



TCP Annual Meeting Report

June 29, 2006

The Center Project (TCP) is a grassroots organization dedicated to establishing a new, nonprofit community center that will focus on the needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, and ally (LGBTQQA) residents of Mid-Missouri-- an 8 county area. The center will help address a significant yet unmet need of support for underserved LGBTQQA groups within the region, particularly youth, families, and those living in rural communities. We plan to open the center's doors during the 2007-2008 fiscal year.

Our Mission:

The Center Project strives to....

- encourage respect, safety, inclusion, and compassion among people of all sexual orientations and/or identities.
- foster greater understanding, visibility, support, and appreciation of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, and ally community in mid-Missouri.
- promote unity by providing educational outreach, community activities, a resource center, and a variety of support services.

To this end, TCP Board members have been working diligently on the following activities during fiscal year (July 1, 2005-June 30, 2006):

Promoting Unity:

- ▶ Hosted the 1st Annual TCP Atomic Dance Party fundraiser & raffle which was attended by 256 adults on June 10th following Mid-Missouri PrideFest. Raffle and door prizes were donated by 13 individuals and groups and 22 businesses primarily located in downtown Columbia where TCP plans to locate the community center.

- ▶ TCP partnered with community groups and shared our resources:
 - *Participated in the RAIN Walk;*
 - *Joined the Boone County Related Agencies organization;*
 - *Maintained membership with National Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Community Center Association;*
 - *Donated over 50 bags of left-over dog & cat treats to Second Chance;*
 - *Donated a gift basket of dog & cat items including our homemade treats and worth over \$50 for the KOPN silent auction at Luna Fair;*

Fostering Respect, Visibility, and Support:

- ▶ Tabled 6 community events in Columbia & Jefferson City:
 - *JC Multicultural Festival, Luna Fair, Earth Day, CEC's production of the Laramie Project, PrideFest, and Twilight Festival;*
- ▶ Created a community presentation about TCP and delivered it to community groups in Columbia and Jefferson City;
- ▶ Interviewed for stories by the Columbia Missourian, KOPN, and LOGO TV.
- ▶ Developed new marketing materials including a brochure and logo chosen by community vote;
- ▶ Launched <http://www.thecenterproject.org/> ;
- ▶ Increased list serve membership:
 - *102 members; 27 joined in the past year;*
- ▶ Published bimonthly "Board Updates" to 8 mid-Missouri GLBTQQA list serves;
- ▶ Held monthly Board of Directors meetings;
- ▶ Maintained our temporary office at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 2615 Shepard Blvd.

Promoting Financial Growth:

- ▶ During FY 20005-2006 TCP:
 - *Granted federal not profit status- 501(3)(c)*
 - *Raised \$5315 cash exceeding our 2005-2006 fiscal goal by \$315*
 - *Received office supply donations worth over \$1000;*
 - *Held our first annual community fundraising event, and;*
 - *Began the grant submission process for funding*

- ▶ Cash donations came from:
 - *Individual and group community members gifts,*
 - *Donations for homemade dog & cat treats at community events;*
 - *Carwashes;*
 - *Fundraisers held on our behalf by local queer groups (Como Homos & MU Law School Alliance for Tolerance & Diversity) and;*
 - *Atomic Dance Party fundraiser & raffle.*

- ▶ Atomic Dance Party & Raffle Highlights:
 - ***Over \$3000 in cash raised***
 - *TCP gave away raffle and door prizes worth over \$1800.*

Challenges:

- ▶ Keeping our momentum going;
- ▶ Recruiting a more volunteers and utilizing them effectively;
- ▶ Significant increases in fundraising in short time span.

Plans for FY2006-2007 (July 1- June 30):

- ▶ Raise \$25,000 gifts, grants, and contributions for FY06/07 programming expenses;
- ▶ Implement renewable membership donation program;
- ▶ Host 2nd annual community fundraising event;
- ▶ Draft policy & procedure manual;
- ▶ Collect GLBTQ literature and films for resource library;
- ▶ Begin hiring process for Director (part-time).