

THERE IS SO
MUCH TO BE
PROUD OF AT
MAZZONI
CENTER
THIS YEAR.



 MAZZONI CENTER

OUR 2023-2024
ANNUAL REPORT



EMERGING WITH OUR PURPOSE, OUR PRINCIPLES, AND PLANS: A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT / EXECUTIVE OFFICER

As the largest LGBTQ organization in the region, Mazzoni Center provides critical health and wellness services to our community. While the pandemic was challenging for us, as it was for many healthcare providers, we're incredibly proud of the commitment, support, and hard work of our staff, funders, and community, which has allowed us to continue providing the best care to the LGBTQ community, uninterrupted. Whether it's providing primary care, gender-affirming care, behavioral health care, case management services, or food to those in need, the work of the organization continues to strengthen and grow.

The COVID-19 pandemic had tragic and lasting effects on our community and the world. We lost friends and loved ones. And, for some, the virus left them ravaged with longstanding and debilitating health issues that still haven't gone away. Many businesses, organizations, and institutions also suffered their own forms of "Long COVID."

Mazzoni Center made a decision in those years. Despite the financial challenges we were facing, we held fast to our core principles of how we care for our community, including a longstanding commitment to never turn anyone away from care due to a lack of financial resources to pay. We continued our services to the community that counts on us, many of whom would simply go unserved without us.

Part of the reason I was excited to take the helm of this organization a little over two years ago, is that the one message that's been consistent is that the quality of care that the team here provides is not only second to none, it's care that many people can't get anywhere but here. I'm thrilled to say that, despite the challenges of the pandemic, we reacted, we recovered, and we even expanded our support for the LGBTQ community.

We've hired a top-notch Executive Medical Director who attracted amazing new providers to join our team,

expanded appointment schedules, and, importantly, increased the diversity of our medical team. We have added innovative life-saving programs, from high-resolution anoscopy to help screen for anal cancer for people living with HIV, to adding remote patient monitoring to serve patients with chronic conditions in real-time from the comfort of their homes.

We've received designation as a Federally Qualified Health Center Lookalike, a status that brings significant additional revenue and support from the federal government. We've worked with community artists and arts institutions to raise our profile, visibility, and support through outstanding community events such as last year's inaugural Mazzoni Center Honors benefit at the Kimmel Center.

"I AM SO GRATEFUL TO HAVE DISCOVERED MAZZONI CENTER. THEY PROVIDED ME DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY WITH MANY OPPORTUNITIES FOR SELF-GROWTH AND SELF-ACCEPTANCE."

- A MAZZONI CENTER PATIENT

What started as a volunteer organization in 1979 is now a 130-staff comprehensive health and wellness center nearly 45 years later, and we intend to be here serving the community for another 45 years and more.

I, along with our board, am confident in the direction and team we have built here at Mazzoni Center. Our plan to ensure long-term financial sustainability is strong and we continue to see improved results month over month

as we shore up our core as a critical health center serving some of the region's most vulnerable populations.

The future at Mazzoni Center is a bright one, with strong executive and board leadership, a committed and dedicated staff, and new and exciting developments on the horizon, all here to serve Philadelphia's diverse LGBTQ community. To those that we serve, thank you for giving us your trust and the honor of caring for you.

Sultan Shakir, President and Executive Officer

July 2023

Mazzoni Center Launches Health Equity Fund

One of the things we are most proud of is the amazing support, care, and compassion that the staff here at Mazzoni Center provide to patients and clients each and every day. We're also proud that our patients come from incredibly diverse backgrounds, and that we don't turn anyone away regardless of their ability to pay for care. Each year, Mazzoni Center gives away over \$1 million in care to those uninsured, underinsured, or otherwise unable to pay, with no specific source of revenue to offset these costs.

At Mazzoni Center, we believe that everyone deserves culturally competent, high quality health care. To help continue expanding our ability to equitably engage those who are most in need, we launched a new level of support for individuals who struggle to pay for health care or who are concerned about utilizing their insurance due to valid fears of being outed to family or others in their life.

In partnership with the highly respected Philadelphia Foundation, we announced the launch of the Mazzoni Center Health Equity Fund, an exciting new partnership aimed at advancing Mazzoni Center's commitment to equity in the healthcare space.

This new fund accepts donations from individuals, corporations, and foundations, with 100% of the funds utilized towards meeting healthcare costs for uninsured and underinsured patients, as well as those patients who cannot safely or securely utilize their insurance coverage. Here at Mazzoni Center, we are committed to ensuring that everyone has access to care, regardless of their ability to pay.

Contributions to this innovative new fund were initiated by two pioneering partners, Subaru of America and Free People. These two outstanding businesses have been key partners in helping Mazzoni Center and the Philadelphia Foundation launch what we believe is a game changer in advancing health equity in our Philadelphia LGBTQ community and beyond.

August 2023

Mazzoni Center Appoints New Executive Medical Officer:

Dr. Stacey Trooskin Brings Two Decades of Infectious Disease Expertise to Role

In August, Mazzoni Center announced the appointment of a new Executive Medical Officer to lead the Center's team of providers in service areas including primary medical care, HIV and STI prevention, testing, and treatment, gender-affirming care, and behavioral health.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2023-2024 MAZZONI CENTER YEAR



**MAZZONI CENTER'S MEDICAL
CENTER SEES OVER
7,000
PATIENTS EACH YEAR, WITH
OVER 13,000 APPOINTMENTS
IN TOTAL.**

Dr. Stacey Trooskin, who officially began her new role on July 31, 2023, comes to Mazzoni Center with two decades of experience focusing on infectious diseases, including serving as a faculty member at the University of Pennsylvania, Perelman School of Medicine. Most recently, Dr. Trooskin served as the Chief Medical Officer for Philadelphia FIGHT Community Health Centers, a role that she held from 2020 to early 2023, following four years as FIGHT's Director of Viral Hepatitis Programs.

"I am thrilled to join the Mazzoni Center team," says Dr. Trooskin. "I am looking forward to working with Mazzoni Center's extraordinary staff to support the critical work they do every day and to guide clinical growth to meet the needs of the community."

Dr. Trooskin's appointment follows a less formal role with Mazzoni Center that began in March of 2023 as an Executive Medical Consultant, with a focus that included providing guidance to the Center's executive leadership team, facilitating increased clinical productivity, and developing new clinical policies and procedures.

An internist with a specialty in infectious diseases, Dr. Trooskin has a strong interest in public health, particularly the epidemiology of hepatitis C, and identifying and overcoming barriers to testing and treatment. She completed a three-year term of service as a member of the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases and Infectious Disease Society of America's HCV treatment guidance panel and currently serves as the Chief Medical Advisor to the National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable and as the Medical Director for the Health Federation's HCV technical assistance program called "C Change." Dr. Trooskin is widely recognized for her activism and advocacy around issues related to access to HCV testing and treatment, particularly for incarcerated individuals and individuals who use drugs.

In making the announcement of Dr. Trooskin's appointment, Mazzoni Center's President and Executive Officer, Sultan Shakir, said: "When we look at the increasing challenges faced by the LGBTQ community, from bans on trans health care across the country to the shifting landscape of health insurance, it's clear that Dr. Trooskin's demonstrated leadership will help ensure that Mazzoni Center continues to evolve to meet the needs of the LGBTQ community by providing high-quality, culturally competent, and community-focused health care."

Dr. Trooskin received her MPH in Public Health from Yale University, her Ph.D. (Epidemiology) from Rutgers School of Public Health, and her MD from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, at the Robert Wood Johnson School of Medicine.

Mazzoni Center Creates Role to Focus on Excellence in Nursing and Integrated Services:

Stefan Lynch, RN MS brings 20 years of nursing - and a lifetime of LGBTQ+ experience

Building on the appointment of Dr. Stacey Trooskin as Mazzoni Center's new Executive Medical Officer, the Center has created a new position to continue to promote excellence among our clinic nurses, medical assistants, behavioral health consultants, and community health workers.

As Mazzoni Center's first Director of Nursing and Integrated Services, Stefan Lynch will focus on making sure that the whole healthcare team is working well together to provide more access and the highest quality of care. Stefan comes with 20 years of experience in community health and over a decade of clinical leadership. He was most recently the Director of Nursing at Philadelphia FIGHT, was a nurse leader at CHOP, a consultant to primary care practices in Camden, NJ, and spent a decade working in community health at the San Francisco Department of Public Health.

"I am thrilled to have Stefan join our clinical leadership team," says Dr. Trooskin. "He brings extensive experience as a nurse leader in community health care settings. Stefan has a track record of excellence in program development and management, policy-making and regulatory compliance, quality improvement, and innovation in nursing. And perhaps most importantly, he is a compassionate nurse who cares deeply for his patients, his community, and his team."

Stefan also brings decades of LGBTQ+ experience, "I grew up with an out gay dad and lesbian mom in the 70's, but at the doctor's office we often stayed closeted for safety. I went into healthcare specifically to provide a better experience for queerspawn like me," he says. 'Queerspawn' is a term for folks with LGBTQ+ parents which Lynch coined in the 1990's when he was the first Director of COLAGE - the national organization for folks who have one or more LGBTQIA+ parent or caregiver.

"My first community rotation in nursing school twenty years ago was at 'Transgender Tuesdays' at a publicly owned health center in San Francisco," says Lynch. "It was regular primary care inclusive of transfolks - which at the time was a novel and important concept. One of the joys of working at Mazzoni Center is that we don't need a day of the week to take care of the whole person including gender identity and sexual orientation, it's baked into everything we do."

SEPTEMBER 2023



**EVERY MONTH, MAZZONI
CENTER'S FOOD BANK HAS**

1,200

**CLIENT VISITS, DISTRIBUTING
NUTRITIOUS FOOD TO
THOSE IN NEED.**

NOVEMBER 2023

November 2023

Mazzoni Center Receives FQHC Lookalike Designation!

In November 2023, after over a year-long application and review process, Mazzoni Center received designation from the United States Human Resources and Services Administration. Among the required qualifications of FQHC lookalikes, a center must provide primary care services in underserved areas, provide care on a sliding fee scale based on ability to pay, and operate under a governing board that includes patients.

This landmark designation in our 45-year history will aid in providing significant financial resources to enable Mazzoni Center to continue its commitment to health equity for our community.





SPRINGS Mazzoni Center

Mazzoni Center Honors Raises Both Spirits and Funds:

Inaugural Event Honors Legendary Broadway Composer Stephen Schwartz

Prior to November 2023, the most watched Mazzoni Center video on YouTube, posted eight years ago, had 1,900 views. Today, a video of Alex Newell's performance of the song "Meadowlark" from the November 13 Mazzoni Center Honors benefit already has over 20,000 views. The ripples of energy from the inaugural Mazzoni Center Honors event, which honored legendary Broadway composer Stephen Schwartz, have spread not only through Philadelphia but throughout the country, generating interest, excitement, and, most importantly, increased support.

The evening, hosted by Soledad O'Brien, featured Oscar, Grammy, Emmy, Tony, Peabody, and Pulitzer Prize winners, along with local choirs from Temple, UArts, and St. Marks Church and the Philadelphia Gay Men's Chorus, all on stage to honor the music and life of Stephen Schwartz and support the work of Mazzoni Center. The Delco Times, referring to the event's high-energy finale, which included all four of Philadelphia's legendary sports mascots, wrote "That finale with Dee Dee Sharp was the culmination of a great concert that showed the Mazzoni Center's talent for planning, producing, and promotion while presenting some of the best Broadway talent of the day."

Perhaps the most important element of the evening came in the introduction of Philadelphia Flyers' anthem singer Lauren Hart's performance of "When You Believe" from The Prince of Egypt when Mazzoni Center Board Chair Dr. Jeffrey Doucette announced a special Health Equity Fund Challenge aimed at supporting the Center's commitment to never turn away any patient due to lack of financial resources. A special anonymous \$25,000 challenge match was announced, hoping to raise an additional \$25,000 that evening. The goal was surpassed, but with needs of over \$1 million, funds are being raised on an ongoing basis for this vital effort.

Philadelphia Flyers and Mazzoni Center Partner to Save Lives

In the game of ice hockey, the term “check” describes a player forcefully throwing their shoulder or hip into another player in a physical attempt to dislodge the puck. In that regard, receiving a big check from a hockey player might sound like a painful experience. But in the case of the Philadelphia Flyers visit to Mazzoni Center in January 2024, members of the hockey team delivered, not just one, but three big checks that will tangibly help to save lives.

On Tuesday, January 9, in advance of the Philadelphia Flyers Pride Night game the following evening, Philadelphia Flyers players Scott Laughton, Joel Farabee, and Cam Atkinson, along with Comcast Spectacor CEO and Flyers Governor Dan Hilferty, all clad in Flyers Pride jerseys, visited Mazzoni Center for a tour and to deliver a special gift on behalf of Flyers charities. Flyers anthem singer, Lauren Hart, a Mazzoni Center supporter who performed at November’s Mazzoni Center Honors benefit, joined the tour as well.

Mazzoni Center Executive Development & Communications Officer, David Weisberg, and Executive Medical Officer, Dr. Stacey Trooskin, gave the Flyers a tour of the Center and detailed the organization’s unique dedication to providing

JANUARY 2024

**INCLUDING INTEGRATED
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
INTERVENTIONS, GENDER-
AFFIRMING SUPPORT
SESSIONS, MENTAL
HEALTH COUNSELING, AND
PSYCHIATRY VISITS, WE SERVE
CLIENTS WITH OVER**

8,000

SESSIONS EACH YEAR.



MAZZONI CENTER IS CONTINUALLY ON THE CUTTING EDGE IN OFFERING NEW AND INNOVATIVE SERVICES TO OUR CLIENTS. IN THE PAST YEAR WE ADDED HIGH RESOLUTION ANOSCOPY A LIFE-SAVING, IN-HOUSE CANCER SCREENING PROCEDURE. EMDR TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF PATIENTS SUFFERING FROM TRAUMA.

wraparound health and wellness services for the LGBTQ+ community, with a 40-plus year history of identifying and addressing emerging needs, as well as the organization's commitment to health equity, never turning any patient away due to lack of financial resources.

During a tour of the medical center, David and Stacey gave special focus on a new program being enabled through the Flyers partnership with Mazzoni Center, a cancer detection and prevention program that will save lives in the community. While anal cancer is quite rare in the general community, it is the third most prevalent form of cancer for those who are HIV+, regardless of gender. Anal cancer can be detected and prevented early through a procedure called high resolution anoscopy. A fairly invasive procedure, Mazzoni Center has, in the past, had to refer candidates for an anoscopy to hospital facilities. As many Mazzoni Center patients only feel safe receiving care at the Center itself, many of those referred for an anoscopy simply would not follow up to have the procedure, leaving a potential indication of cancer undetected.

With the support of a grant from Flyers Charities, high resolution anoscopy will now be offered as an in-house procedure. Mazzoni Center patients will be able to have the procedure conducted in our safe and trusted space, giving the opportunity for detection and abatement of pre-cancerous lesions, a procedure that will absolutely save lives. The support of Flyers Charities will assist in training providers and ensuring health equity, making this procedure equally available to all, regardless of financial circumstances.

While the Flyers had made Mazzoni Center aware that they would be bringing a check from Flyers Charities for \$25,000 to support the launch of the program, Scott Laughton, who serves as the Flyers Hockey is for Everyone ambassador and the National Hockey League's You Can Play ambassador, surprised Mazzoni Center with an additional \$5,000 personal contribution. That surprise donation was matched by a \$5,000 check from Dan Hilferty and his wife, Joan.

Along with the generous donations, the Flyers presented David and Stacey with a beautiful, framed Flyers Pride jersey, with "Mazzoni" emblazoned on the back in rainbow lettering, which is now on display in the medical center.

At the Flyers Pride Night game the following night, with nearly 100 Mazzoni Center representatives in attendance and Gritty adorned in rainbow colors, the Flyers showed a special video on the jumbotron highlighting the Flyers visit and their new Mazzoni Center partnership.

Mazzoni Center thanks the Philadelphia Flyers for their tremendous support and partnership. Together, we will save lives. Go Flyers!

February 2024

Our Medical Providers Can See You...Now:

No Wait List at Our Medical Center

If a prospective client had called Mazzoni Center in 2023 looking for a new patient appointment at our medical center, they would have been placed on a waiting list and told that they should expect a six- to twelve-month wait for an appointment. If a current patient had called because they were sick, they would have been referred to urgent care.

In February 2024, with the addition of amazing new providers and expanded appointment slots, Mazzoni Center was thrilled to announce that we now have no wait list in our medical center. We can now offer immediate availability for both existing and new patients for scheduled appointments and sick visits.

Indeed, our medical providers at Mazzoni Center are ready to see you...now!

March 2024

Mazzoni Center Honored with Major Grant from Large Philadelphia-Based Funder:

Pew Growth Grant Aims to Expand Reach and Enhance Services

In March 2024, the Pew Charitable Trusts, a venerable Philadelphia-based philanthropic organization dedicated to “addressing the challenges of a changing world by illuminating issues, creating common ground, and advancing ambitious projects that lead to tangible progress,” announced a series of \$8 million in grants in the areas of LGBTQ+ Youth Wellness and Stability, Maternal and Infant Health, and the Teacher Shortage in Philadelphia. Mazzoni Center is proud to have been awarded a \$1.8 million five-year growth grant.

The intent of Pew in providing this support is to assist Mazzoni Center in increasing outreach to marginalized communities in Philadelphia’s most under-resourced neighborhoods. Pew’s support will be used to strengthen our outreach strategy to provide Philadelphians in historically underserved communities with better access to basic medical services and connect them to more comprehensive site-based and virtual services, as well as enhance and integrate Mazzoni Center’s continuum of youth services. The five-year cycle of this grant will launch with a year-long business consultation process in which we will undertake a comprehensive review of programs, services, facilities, staffing, and more to understand how we can maximize the impact our organization makes for our community.

According to Sultan Shakir, Mazzoni Center’s President & Executive Officer, “One of the exciting things about

FEBRUARY
2024



MARCH
2024

“MAZZONI
WAS A
LIFESAVER
FOR ME.”

-A MAZZONI CENTER CLIENT

**WITH A CORE PRINCIPLE
NEVER TO TURN AWAY ANY
PATIENT DUE TO LACK OF
FINANCIAL RESOURCES,
MAZZONI CENTER
UNDERWRITES OVER
\$1 MILLION
IN SERVICES EACH YEAR FOR
THOSE IN NEED.**

Mazzoni Center is that we've been able to work tirelessly to meet the ever-evolving needs of our community and to grow and expand along the way. The growth grant from Pew will allow us to reflect on that work, to identify areas we can make greater impact in our community, and ensure that we're doing the work in a way that reflects our values as well as the needs of those we aspire to support."

An investment of this magnitude by such a trusted funder as Pew is an expression of faith and confidence in our organization and our leadership and an understanding of the unique role Mazzoni Center plays in the community. As much as Mazzoni Center already does serving 15,000 clients each year, Pew understands – and we agree – that we can do more.

Board Chair, Jeff Doucette, says: "The Pew Charitable Trust grant is a transformative gift to Mazzoni Center. For 45 years, Mazzoni Center has grown to meet the ever-changing needs of the communities we serve. This grant will allow us to evaluate, create, and implement both existing and new programs to ensure the long-term viability of the organization as a critical healthcare and wellness hub for the region and beyond."

Though this grant is the largest single philanthropic gift in Mazzoni Center's history, we are also a large organization serving a large and diverse community, with a much greater need that we're currently able to meet. While this grant will be a game-changer with major impact, it does not alleviate our need for support to sustain the services Mazzoni Center provides on a daily basis, including underwriting over \$1 million in services each year for community members who don't have the ability to pay. We hope that Pew's partnership signals to others who may not currently support Mazzoni Center that we are an impact partner worthy of significant investment.

Mazzoni Center's four-decade history has been a story of continual evolution to meet the growing and changing needs of our community. Over the next five years and beyond you should expect to see gradual changes – some big and some more modest, as we harness Pew's support to expand our reach to underserved communities, focus on how to better serve youth, and work to ensure that we maximize our resources to refine our model of fully integrated wraparound health and wellness services for our LGBTQ community.

Mazzoni Center offers its extraordinary gratitude to the Pew Charitable Trusts – for their confidence, their faith, their support, and their partnership. We are so excited to see what we can do together.

April 2024

Mazzoni Center Launches Remote Patient Monitoring Program

In April, The Sarah Ralston Foundation announced the recipients of its Fall 2023 Innovative Project Support Grants. One of those grants, to Mazzoni Center, will enable a new Remote Patient Monitoring program aimed at creating ease

APRIL
2024

of service for older adults with chronic medical conditions

“Innovative projects develop, extend, test, and evaluate approaches to challenges,” said Lynette Killen, Executive Director of the Sarah Ralston Foundation. “Innovative initiatives should be more effective than their prevailing approaches and should ultimately displace them.”

Examples include projects intended to discover new and better ways of solving pervasive problems that impact older adults, seemingly small interventions that when scaled, can have a significant impact on addressing a big problem, and the projects should be managed by entrepreneurial leadership teams who are skilled at testing new ideas.

When Mazzone Center was founded as Lavender Health Project over 40 years ago much of the Center’s focus was on the AIDS epidemic. Over four decades, HIV/AIDS is no longer a death sentence, but now a chronic condition. Mazzone Center’s patients are living longer lives and are facing new health challenges as older adults with additional impediments in receiving the critical services necessary to detect and address those challenges.

Those impediments include the same obstacles of time availability and mobility (both physical mobility and transportation) that face many seniors. They also include other, more specific obstacles, such as discomfort with and distrust of the medical system, often due to past trauma, that are particularly prevalent in the LGBTQ+ community.

The “Remote Patient Monitoring” program at Mazzone Center is a game-changing approach to addressing the needs of the LGBTQ+ seniors in our health center practice who are facing chronic conditions, as eligible and appropriate patients can be equipped with items such as scales, blood pressure cuffs, and glucometers that, connected through the internet, will enable Mazzone Center medical providers the ability for ongoing monitoring, lessening the need for in-person visits. It will also help them overcome many of the obstacles that have impeded care in the past.

“Remote patient monitoring provides real-time transmission of health data, like blood pressures, weights, and blood glucose levels, and notifies Mazzone staff when they are outside set limits,” says Stefan Lynch, Mazzone Center’s Director of Nursing and Integrated Services. “This supports data accuracy and supports our providers’ ability to make quick adjustments to care plans for eligible patients with chronic conditions like hypertension, congestive heart failure, and diabetes. A patient enrolled in our RPM program will be able to collect health data in the comfort of their home, reducing the burden of frequent appointment scheduling and time spent traveling to and from our office.”

“The spring grant cycle, which funds general operating expenses for our nonprofits was a great way to launch the Sarah Ralston Foundation and establish important connections throughout the community. The Innovative Project Support Grant Cycle is another layer,” said Ben Hoyle, the newly elected president of the Sarah Ralston Foundation Board of Directors. “Supporting innovative programs and projects has the potential to open doors that lead us to new ways of serving our elders. The thought, research, and creativity that goes into these programs are next level. We anticipate some terrific results will come out of the funding.”



PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER PHILLY FAVORITES SPECIALTY MEDICAL PRACTICE



GOLD 2024

Specialty or Just Extraordinarily Special?

Mazzoni Center Named Philly Favorites Gold Winner for Best Specialty Medical Practice

If you looked at the Philadelphia Inquirer on April 21st, you might have noticed the annual “Philly Favorites” magazine supplement inside. And, if you turned to page 47 in that magazine, you would have seen Mazzoni Center as the 2024 Philly Favorites Gold Medal recipient in the category “Specialty Medical Practice.”

We’re absolutely moved and delighted to receive this recognition and for what it says about Mazzoni Center’s reputation and visibility as a life-changing and life-saving institution in our greater Philadelphia community.

And the irony is that we don’t consider Mazzoni Center to be a specialty medical practice. Instead, we are proud to be Philadelphia’s premier comprehensive LGBTQ+ primary medical care center.

While we may not be a “specialty medical center,” there is indeed so much about Mazzoni Center that is extraordinarily special - the special and beautiful community we serve, our special expertise in areas including HIV care and gender affirming care, our special commitment to wraparound care that is unequalled anyway in the region (and perhaps the country), and, perhaps most importantly, our special, extraordinary, and deeply caring staff and board.

New Leadership Brings New Energy in a Year of Positive Developments for Mazzoni Center

In a year that saw the announcement of a five-year \$1.8 million growth grant from the Pew Charitable Trusts, designation as a Federally Qualified Health Center Lookalike, and no wait list in our medical center, the addition of new officers and board members at Mazzoni Center, Philadelphia’s premier LGBTQ+ health and wellness center, provides even more reason for optimism and excitement.

In the early fall of 2023, Jeff Doucette, who has served on Mazzoni Center’s Board of Directors since 2021 and who professionally serves as Senior Vice President & Chief Nursing Officer for Press Ganey Associates, became the new President of the Center’s Board of Directors. Doucette is joined by a slate of officers including Vice-President Karl-Anthony Jones, Treasurer Demo Lymberopoulos, and Secretary Simon Trowell.

Of his service on Mazzoni Center’s Board and his enthusiasm to serve as Board President, Doucette says “As a member of the LGBTQ+ community, I felt an instant connection to the mission of Mazzoni Center when I moved to Philadelphia. The forty-plus-year history of the



organization's evolution to serve the ever-changing needs of the community and the opportunity to volunteer for board service was a perfect fit for my background. It is a privilege to work with the board and staff at this world-class organization as we transform healthcare for the LGBTQ+ community. I am honored to be selected to lead the Board of Directors."

Among his first tasks as Board President, Doucette worked hand in hand with Board Member Michael Nguyen, who leads the Board's nominating and recruitment process, to add new board members who bring a diversity of backgrounds, talents, and perspectives to the Board.

Over the past several months, Mazzoni Center has added eight new members to its now 16-member Board of Directors. Those new additions include: Dylan Van Duyne, Senior Equity Training Specialist with the School District of Philadelphia; Lauren Hart, best known as the Philadelphia Flyers anthem singer; James Hoelz, Founder and CEO of Hoelz Healthcare Consulting; Joshua Johnston, Nurse Manager of the Cardiac/Pulmonary Intermediate Care Unit at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital; Akshay Kamath, Co-owner of the Cockatoo Bar in Philadelphia's Gayborhood; Demo Lymberopoulos, Global Executive Director, Customer Technology at URBN; Ace Quintana, Head of Organizational & Leadership Development at FS Investments; and Simon Trowell, recently retired after 35 years in research and development in the biopharmaceutical industry.

"Our new board members represent the diversity of the community we serve," says Doucette. "Each board member brings a unique skill set and perspective to this amazing group of community volunteers. As a board, our primary focus is ensuring that our leadership team and staff have the tools and resources they need to deliver state-of-the-art care for the patients we serve while challenging the status quo. I am beyond thrilled to work with such a dedicated group of professionals."

May 2024

Mazzoni Center's *Yes, PLEASE!* Youth Health Education Series Reaches New Heights

As the academic year came to a close, Mazzoni Center's educational series for Philadelphia youth reached a record-breaking 2,443 young people! This series was designed to be inclusive and affirming to students of all genders, sexualities, and family structures. It provides young folks with a necessary safe space to access vital health and wellness information, starting with basic tenants of self-esteem and respect for diversity.

Of our 237 workshops presented this year, 33% were for youth in grades 3-6. Our most popular sessions were those approved for delivery within Philadelphia School District schools: Self-Esteem, Healthy Relationships ("Healthy Friendships" for our 3-6th grade friends), and Digital Decision-Making.

Interest and implementation of this program continues to trend upward, and Mazzoni Center is proud to have

OVER THE PAST YEAR,
MAZZONI CENTER'S HOUSING
SUBSIDY PROGRAM
DISTRIBUTED OVER
\$1.2 MILLION
IN RENTAL ASSISTANCE.

MAY 2024



contributed to LGBTQ-affirming health and wellness education for underserved youth in Philadelphia for the past 25 years. In FY23 and FY24 we have exceeded contract goals and done everything in our power to meet the needs of Philadelphia's schools, youth programs, families, and the youth participants themselves.

Of the schools that responded to our feedback survey about the Yes, PLEASE! workshop series, 100% 'strongly agreed' that the Yes, PLEASE! workshops their students received were beneficial to their social & emotional learning. School-based educators who observed the workshops called them "worthwhile and informative," "appreciated the gender-inclusive language used," and noted that "students really enjoyed the opportunity to learn from the Mazzone Center. There were many students asking me for more sessions and wanting to learn more."

June 2024

Senator Bob Casey Announces Federal Appropriation for Mazzone Center

In June, Senator Bob Casey Announced a first ever federal appropriation to support the life-saving work of Mazzone Center. The \$400,000 congressional earmark will be used for capital improvements to modernize the Center, in particular, the installation of a building generator to protect critical pharmaceuticals and vaccines that require refrigeration and are vulnerable to loss during a power outage.

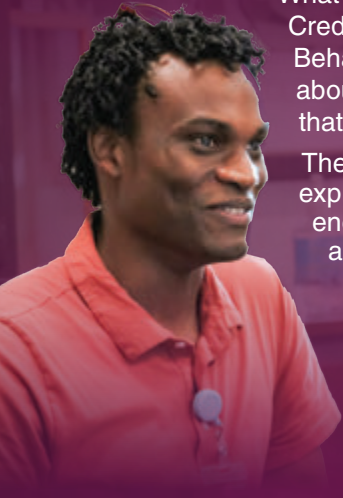
"I'm grateful to be here during Pride Month to announce good news from Washington which doesn't happen every week," Casey said.

"We have given over 5,500 vaccines over the last year, we've drawn 7,200 sets of labs over the last year, and we also keep onsite expensive, long acting and life-saving HIV medication," says Dr. Stacey Trooskin, of the vital products that will be protected through Senator Casey's efforts.

JUNE 2024



Introducing Our New Director of Behavioral Health Services



What's in a name? For Dr. Christiaan Storm Credle, Mazzoni Center's new Director of Behavioral Health Services, it says a lot about the person – and the professional – that he is.

The “Storm” part is almost self-explanatory. In his presence, you feel the energy of a storm that promises to leave a difference – and in his case, a very positive one, in its wake. What might be less evident is the third “i” in his first name. No, that isn't a typo.

And, indeed, Dr. Credle appears to have that third “eye” described in eastern spiritual practices as a sign of extraordinary insight and enlightenment.

Dr. Credle, or Storm as he likes to be called, began his tenure leading Mazzoni Center's Behavioral Health Department on July 1, bringing with him a vision to advance integrated care and build strong, meaningful, and impactful relationships, within the Department's staff and with the community that Mazzoni Center serves.

“A lot of the suffering that people experience is because of the relationships they have or the lack of relationships that they have, the trauma they've had with relationship to other people in the past,” says Credle, “and a lot of the ways I see health are in building community and connection.”

“We're just thrilled to have Dr. Credle on board,” says Dr. Stacey Trooskin, Mazzoni Center's Executive Medical Officer. “He brings strong experience working with the LGBTQ+ community and a passion for integrated care and addressing disparities in the availability of quality behavioral health services that are core to our mission and vital to our community.”

Storm brings with him a perfect meld of leader and collaborator. A native of New Jersey, he attended Rutgers as an undergraduate and was a member of the Rutgers Marching Scarlet Knights band, first playing bass drum but

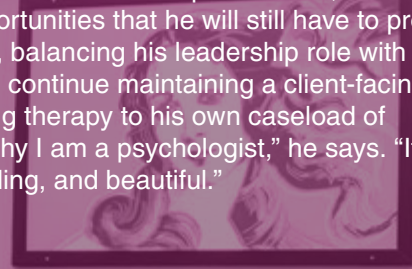
eventually serving as Field Major, leading the marching band. With a background in musical theatre, he relished the chance to be part of a great ensemble, valuing the opportunity to perform with others. “I love connections and building things together,” he says.

“I'm so excited to bring on Christiaan, especially now as we work to integrate our model of care,” explains Sultan Shakir, Mazzoni Center's President and Executive Officer. “The goal is to ensure that our patients and clients have access not only to a broad range of services, but services that are connected, easy to access, and integrated to provide the highest level of care to the community.”

Dr. Credle comes to Mazzoni Center having most recently served as the Lead Psychologist in Mosaic Medical Center for LGBTQ+ Health and Wellness at AIDS Care Group, where he supervised therapy staff and performed individual and group therapy. A Doctor of Psychology (PsyD), he received his doctorate from The Chicago School of Professional Psychology in Washington DC.

Storm is excited to be at Mazzoni Center because of the opportunities he sees to advance the Center's model of integrated care. “I've felt it. I've seen the impact of integrated care and how helpful it can be,” he says. “I know how helpful it is for patients for your medical and behavioral health providers to know one another, to have a team of people who are taking care of you.” For Dr. Credle, that importantly includes a strong commitment to providing access to care for all. “I want to ensure that everyone understands they have a place to go, and, whether uninsured or underinsured, that's not going to affect the quality of care they receive, that they can walk into the waiting room, and there is someone there who cares about them.”

While he'll be at the helm of the department, with many supervisory and administrative responsibilities, Dr. Credle cherishes the opportunities that he will still have to provide direct patient care, balancing his leadership role with his commitment to continue maintaining a client-facing presence, providing therapy to his own caseload of patients. “That's why I am a psychologist,” he says. “It's nourishing, rewarding, and beautiful.”



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