



Tucson Gay Community Services Center (G.C.S.) Collection - ©Tucson LGBTQ Museum - All Rights Reserved (Text Format)

Tucson Gay Community Services Center Collection  
1976 – 1987



Tucson's first LGBTQ Community Center, the not for profit and all volunteer Gay Community Services Center (G.C.S.) of Tucson began in early 1976 with local businessman Norman F. Bloss who lived at 1415 W. Wetmore Road as its first Director (Bloss was also the weekend bartender at the Hair Tiz Bar located inside the Mac Arthur Hotel at 343 E. Toole Avenue), Albert J. Obermaier who would become the Director later, Doc Hayes, John Richtars the owner of Lucky Pierre's Bar located at 2222 N. Stone Avenue, Xavier Almada, along with many others.

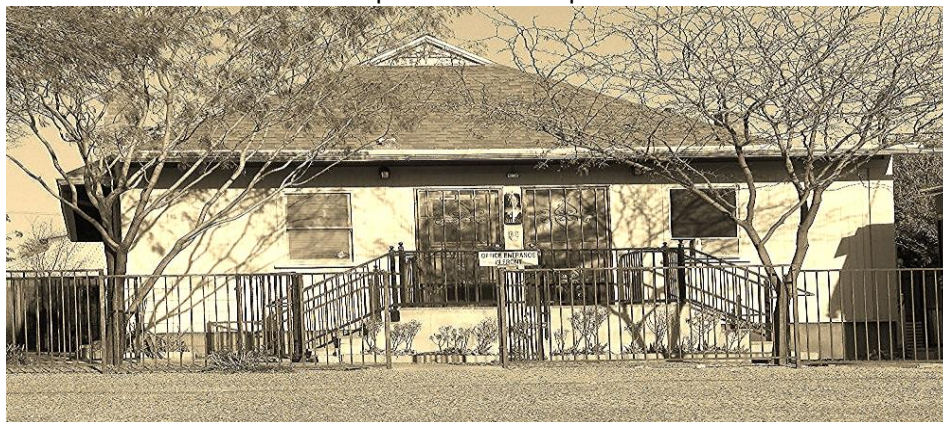


The Tucson Gay Community Services Center offered a live Telephone Answerline for Gays & Lesbians, hosted the Tucson Gay Youth Group, provided Peer Counseling, Gay Rights Activism, Guest Speakers, a Gay Housing Referral Service, a Venereal Disease (V.D.) Prevention Program held at the Free Clinic which was located at the corner of Franklin and Granada Streets in downtown Tucson, was a member of the Tucson Food Bank and on its Advisory Board, and was a cooperating Community Service Agency of the United Way, American Civil Liberties Union (A.L.C.U.), Tucson Rape Crisis Center, Legal Aid Society, and Tucson Suicide Prevention Center.



1978 – (L)Tucson Gay Community Services Center Volunteer Presents Donation Check To Tucson Community Food Bank (R)Punch Woods 1st Food Bank Director

For the Venereal Disease program, Gay Community Services Center members were specially trained to draw blood allowing Gay clients to be tested by Gay G.C.S. members. In its early days the group met down in the basement at the Grace Episcopal Church located at 2331 E. Adams Street, at the Truth Chapel at 920 N. 1st Avenue, rented office space at 624 E. Toole Avenue #6 for a time, and utilized numerous other venues before its Tuesday December 21, 1976 renting of the property and later opening of the center located near the downtown 4th Avenue area at 627 N. 7th. The 7th Street property had major electrical wiring problems the landlord would not repair requiring the group to at first work in the dark, with flashlights, and kerosene lamps during its open hours of 9:00AM to Midnight for seven (7) days a week until completion of the repairs.



Tucson Gay Community Services Center – 627 N. 7th Street Tucson, Arizona





1977 - Tucson Gay Community Services Center Volunteers

The official Housewarming Party at the new location was held starting at noon on Saturday January 15, 1977 as a BYOB (Bottles, Butts, Boys, Beer) event that was heavily attended by the Tucson Gay Community. To raise funds for operating their programs regularly scheduled Flea Markets were held in the parking lot and other Gay Friendly venues around Tucson.



1976 – Tucson Gay Community Services Center Picnic & Fundraiser At The Home Of “Mother Johnny”

Fundraising raffles were also held with the first one at one dollar (\$1.00) a ticket giving away a very popular nude oil painting that was hanging at Dale's Graduate Bar located at 23 W. University Boulevard.



1978 – Tucson Gay Community Services Center Bake Sale Fundraiser  
Held At Tramp's Bar At 616 N. 4th Avenue, Tucson, Arizona

The Gay Community Services Center also regularly combined efforts with the Tucson Metropolitan Community Church and often at times all the local Gay Bars in organizing food drives for items to be given to the Tucson Food Bank which at that time was distributed only to local agencies such as the Tucson Gay Community Services Center for re-distribution to their own clients.

Tucson Gay Community Services Center (G.C.S.) Collection - ©Tucson LGBTQ Museum - All Rights Reserved (Text Format)