

PFLAG - Where We Go to Tell Our Stories

October marks the beginning of the membership drive for the chapters supported by the PFLAG Council of Northern Illinois. These are difficult times. It is difficult to give money during difficult times. It is also difficult to ask for money during difficult times. However, we must ask you to please consider a paid membership or membership renewal to PFLAG. You are always welcome at PFLAG whether you become a member or not. PFLAG is here for everyone. But paid memberships make us stronger in number. They get us noticed; they make us count. We need that now more than ever.

The LGBTQ+ community is under attack. Our families and friends; our co-workers; our neighbors; ourselves. The attacks are coming from all sides. PFLAG is one of our staunchest allies. PFLAG fights for us and with us. At times, it teaches us how to fight for ourselves.

As you consider membership, please take a moment to remember why you come to PLFAG. I come to tell my story. I used to be able to only tell my story at PFLAG. PFLAG Deerfield (and early on PFLAG McHenry) listened; cared; hugged; understood. I received support I never knew existed. **Love lives at PFLAG.**

Unconditional, unwavering, love. I became so much stronger because of PFLAG. I now easily tell my story to anyone willing to listen. I tell it often. I tell it with pride.

I also come to PFLAG to hear your story. I want to know your story. Your story is important. I want to offer support when it is needed; learn all that I can; and be the best ally and advocate I can be. I am proud to be a member of PFLAG. I hope you will join me in that pride.

Your tax-deductible donation

- Supports important community and national outreach efforts from working with schools and businesses to celebrating PRIDE
- Operates and supports our help line
- Maintains our website
- Covers the printing costs of brochures and educational materials

Membership dues are shared by

- Your local chapter
- PFLAG Council of Northern Illinois
- PFLAG National Office

Membership Levels

•	Household Membership	\$45
•	Supporting Membership	\$60
•	Parents Flag Waver	\$100
•	PFLAG Hero	\$250
•	PFLAG Superhero	\$500



Please go to <u>www.pflagil.org</u> to complete an enrollment form and to join online or by mail.

> PFLAG Council of Northern Illinois P.O. Box 734 Elmhurst IL 60126

THANK YOU for doing what you can!

Jodi Zavos, PFLAG Deerfield





What is Your Plan for Voting? Remember to exercise your right to VOTE

Whether you decide to vote early in person, vote by mail in ballot or vote in person on November 3rd, please have a plan to vote and ensure that your voice is heard and that you are counted!

With COVID still impacting our lives, you may want to consider requesting a mail-in ballot. How to apply, deadlines and processes vary from county to county. Check with your County Clerk's office for the process where you live. Many offer online application making it quite easy. Here are some links for information on how to request a mail in ballot in these local counties:

- Boone
- Cook
- <u>DeKalb</u>
- DuPage
- Grundy
- Kane
- Kankakee
- Kendall
- Lake
- LaSalle
- McHenry
- Will
- Winnebago

Click here to access The Illinois State Board of Elections' portal for vote by mail applications, by county



PFLAGers and our
Nation Mourn the
Passing of an Icon,
Hero for Human Rights,
Supreme Court Justice
Ruth Bader Ginsburg,
March 15, 1933 –
September 18, 2020



In addition to being a leader in the pursuit to end discrimination on the basis of sex, as reported by the HRC, Justice Ginsburg has long been on the right side of history in the fight for LGBTQ equality. Justice Ginsburg joined Justice Kennedy's majority decisions in many landmark cases in LGBTQ civil rights history, including:

- Romer v. Evans in 1996, which ruled that Under the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment, a state cannot amend its constitution to deny homosexuals the same basic legal protections
- Lawrence v. Texas in 2003, which ruled that U.S. laws prohibiting private homosexual activity, sodomy, and oral sex between consenting adults are unconstitutional.
- Windsor v. U.S. in 2013, which overturned Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act and was considered a landmark legal victory for the same-sex marriage movement in the United States.
- Obergefell v. Hodges in 2015, ruling that the fundamental right to marry is guaranteed to same-sex couples by both the Due Process Clause and the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.
- Bostock v. Clayton County in 2020, which the Court held that <u>Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of</u> 1964 protects employees against discrimination because of their <u>sexual orientation</u> or <u>gender identity</u>.

In her private life, Justice Ginsburg has performed many same-sex marriage ceremonies -- the first Supreme Court justice to do so.

To learn more about the amazing life or Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, consider these films, podcasts and books:

- RBG (2018) PG, 1h 28 min, documentary / biography of "The exceptional life and career of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who has developed a breathtaking legal legacy while becoming an unexpected pop culture icon."
- On the Basis of Sex (2018) PG-13, 2h, biography / drama of "The true story of Ruth Bader Ginsburg, her struggles for equal rights, and the early cases of a historic career that lead to her nomination and confirmation as U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice."



- Part 1: The Life of Ruth Bader Ginsburg 39 min Podcast, NYT Daily podcast. "In the first of two episodes on the life of Justice Ginsburg, we chart her journey from her formative years to her latelife stardom on the Supreme Court."
- Part 2: The Battle Over Her Seat 30 min Podcast, NYT Daily podcast
- My Own Words Ruth Bader Ginsburg Book by Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Mary Hartnett (With), Wendy W. Williams (With). The first book from Ruth Bader Ginsburg since becoming a Supreme Court Justice in 1993—a witty, engaging, serious, and playful collection of writings and speeches from the woman who has had a powerful and enduring influence on law, women's rights, and popular culture.
- Notorious RBG: The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg Book by Irin Carmon, Shana Knizhnik. You can't spell truth without Ruth. Only Ruth Bader Ginsburg can judge me. The Ruth will set you free.
- <u>Conversations with RBG: Ruth Bader Ginsburg on Life, Love, Liberty, and Law</u> by Jeffrey Rosen. In her own words, Ruth Bader Ginsburg offers an intimate look at her life and career, through an extraordinary series of conversations with the head of the National Constitution Center.

"With the death of Justice Ginsburg we have lost a giant, a cultural icon, and an undeniable champion of justice. Her many pro-equality decisions helped change life for the better for LGBTQ+ people and their families, including when she joined the majority opinion on Obergefell.

And when decisions didn't go our way, she used her powerful voice in her dissenting opinions to raise up marginalized communities, from her dissent on Masterpiece Cakeshop to her dissent on the decision that eroded the Voting Rights Act.

Justice Ginsburg's death is a massive loss for us all, and our hearts are with her family, and the many who knew and loved her. Let us honor her memory by continuing the fight for fairness, justice, and equality for all people."

-- Brian K. Bond, Executive Director of PFLAG National

"Today, we lost an unqualified, undisputed hero. She wasn't just an iconic jurist, Justice Ginsburg was a force for good -- a force for bringing this country closer to delivering on its promise of equality for all. Her decades of work helped create many of the foundational arguments for gender equality in the United States, and her decisions from the bench demonstrated her commitment to full LGBTQ equality. She was and will remain an inspiration to young people everywhere, a pop culture icon as the Notorious RBG and a giant in the fight for a more just nation for all. We extend our deepest condolences to her family and loved ones. What she represented — fairness, justice and equality for all — we must all continue to fight for. Those principles are not transactional, they are fundamental to our democracy."

-- Alphonso David, Human Rights Campaign President



Free Virtual Education Session for Parents/Guardians!

Gain the knowledge and confidence to talk to your youth about HIV/AIDS, PrEP, and Sexual Health!

PFLAG Northern Illinois Council

Nov 05. 20





Ann & Robert H. Lurie
Children's Hospital of Chicago
The Potocsnak Family Division of
Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine

Register to participate at https://bit.ly/340b5bl



From PFLAG National

FEDERAL

U.S. Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights (OCR) quietly rescinds Title IX policy guidance, issues new one reflecting its Final Rule. Without formal notice, the DOE's OCR this month replaced guidance for educational institutions to implement Title IX under this Administration's Final rule. It is the latest in a series of rescinded policies, including others on Title IX, all of which are catalogued here. It's important to reinforce that Title IX is still the law of the land to protect students, including LGBTQ+ students, with or without guidance.

COURT

Gavin Grimm's case wins a major victory again, this time in federal appeals court. The 4th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals ruled that Glouster County School Board in Virginia acted illegally to ban this transgender student from using the bathroom that aligns with his gender identity. This ruling affirmed a previous court decision that he had been unconstitutionally discriminated against.

MEDIA

<u>TikTok admits restricting some LGBT hashtags.</u> Many LGBT social media users will be unsurprised by these findings - especially those who live in one of the "shadow-banned" nations, where the struggle to be themselves extends far beyond hashtags on the internet. <u>PFLAG National has recently launched its TikTok channel</u> - and invites you to follow us there, to help us get positive LGBTQ+ content shared on this platform, used in large numbers by youth.

Gay Games announces 2022 contingency planning committee. Officials with Gay Games Hong Kong 2022, the committee organizing the quadrennial international LGBTQ sports event scheduled to take place in Hong Kong in November 2022, announced at an online webinar that the committee was created to address potential "risks" associated with the event.

<u>Dictionary.com's largest update to date adds and edits</u> <u>LGBTQ+ and race-related terms.</u> Its broadest update added or modified over 15,000 words in its database, many of which improve and increase LGBTQ+ and racial visibility.

Pope tells parents of LGBTQ+ kids: God loves your children as they are. He did so in a brief encounter with some 40 Italian parents (both mothers and fathers) of LGBTQ+ children after the public audience in the Renaissance courtyard of San Damaso in the Vatican.

Out on Film festival goes virtual and announces its 2020 lineup, historically its first Oscar® qualifying festival year.

Out on Film presented by WarnerMedia announced the lineup of its films and events for the 33rd edition of the Atlanta-based LGBTQIA+ film festival. One of the few film festivals on the regional circuit that has grown in recent years (expanding from an 8-day event to an 11-day event), this year's film festival will be a virtual edition taking place September 24th - October 4th.

Jennifer Lopez shares the film "Draw With Me" about her trans 'nibling', Brendon. The short film directed by Constantine Venetopoulos in collaboration with The Trevor Project, focuses on the star's nibling (a gender-neutral term used in place of niece or nephew) and their coming out process through artistic coping.

Coronavirus isolated LGBTQ+ students from their community; now they're going back to school. When home isn't supportive, virtual school has added challenges for LGBTQ+ kids. This article and topic headlined PFLAG National's Something to Talk About Live on Thursday, Sep. 3rd and is noted in the ICYMI section of this issue of Policy Matters.

Documentary "I Hate New York" features four transgender women followed by filmmaker for 10 years. This documentary's title is at least a little contradictory, because the four people it's about, all cultural touchstones and pioneers for transgender rights, really are New York, not the part that deals with financial services or the business industry.

Same-sex penguin couple welcome new chick at Spanish aquarium. Although same-sex couples are common in more than 450 species, 'super moms' Viola and Electra are the first to have adopted, incubated, and raised an egg from another couple at the Oceanogràfic València.

ARTICLE:



<u>Trans Twitter and the beauty of online anonymity</u> by Emily VanDerWerff at vox.com



News from PFLAG DuPage

by Kristin Shulman

PFLAG DuPage Welcomes New People & Announces Mx. Anunnaki Ray Marquez in October

Who knew, back in January that most of 2020 would happen virtually? Or, that meeting virtually would actually work? In September, PFLAG DuPage held our sixth Zoom meeting with thirty-five people attending. As time has gone by, we are getting better at it with smoother transition between sharing slides and making our support circle time more supportive. As we shifted to virtual meetings, we were focused on maintaining the sense of family that is PFLAG and concerned that people might not feel as connected. While it would certainly be better to be in person, we have been able to maintain a level of intimacy that we didn't think was possible.

One of this year's big surprises is the number of new people reaching out to PFLAG DuPage. While we knew the need for PFLAG was still there, we thought that people might be intimidated to join an online meeting with thirty to forty unknown people as their first PFLAG experience. There's nowhere to hide quietly in the corner on a Zoom call, even with your video turned off, your still there. At our last few meetings, we have had quite a few first-time attendees attend and participate. We are so proud of those people who are taking that first step to helping themselves, supporting their family member or beginning their advocacy.

Because meetings are virtual, we have a lot of new options to us. In October, PFLAG DuPage will welcome Mx. Anunnaki Ray Marquez as our speaker. Anunnaki has spoken at the past two PFLAG National meetings and we are delighted he has agreed to speak with us in October. Anunnaki is an intersex activist and educator, and a whole lot more. Anunnaki will speak with us about respectfully adding the "I" to LGBTQ. If you would like to join us on October 18th at 2 PM, please email us at PFLAGDuPage@gmail.com for the link to the online meeting. With Covid-19, which Anunnaki has suffered through, Anunnaki has not been able to travel and speak and thus has seen his income substantially reduced. If you would like to support Anunnaki and his willingness to speak with us, donations can be made with Venmo @ Anunnaki-Marquez.



News from PFLAG Chicagoby Art Nicol

Until further notice, Chicago Metro PFLAG is not gathering in person at the Center on Halsted. Instead, our monthly gatherings will take place on Zoom on the third Sunday from 2 pm to 4 pm. If you do not use Zoom, you may join us by phone. We email an invitation to potential participants about ten days before each gathering. If you'd like to receive our invitations, please contact us through the email you want us to use. Meanwhile, stay safe!

News from PTI McHenry

by Andrew Zanevsky

PTI McHenry will continue holding its monthly meetings over Zoom on the 4th Wednesday of every month.

Members of sister groups PTI Chicago and PTI North Shore and any parents of transgender, nonbinary, and gender non-conforming individuals are welcome to join us on Wednesday, October 28, 7-9 PM.

opendoors@pflagillinois.org



News from PFLAG McHenry

by Toni Weaver

I think one of the hardest parts of being a PFLAG leader or member of PFLAG is realizing that we can't help everybody come to acceptance of their LGBTQ+ children. There are some hearts that refuse to be opened. We can "witness," we can have heartfelt conversations, we can provide resources, we can share our experiences, we can try to move heaven and earth to help parents understand that their LGBTQ+ kids are simply living out their truth, being honest with themselves and with us. It hurts us as accepting parents to see the hurt in the eves of those kids who don't have the full support of their parents, kids whose parents refuse to accept the loving relationships they're in, the families they've made. Fortunately, over the 18 years I've been in PFLAG, they've been few and far between. All we can say is that we tried, that we gave it our best shot. Nevertheless, the sadness we feel is very palpable.

This month's chapter meeting included Council VP/Membership Chair Don Donahue speaking from his heart about why PFLAG is important, why membership in PFLAG is important in giving us a wider voice in the community. There's power in numbers, and membership allows us to say that we have x number of people who are part of this organization. Council President John Hickey also sat in on the meeting, and we're delighted to say that John will be featured at our October meeting.

Support remains the central focus of our Zoom meetings during this time of pandemic. We are not actively engaged with schools as we normally are; however, we are strongly considering inviting all the area GSA advisers to a Zoom meeting for the purpose of introducing them to each other and allowing them to swap ideas in general and how to handle their GSA meetings remotely in particular.

News from PFLAG Rockford

PFLAG Rockford will meet in person on Monday, October 5, 2020 at 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM at The Liam Foundation! 124 N Water St, Suite 303A. A face covering will be required. Please do not attend if you are sick.

News from PTI Chicago

Bill Guilfoile

PTI Chicago held their September monthly meeting for the third time using Zoom because of the Covid-19 Pandemic on Thursday, 10-Sept-2020. We also invited the members of PTI North Shore and PTI McHenry to participate.

We had ten parents participate in the meeting with two new members joining us. We again had participation from several people who normally are not able to attend because of the distance of travel to Center on Halsted in Chicago.

We supported one another with our individual needs as well as discussed ways we can actively support our LGBTQ+ community and People of Color during these turbulent times.

PTI Chicago will continue to hold our meetings by Zoom until the situation with the pandemic changes.

Our next Zoom meeting will be on Thursday 08-Oct-2020 from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Members will receive an e-mail the weekend before the Zoom meeting with the Zoom link and password to enter the meeting.

Anyone, who is not a member and is a parent or family member of a transgender, non-binary or gender non-conforming individual, who wishes to participate should e-mail Bill Guilfoile at bill.guilfoile@gmail.com.



News from PFLAG Deerfield

by Jodi Zavos

PFLAG Deerfield welcomed several new people at our September Zoom meeting. Sue reminded us of websites we could go to to register to vote, in case we hadn't done that yet. (vote.org; and

pflag.org/2020voteplan) There is also a video on PFLAG's Facebook page called PFLAG Votes. Another reminder was that our paid membership drives begins in October. If you'd like to become a paid member or renew your membership, go to pflagillinois.org and don't forget to fill out the form and say you are in the Deerfield Chapter!

While we were unable to secure a speaker this month, we decided to break into small groups instead. This gave us the opportunity to provide support and offer friendship in a more intimate setting, which seems to work better on zoom, especially for those who have joined us for the first time. (We often did this when meeting in person by just leaving the meeting room and finding another comfortable place to share.) It was so beneficial to be able to connect with each other despite all that is happening in the world today! We look forward to "seeing" each other next month. Please join us!

News from PFLAG Hinsdale by Barb Medley

The Hinsdale chapter did not have a September speaker since our meeting fell on Labor Day weekend. Several members did a zoom chat to catch up and keep in touch.

Our October speaker is Carolyn Wahlskog, who will give us a 360 Youth Services update.



The Harvard Law School LGBTQ+ Advocacy Clinic (HLAC) and the National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR) have published a first-of-its-kind legal resource guide for transgender youth in the United States, co-authored by Alexander Chen, Founding Director of HLAC, and Asaf Orr, Director of NCLR's Transgender Youth Project.

The <u>Trans Youth Handbook</u> serves as a comprehensive legal resource guide covering the rights of trans youth across a wide spectrum of situations, including identity documents, school, health care, non-affirming care environments, and work. This resource aims to facilitate the work PFLAG does within the LGBTQ+ community and serve as a reference point.

Teen Zoom Transgender Therapy Group

Wednesdays 4:00 to 5:00 PM Facilitated by Carol Fetzner MS, NCC, LCPC

This is an open group that accepts new participants on an ongoing basis. This group will provide a safe place for transgender, non-binary, gender non-conforming and questioning teens to explore issues of sexual orientation and gender identity and gain acceptance and peer support. Treatment goals include decreasing stigmatization, increasing self-esteem, developing an authentic self, improving coping skills for managing discrimination and prejudice, developing a healthy sexuality and reducing depression and anxiety symptomology. Participants will have the opportunity to gain accurate information and education, make meaningful connections and increase self-confidence and pursue living an authentic life.

Cost: NWTA accepts most major insurance groups and can help you determine if you have insurance benefits that will cover all or part of the group fees.

Call: 815-337-1234 Ext. 1 or email <u>Carol@nwtacounseling.com</u> to connect to the group or to make a referral.

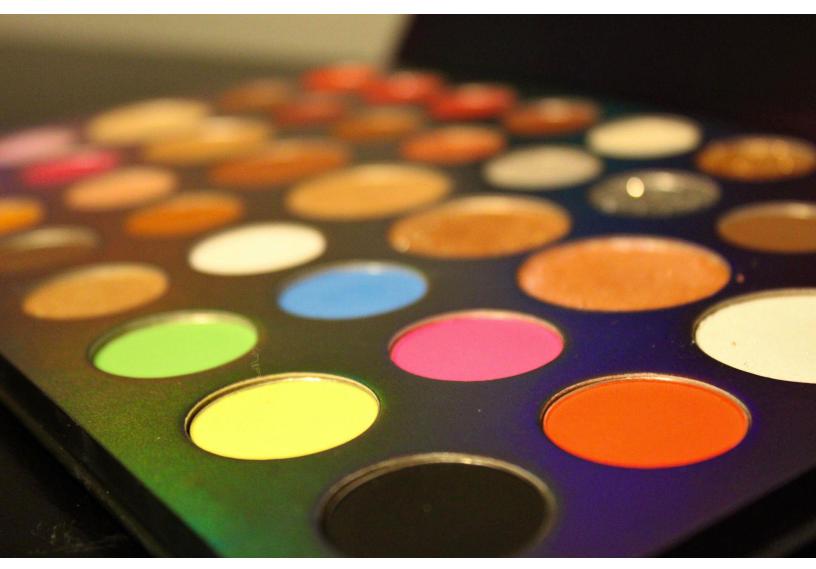


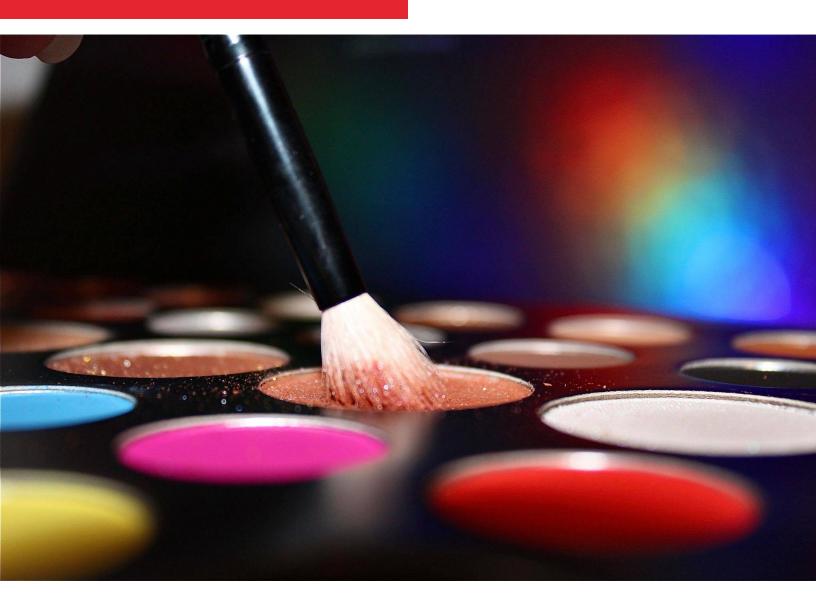
The Be You Tiful Initiative

Founded by 16 year old Allison Frank (<u>@theallisonfrank</u> on Instagram), **The Be You Tiful Initiative** provides free beauty and styling services aimed at transgender and nonbinary people. This is our interview with Allison.

After seeing a Facebook post in June of 2020 about a transgender woman who felt subconscious about her makeup skills, Allison realized how many people across the gender spectrum may struggle with this as well. Having been a freelance and artistic makeup artist for a few years, Allison was eager to share her knowledge with those who may not feel comfortable going to a makeup store and getting help that way.

Photos by Allison Frank, who is also quite a photographer!





Interview with Allison Frank

What is The Be You Tiful Initiative?

We are a not-for-profit, LGBTQ owned organization that offers free beauty and styling services for transgender and nonbinary people. We can help with anything from makeup lessons, to help shopping, to wig care, and everything in between! To work with us, please visit our website www.thebeyoutifulinitiative.org

We are a not-for-profit organization, no one on my team makes money off of what we do, and all of our donations go into helping our clients, hosting events (in the future), things like that.

Who are your clients?

We offer services aimed at transgender and nonbinary people, but we will help anyone regardless of age or gender identity! As for location, we can help anyone, as most of our services are over Zoom.

How do you plan to handle client privacy for those who are concerned about it?

Everything we do is 100% confidential, even our client testimonials, unless the client chooses to have their name associated with it (only first name and last initial). The only people who know about the client's services or information we gather are the client and the clients personalized Dream Team.



Interview, continued

What/who inspired you to create this initiative?

I was inspired by the Pinta Family to get into LGBTQ activism, and once I had the idea to be an LGBTQ activist, I had no idea where to go with it. One day, I saw a Facebook post of a recently transitioned transwoman who was saying she just spent all of this money to medically transition but had no clue how to socially transition. I am a freelance and artistry makeup artist and realized how many people might not know how to do the things we as cisgender people overlook when it comes to transitioning. It isn't all about the surgeries and hormones, there definitely is a social aspect that comes along with it, like knowing how to dress, how to do makeup, things like that.

If you had the magic power to give all humans one new ability, what would it be?

The ability to love everyone no matter what their race, gender, sexuality, anything. If we all had the ability to just love each other, I would be really happy and satisfied with society.





Are there any fun or curious stories related to The Be You Tiful that you can share with us?

The first client I worked with said her dream was to get hair extensions, since she had just started her transition and she didn't like her hair. I was

> able to connect her with a local, LGBTQ affirming hair stylist who gave her GORGEOUS extensions, and I've never seen her so happy!

What help would you like to get from PFLAG members?

I want to help as many people as possible, so if my story resonates with you, or made you think of someone who may benefit from our services, please contact us (contact information available on www.thebeyoutifulinitiative.org), we would love to help anyone and everyone!





YOUTH OUTLOOK THRIVE PARENTS' GROUP

SOMETIMES YOU WANT TO TALK TO OTHER PARENTS WHO SHARE THE EXPERIENCE OF HAVING A LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, PANSEXUAL, TRANSGENDER OR NONBINARY CHILD. SOCIAL AND
EDUCATIONAL
SUPPORT FOR
PARENTS OF LGBT
YOUNG PEOPLE



WEDNESDAYS | 6:30 TO 8:30 PM
VIRTUAL MEETING
FOR MORE INFORMATION, EMAIL
MAGGIE.DIX@YOUTH-OUTLOOK.ORG

Participate in a Study

Dr. Em Matsuno, a postdoctoral fellow at Palo Alto University in California, is conducting a study that aims to benefit families of transgender and nonbinary children.

Parents and primary caregivers of trans or nonbinary children between 10 and 24 years of age are invited to participate.

Dr. Matsuno's project provides an online resource to help parents who are struggling to support their trans or nonbinary child. This program is based on psychological research and was created in collaboration with parents of trans and nonbinary youth and has received feedback from several experts in this area.

Sign up here: Bit.ly/pspstudy

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/parentsupportpsp

Participants will receive either a \$10 Amazon gift card or \$10 Target gift card for completing a one month follow up survey and another \$10 gift card for completing a two-month follow up survey. Alternately, you will have the option to donate your earnings to Gender Spectrum, a nonprofit that supports parents of trans youth.



Participants will be randomly assigned to complete the Parents Support Program or to wait for one month to complete the program. The Parent Support Program is an online program with 3 modules that include videos, educational materials, and writing activities designed to support parents of trans youth. All participants will be asked to complete a series of questionnaires prior to completing the program, and at one and two months after starting the program. Each survey is anticipated to take 10 -15 minutes to complete.

If you have any questions feel free to email me at <u>parentsupportprogram@paloaltou.edu</u>. This study has been approved by the Palo Alto University Institutional Review Board.

Center on 3656 N. Halsted, Chicago

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH VIRTUAL PROVIDER TRAINING

CLINICAL WORK
WITH LGBTQ+ CLIENTS

☐ Thursday, Oct. 16 ○ 10 AM - 12 PM

Behavioral Health Virtual Provider Training Clinical Work with LGBTQ+ Clients

Join us for another training from Center on Halsted's Associate Director of Behavioral Health on Clinical Work with LGBTQ+ Clients. If you paid for your CEs when you registered for the training, your certificate will be sent to you after you complete this evaluation.

RSVP HERE >



PFLAG Northern Illinois Chapters



Click anywhere on the map to open it online

