the job as a Trans Community Peer Educator, and I was so grateful I could apply all of the things I had learned in the HOTT program to the role. After that, I got a job at the Ali Forney Center working as a supervisor and quickly moved up the ranks where I eventually became a Director. Today, I am the Manager of TGNB Outreach and Community Engagement at SAGE, the country’s oldest and largest organization to improving the lives of LGBTQ+ older adults. I also sit on the Community Advisory Board at Callen-Lorde to help give back to the place that has given me so much.

Trans people need safe and legal access to health care - it is critical and necessary. Places like Callen-Lorde are safe havens, and I am so grateful for the care I have received to help me be where I am today.
CHRIS’ STORY

“Being at Callen-Lorde surrounded by so much diversity, and specifically queerness, has allowed me to trust in my care.”

My name is Chris, my pronouns are they/them/their. I’m 37 years old and a powerful Black Queer. I am a storyteller, and an activist. I am a survivor.

I have been living with HIV since 2005, and have been a patient of Callen-Lorde for over a decade. After a couple bad experiences getting my care elsewhere, Callen-Lorde became my full-time care provider in 2010, and I have never looked back. Over the years, I have toggled between having insurance and not, but that has never had an impact on my care. In the time I’ve been Callen-Lorde I’ve utilized most of their services: mental health, sexual health, primary care, social services - you name it. It’s really been a one-stop-shop.

In the past, I never felt comfortable going to the doctor - being Black and queer has always presented problems in my care. It left me avoiding health care and unable to be honest with medical providers when I did decide to go. Being at Callen-Lorde surrounded by so much diversity and specifically queerness, has allowed me to trust in my care. From the decision to start my HIV treatment to earlier this year telling my provider that I am non-binary, the conversations have always been filled with care, compassion, and understanding – things I don’t think I could get anywhere else. For this, I am eternally grateful.
The first time I heard about Callen-Lorde (back then, Community Health Project or CHP) I was 20, and, like other young guys, I wanted to maintain my sexual health. Without insurance or a primary care doctor my options felt non-existent, until a friend of mine said, “Check out this place at the LGBT Center.” I went in and began my decades-long relationship with community-based health care.

As the 80’s progressed, so did the AIDS epidemic. If you weren’t there, you can’t imagine the terrifying slow build of this pandemic. As HIV took hold of all our lives, I was lucky that I had Callen-Lorde on my side to monitor and maintain my health during the darkest chapter for our community.

Like many, I needed to channel my fear and anger into action, so I got involved with ACT UP. While it was impossible to completely shut out the deep sadness and helplessness of the crisis, ACT UP ratcheted up the pressure on the government and fundamentally charged everything, empowering all of us and, ultimately, saving lives. Populated with community members, Callen-Lorde was on the front lines of any promising tests and treatments, with no judgment or stigma.

Looking back over 40 years of life in New York - from pre-AIDS to AIDS & ACT UP, creating The Pink Panthers (with Gerri Wells) to fight back against gay bashing, to post AIDS and all the lifesaving treatments, and now, to life over 60, Callen-Lorde has walked this road with me. I’m so grateful to have gay-centric, community-based health care partnering in my life. I started coming here when I was 20, and now at 60, when people ask why I still go, I say, “Why would I leave?”
“As a queer person it is so important to be “out” to my healthcare provider, and I’ve never been able to do that until I came to Callen-Lorde. My mental and physical health have improved so much since getting care here. I wish everyone had a place like Callen-Lorde.”
In 1973 Howard J. Brown, MD (1924-75), former New York City Public Health Commissioner, publicly affirmed his homosexuality and helped change the image of our communities in the United States. In the spirit of Dr. Brown and his unwavering courage and dedication to our community’s health, Callen-Lorde established our major giving society in his name – The Howard J. Brown Society – an exclusive group of dedicated donors who provide the core resources needed to care for the most vulnerable members of our community. Help offset the over $5 million in unreimbursed care we provide every year. Support from society members helps offset the over $5 million in unreimbursed care we provide every year and enables the organization to continue its vital work offering the highest quality healthcare to LGBTQ+ communities.

“I never felt truly safe or heard when it came to my healthcare needs. That changed when I started going to Callen Lorde. I’m so grateful to now be able to receive affirmative, high-quality healthcare.”

Anonymous (17)
Richard Ackerman & Elizabeth Toll
Ted Ackerman & Geremy Kawaller
Brooks Adams & Juno Adams
Anne M. Aldrich & Kim M. Whitehurst
Ellen Alpert & Janice Sears
Joseph Arena & Dr. Thomas D’Eletto
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Lanita A. Ward-Jones & Dr. Rakiyah Jones, DNP, FNP-BC
Tom Watson
Jami & Josh Weissglass
The Wiener Family
Ben Wiseman
Dr. Michael C. Wolf
Mabel Wong & Germaine Z. Chan
Chris Xu
Thomas Young
Lee Zhao, MD

*Deceased
JOHN B. MONTANA SOCIETY

John B. Montana, MD, was one of the first physicians in New York City to identify and treat people living with HIV/AIDS at the outset of the epidemic in 1981. Dr. Montana saw many of the earliest cases at his Greenwich Village practice, and became a proponent of harm reduction and safer sex, advising GMHC, ACT-UP, and many other AIDS-related organizations. He generously gave his time and money to many community organizations, including Callen-Lorde, and provided care to many uninsured patients in need.

It was in this spirit of generosity that Dr. Montana left nearly $400,000 in his estate to Callen-Lorde to help us provide care to the most vulnerable members of our community, regardless of ability to pay. To recognize his leadership and commitment to ensuring LGBTQ+ people had a place to seek care, we’ve dedicated our planned giving society in his name.

To learn more about how you can follow in Dr. Montana’s footsteps by including Callen-Lorde in your estate plans – or if you have already made arrangements to support us in your estate plans – please contact Donovan Stearns, Senior Development Officer, at (212) 937-4879 or kstearns@callen-lorde.org.

THE HEALTH CLUB

The Health Club is a group of dedicated supporters who make a recurring donation to help us provide care to the most vulnerable members of our community.

To learn more or become a member, visit callen-lorde.org/give or contact our Development department at (646) 965-5467 or development@callen-lorde.org.

“When I was younger, I didn’t have health insurance and couldn’t afford to go to the doctor. Callen-Lorde took care of me when no one else would.”

“I’m so grateful for these small corners where LGBTQ people are able to receive affirming, dignifying care. This is a special corner of the medical universe – one much smaller than people probably imagine - and for it, I am exceedingly grateful.”
THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

We take great care to ensure donor accuracy. If your name does not appear, or if you would like to change your listing, please contact us at development@callen-lorde.org or 646.965.5467.

I feel like I have a strong network of health care providers who genuinely support me in my work towards better mental and physical health. My wish is that everyone in the LGBTQ+ community, whether in a city or in a more suburban or rural area, can get the care they need from providers who respect them as people.