

Mr. Gerald K. Leo
November 17, 1977
Page Two

The Pacific Center provides the Greater San Francisco Bay Area's substantial sexual minority population with comprehensive mental health and other services executed under the highest standards of professionalism--critical services that are unavailable elsewhere. I am outraged and insulted by the misinformation and prejudices that have clouded our attempts to establish legitimacy in the eyes of the public.

Sexual minority people represent 15% of the population of the United States, and 20 to 28% of the Greater Bay Area population. Statistics reveal that a preponderance of these people are employed in well-paying jobs as professionals and lay people, and it seems reasonable to assume that many of these people give generously to United Way's annual campaign.

It has come to our attention that recently United Way has commissioned a study to determine the unmet social service needs of the Bay Area community, and that you are paying \$40,000 for this study at a time when community groups seeking membership in United Way have been told that "there is no money available." Perhaps your study will conclude what any poor or minority person, or the Director of any human service agency could tell you for free: that sexual minority individuals represent the largest and most underserved population group in the Bay Area, and that the need for services for these persons is *long overdue and crucial*.

The application Pacific Center submitted to you for 1976-77 was comprehensive, well written, and should have been funded at that time. It was not funded due to United Way's complex system of volunteerism that enables responsibility for a committee's actions to be "discharged" while phone calls, letters, and personal visits go unanswered. Further, during that funding cycle, the Pacific Center was deliberately misled and received outright lies from your office.

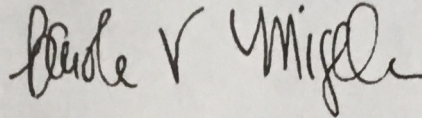
As a non-profit agency attempting to meet tremendous human service needs with material and financial resources inadequate for the scope of our programs, we prepare a good many grant proposals and deal with a wide variety of funding sources, both public and private. We have never had the difficulties with any other office that we have had with yours. We are not accustomed to being perfunctorily dismissed by well meaning volunteers who have no perceptions of the acute unmet social service needs of sexual minority people, or by your Board of Directors who have refused to meet with us for even five minutes as a matter of "policy."

For five years we have tried to be patient and understanding about the actions of United Way of the Bay Area in dealing with the Pacific Center for Human Growth. We have presented to you, on several occasions, well thought out proposals clearly outlining our important services. We have heard many "explanations," "promises," and "concerns" from United

Way, and they have been noted. We must inform you, however, that far too much of our valuable time has been wasted by the actions of United Way, and that we will no longer deal with you in a passive manner.

Failure to insure that your office does not handle our application in an irresponsible manner once again, that our application will not be once again reviewed by persons with an unhealthy fear of homosexuality or an inability to be sensitive to the needs of sexual minority people, that our phone calls, letters, and requests for meetings will no longer be ignored, postponed, or handled in an otherwise unbusinesslike fashion, and failure to provide us with full disclosure at all stages of the review process for 1978-79 membership applications, will result in very serious and unpleasant consequences.

Sincerely yours,
The Pacific Center for Human Growth, Inc.



Carole V. Migden
Executive Director

CVM:1ft

cc; Sandra Blair, Attorney for Pacific Center
Richard Boxer
Martin A. Paley, San Francisco Foundation
Robert Young, Executive Director United Way
President, United Way Board of Directors
Ralph Matteoli, President, Pacific Center Board of Directors
Concerned Citizens for Charity
San Francisco Sentinel
Hon. Tom Bates, California State Assembly
Hon. Art Agnos, California State Assembly
Hon. Ronald V. Dellums, Member Congress
Hon. George Moscone, Mayor of San Francisco
and
others to be determined as needed

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December 21, 1977

Mr. Gerald K. Leo
United Way of the Bay Area
2014 Steiner Street
San Francisco, California 94115

Dear Mr. Leo,

I appreciate your response to my letter. We are encouraged by your pledge of good faith and the spirit of cooperation which you convey.

I concur with your statement that "no agency will be satisfied with the United Way process unless they are funded." However, I submit that our concerns are more complex than your phrase suggests and deserving of greater attention by the United Way screening committee. My original letter to you was an attempt to convey the sense of deprivation, anger and humiliation which results not only from irregularities in your agency's dealings with us, but also from its neglect of all sexual minority programs.

This distinction separates us from other programs, since the clients we serve are perpetually denied opportunities freely available to other groups. I am certain that other disappointed applicants do not experience the same degree of loss or devastation upon rejection- their target populations, if not their specific agencies, are not totally without your support.

Acceptance by United Way would of course benefit our programs in terms of financial stability, but more importantly, would be an acknowledgement of legitimacy-a step toward eliminating the senseless fear and rejection of all sexual minority people.

Sincerely,

The Pacific Center for Human Growth

Carole Migden / GM

Carole Migden
Executive Director

THE PACIFIC CENTER
FOR HUMAN GROWTH