

SPIRIT

September 2025 Volume XXXI Number 9

TRANS PEOPLE BELONG IN TEXAS.



PFLAG Fort Worth

Important Dates

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09//22 Sam House Supper Club (Page 3)
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10/02 PFLAG Meet/Support (Page 2)
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To attend PFLAG Fort Worth events
For Zoom, contact us at 817.382.7353
or at info@pflagfortworth.org
for Dallas PFLAG-ww.pflagdallas.org



You are not alone!
At PFLAG Fort Worth,
we have the support and
resources you need.
We care and understand.
Attend one or more of our
four monthly activities
and find out for yourself!

PFLAG + TENT = EQUALITY

PFLAG National writes, "We're partnering with the Transgender **Education Network of Texas (TENT)** to relaunch our major public awareness campaign featuring billboards in key locations throughout the state of Texas - a key time during the state's special legislative session where we expect a full legislative assault on our LGBTQ+ loved ones, especially transgender and nonbinary people." Watch for billboards, such as above, in Texas. Read more here What is TENT? On their website, **TENT writes, "Transgender Education Network of Texas (TENT)** is the largest statewide, BIPOC transled, trans-focused policy, education, and advocacy organization in the state of Texas...we strive to halt discrimination through social. legislative, and corporate education. **Read more here** Want to know exactly what "BIPOC" means and why it's important?

Read more here about "BIPOC"

PFLAG Fort Worth

You are not alone!
Sharing our stories.
Sharing our strength
No need to be a member.
No cost to attend.

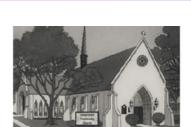
Meeting and Support Group
1st Thursday Every Month
6:45pm Social
7:00 Meeting/Support Group
In person and on Zoom
Celebration Community Church
Fellowship Hall
908 Pennsylvania, Ft Worth

Trans Virtual Support Group Last Sunday Every Month 3:00-5:00 on Zoom



LET'S TALK
Transgender Support Group
In Partnership with
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church - Hurst
VIRTUAL on Zoom
LAST SUNDAY of Every Month 3-5pm
Talk as much or as little as you want
Share Our Stories - Share Our Strength

PFLAG Fort Worth Call or Email for Link 817-382-7353 info@pflagfortworth.org



CELEBRATION COMMUNITY CHURCH

908 PENNSYLVANIA AVE . FT WORTH . TX

#TRADITIONWITHOUTJUDGMENT
JOIN US FOR WORSHIP
EVERY SUNDAY AT 10AM

www.celebration-community-church.com

September Speaker for PFLAG Fort Worth

Cynthia Daniels, our September speaker is Director of NTTA (North Texas TRANSportation Network). Come hear her talk about NTTA, a trans-led organization working to build equity across North Texas. They provide "travel and relocation grants to North Texas families seeking out-of-state health care for trans and gender-expansive youth." NTTA believes "health care is a human right, and withholding necessary care for trans kids is state-sponsored cruelty. As neighbors to one another, we seek ways to help each other's families flourish." **Read more here**

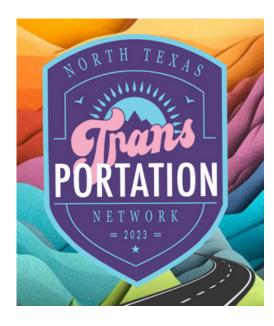


PFLAG Fort Worth Please join us at our meeting and support group on the First Thursday every month. Perhaps you need us. We KNOW we NEED you! We meet in the building behind **Celebration Community Church.** On Thursday, September 4, come at 6:45 for refreshments. At 7:00 we have a speaker. After that, we divide into small support groups where we can talk and listen. You're welcome to talk as much or as little as you want or not talk at all. You can listen and discover how much PFLAG loves, supports, and cares for you. You are not alone! You don't need to be a member. There is no cost to attend.



2nd Wednesday PFLAG Fort Worth CONFAB

Join us for fun and conversation every 2nd Wednesday at 6-6:30ish Ruby with the glorious red hair usually arrives first to save us a table at Shaws Patio Bar and Grill, at 1051 W. Magnolia, in Fort Worth, south of downtown. Parking is free and easy. See you soon!



"To anyone out there who's hurting — it's not a sign of weakness to ask for help.
It's a sign of strength."

- Barack Obama



"As my sufferings mounted I soon realized that there were two ways in which I could respond to my situation — either to react with bitterness or seek to transform the suffering into a creative force. I decided to follow the latter course."

Martin Luther King Jr.



"Meditation can help us embrace our worries, our fear, our anger; and that is very healing. We let our own natural capacity of healing do the work."

- Thich Nhat Hanh



"The secret of change is to focus all of your energy not on fighting the old, but on building the new."

Socrates

National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

The Trevor Project says, "LGBTQ+ young people are not inherently prone to suicide risk because of their sexual orientation or gender identity but rather placed at higher risk because of how they are mistreated and stigmatized in society." In 2024, the Trevor Project's National Survey discovered that "39% of LGBTQ+ young people seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year, including roughly half of transgender and nonbinary youth." Read more here

A "deeply important suicide prevention measure is by creating a world that is safer and more accepting of LGBTQ+ youth, who are highly at risk of suicide, due to social isolation, conversion therapy, and stress."

Read more here

National Suicide Prevention Week

National Alliance on Mental Illness says, "Start a Conversation. Be the Difference. With one conversation, asking someone how they're really doing — and being ready to truly listen — can save lives. Because here's what we know: No one has to face this alone. Help exists. Healing is possible. And all it can take is for one person to start a conversation." Read more here

LGBTO SAVES - LGBTO Youth

Youth Pride Festival on October 11 is all about empowering LGBTQ+ youth with community resources, opportunities to shine, and ways to connect with community. This free event will be hosted on <u>October 11, 2025</u> but RSVPs are required to attend. Please <u>register and learn more here</u>

"LGBTQ SAVES provides a safe and brave space in Fort Worth by hosting in-person and virtual weekly meetings, Pride events, and community dinners for LGBTQ youth and their families. Join us in building a community where all youth are safe." Read more

Important Dates in September

- National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month National Literacy Month
- 09/01 It Gets Better founded
 - 09/07 09/13 Suicide Prevention Week
 - 09/13 Trinity River Book Festival
- 09/16 09/23 Bisexual Awareness Week
 - 09/18 National HIV/AIDS & Aging Awareness
 Day (Please see page 6)

It Gets Better

- The It Gets Better Project was begun in the U.S. by Dan Savage on September 1, 2010. Dan responded to suicides of teens "who were bullied because
- they were gay or because their peers suspected that they were gay." The goal of It Gets Better is
- "to prevent suicide by having gay adults convey the message that these teens' lives will improve." Read more here



September 27, 2025 is the LGBTQ SAVES
Quince! Our organization and families have
benefited from our 15-year partnership and
would love to have PFLAG members attend
the celebration. PFLAG members can get a
20% discount on their tickets be using
Partner20 at checkout:

https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/ totally-rad-quinceanera

Looking for a Way to Help?

WHO: PFLAG Fort Worth's Sam House Supper Club WHAT: Serve Dinner to Sam House residents, bring

a dish to donate, or just come to serve.

WHEN: Fourth Mondays, 5:30 - 6:30 pm

WHERE: Samaritan House, 929 Hemphill St, Fort

····

Worth, 76104

WHY: Because it makes a Difference Interested? <u>Contact Ruby at 817-382-7353</u>

Westside Unitarian Universalist Church

We Are a Welcoming Congregation

901 Page Fort Worth, TX 76110



817.924. MYUU (6988)

Sunday Service at 10:30 in person and on Facebook Live

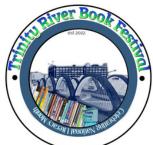
PFLAG Fort Worth Poster

Later in this newsletter, please find a poster of our <u>4 PFLAG Fort Worth regular monthly events</u>. Please share this poster with people who may be interested in PFLAG Fort Worth or who may need to know they're not alone. Thank you for caring, sharing and posting this poster!

GLAAD for Good News

"Heartwarming news about leaders and changemakers who are paving a pathway towards acceptance and inclusion despite a hostile climate for LGBTQ people," is regularly shared by The GLAAD organization. For example, in Georgia and Florida, advocates defeated many anti-LGBTQ bills. And it's interesting to note that surprisingly a "study commissioned by [Utah] lawmakers shows the multiple benefits of health care for transgender youth," in contrast to a state ban passed in 2023. "The Utah research is one of the most comprehensive studies to date, concluding that access to health care leads to 'positive mental health and psycho-social functioning outcomes,' and that policies restricting such care cannot be justified by scientific findings or concerns about possible regret. Utah lawmakers are now facing pressure to rescind the baseless ban." **Read more here**

Trinity River Book Festival



TRBF is "a dynamic multicultural literary event established in the Dallas/Fort Worth area, dedicated to engaging readers and supporting authors! Read more here

National Literacy Month

Did you know that "learning to read doesn't happen automatically? And it doesn't start in elementary school? The words and conversation kids hear all throughout their early years, starting from birth, are what fuel their later reading success." Read more here

Collecting Staple Items for TRAC -



Transition Resource Action Center

Our PFLAG Fort Worth speaker for our April meeting was Shae Hughes of TRAC, the Transition Resource Action Center. Shae explained that TRAC provides transition services to youth, many of whom are LGBTQ, who age out of foster care and to homeless youth across north Texas. These youth receive services to help them become productive and flourishing adult members of society. Read more here How can we help? What a great question!! Below is a list of items we can donate. Bring items to a PFLAG meeting or contact TRAC at info@traconline.org or (214) 370-9300.

List of Staple Items for TRAC Helping Youth Be Self-Sustaining

Personal Hygiene Items

Body Wash/Hand Soap Deodorants/Hand Lotion Razors/Combs/Brushes Toothbrush?Toothpaste Tampons/Pads First Aid Supplies

Household Supplies

Laundry Deterg/Dryer Sheets Dish soap/Scrubbies Disinfectant?Cleaners Windex/Room spray Paper Towels/Tissues Toilet Paper/13 gal Trash Bags Plactic Food Containers

Pantry Staples

Soups/Ramen Noodles Can Vegetables Cereal/Boxed Milk Sugar/Sweeteners Canned Chicken/Tuna Cooking Spray/Oil Peanut Butter/Jelly/Syrup Seasonings/Condiments Crackers/Cookies/Pretzels Pancake Mix/Biscuit Mix Packaged Mashed Potato Rice/Beans Bottled Water



Badge of Pride Exhibit

Have you been to the FREE Badge of Pride exhibit? Through September 28, hours are Wed-Sat, 10-4 and Sun, Noon-4. "Experience Queer history firsthand." Read more

Join PFLAG every 4th Monday from 5:30-6:30pm to serve supper at Sam House!



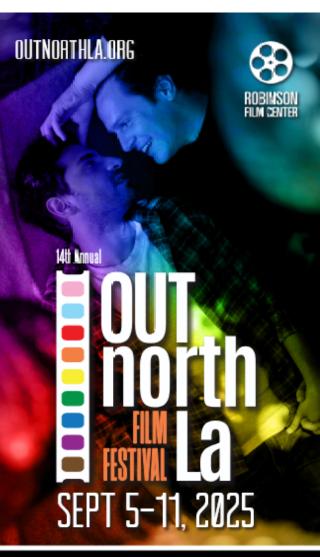
Sam House (Samaritan House) was begun in 1991 as Tarrant County Samaritan Housing, Inc. For many years, they provided housing for those affected with HIV/AIDS. More recently, as more medical treatments became available and life expectancy increased, Sam House

"expanded our mission to provide affordable and supportive housing to additional vulnerable populations in Tarrant County, including the medically or mentally fragile," and others.

Read more here









A Letter from PACE Louisiana

Dear Friends,

Since its beginning in 2009, the OUTnorthLa Film Festival has been an important part of

PACE's mission to uplift LGBTQ+ voices and spark dialogue in our community...This

festival has never been "just movies." It has been a catalyst for change—helping spark conversations that led to meaningful policy

shifts here in Shreveport and beyond. Year after year, OUTnorthLa reminds us of the

power of storytelling to open hearts, shift perspectives, and bring people together.

Now, more than ever, that work matters. In

a time when LGBTQ+ rights and visibility continue to be challenged, OUTnorthLa stands as a reminder of who we are and the

future we are building together.

We invite you to join us September 5–11 at the Robinson Film Center for OUTnorthLa

2025. Let's celebrate queer cinema, honor the voices that have carried us this far, and create space for the stories still to come.

Let's be visible, let's be seen, and let's keep showing up for one another. With gratitude,
The PACE Team **Read more here



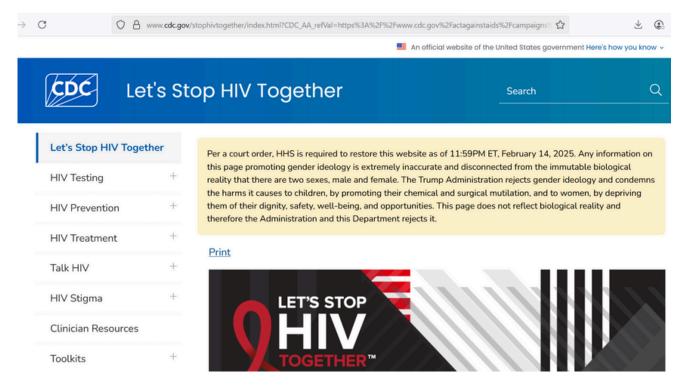
PACE, People Acting for Change and Equality, was founded in 2005 following the 2004

was founded in 2005 following the 2004

passage (by 78%) of Louisiana's anti-gay
marriage amendment. We believed that
creating an environment where LGBTQ+

individuals could thrive was vital not only for LGBTQ+ people and their families but also for our community at large. Read more here

National HIV/AIDS and Aging Awareness Day is held on September 18 of every year. Below is a screen capture of the "Let's Stop HIV Together" page on the U.S. government's CDC website. Please note the "Court Order" in yellow at the top of the page is the reason we can access this information. Read more here



The HIV+Hepatitis Policy Institute states "the Senate Appropriations Committee rejected the Trump administration's proposed elimination of CDC's HIV prevention and surveillance programs" on July 31, 2025.

Read more here and Read more here









FORT WORTH

1st Thursday PFLAG Fort Worth Meeting & Support

6:45pm Social+Snacks 7:00pm Meeting/ Support Groups

Celebration Community Church - Fellowship Hall 908 Pennsylvania Fort Worth

For Zoom info, call or email 817.382.7353 info@pflagfortworth.org

4th Monday PFLAG Fort Worth Sam House Supper Club

Join us to serve dinner to residents of Samaritan House, bring a dish, or just help serve from 5:30-6:30pm

> Samaritan House 929 Hemphill St. Fort Worth

For more information contact Ruby at 817.382.7353

2nd Wednesday PFLAG Fort Worth CONFAB

Join us at 6-6:30ish for an evening of fun and conversation at

Shaw's Patio Bar & Grill
(at PFLAG table)
1051 W. Magnolia
Fort Worth

For more info, call or email 817.382.7353 info@pflagfortworth.org

Last Sunday PFLAG Fort Worth Trans Support Group

Virtual on Zoom 3:00pm



For Zoom info, call or email 817.382.7353 info@pflagfortworth.org

You are not alone! At PFLAG Fort Worth, we have the support and resources you need.

We are parents, family, and friends of LGBTQ+ people and LGBTQ+ people.

Join us to help create a caring and affirming world for LGBTQ+ people and all who love them.

To Our PFLAG Fort Worth Members and Friends

Membership and/or Donations

To join PFLAG Fort Worth and/or make a donation, please go to www.pflagfortworth.org

Also, there are two ways to interact with PFLAG Fort Worth through PayPal!

To make a donation go to paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/2047249

To set up a recurring membership, go to our website, pflagfortworth.org.

Click on the Membership tab on the top, then choose the level of membership you want.

Complete the process through PayPal (if you don't have PayPal, it's free and easy to set up).

The advantage to using PayPal online is you don't have to remember to renew every year!

The PFLAG mission of support, education, and advocacy is as vital as ever. Please continue your support by renewing your membership, attending meetings, and/or donating to PFLAG Fort Worth so we can fulfill our mission. Despite a growing acceptance of diversity in our society we are all too aware of hostility and worse toward LGBTQ persons. Please help PFLAG keep working toward the society we want; where people are informed, rights are protected, and families find care and understanding.

Some ways we served our mission in 2024-2025:

- \cdot Speaking to Fort Worth ISD teachers, counselors, and administrators about equality
- · Offering a monthly speaker and support group, in person and on Zoom
- Providing a monthly dinner for Fort Worth Samaritan House residents
- · Making Christmas stocking for Samaritan House children, providing money for Halloween costumes, and tutoring residents
- · Proudly marching in the Fort Worth and Dallas Pride parades and attending Pride events
- · Staffing a booth at the Fort Worth Pride Festival and Picnic events as well as other area events

· Sharing our mission of advocacy, support, and education to business, universities, and federal agencies, including the TCU Education Department · Offering a monthly trans Support Group on Zoom with partner St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Hurst, TX

Goals for October 2025 - September 2026:

- Offer scholarships to graduating seniors of LGBTQ SAVES
- · Develop ways to become more visible to those who need us and don't know we are here
- · Send an officer to the PFLAG National Conference
- · Continue advocating for the LGBTQ community with businesses, educators, and families

Everything we undertake has a financial outlay for materials, space, publicity, fees, insurance, printing, etc., and proudly, scholarship awards. We are making a difference and need you with us. Please help PFLAG Fort Worth move equality forward during the coming year with your financial generosity, time, and talent. Commit to our mission of support, education, and advocacy. Attend our meetings to connect with us!







PFLAG FORT WORTH, TEXAS

PFLAG Fort Worth promotes the health and well-being of LGBTQ people and their families and friends through support, to cope with an adverse society; education, to enlighten an ill-informed public; and advocacy, to end discrimination and secure equal civil rights. PFLAG provides opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation, and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity.