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THE RAINBOW CONNECTION

December 1, 2023

Welcome to *The Rainbow Connection!* A monthly newsletter highlighting programs, upcoming events, and more, brought to you by Rainbow Rose Center, serving York County's LGBTQIA+ Community.



As we close out 2023, the Rainbow Rose Center Board of Directors would like to extend our deepest gratitude to our incredible York County community. Whether you attended our biggest York County Pride celebration, gave during our largest Give Local York fundraiser to date, and/or visited our newly established office, you have

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Looking toward the promise of 2024, our organization is infused with the spirit of hope and excitement. We are thrilled to announce that we will reach another major milestone in the new year - the hiring of our first dedicated staff members.

This marks a pivotal moment in our journey, symbolizing growth, resilience, and our unwavering commitment to serving York County's LGBTQIA+ Community. We are excited to embark on this new chapter, confident that it will be undeniably effective in allowing us to channel more time and energy into the growth, impact, and outreach of the Rainbow Rose Center.

Thank you for being part of our journey. Your generosity, through volunteer time, financial support, and unwavering patience, has propelled us from an all-volunteer organization to one that will have dedicated, paid staff. The Board is profoundly grateful for your trust and encouragement this past year. Together, we look forward to continuing our mission and making an even greater difference in our York County community.

With Gratitude,
Tesla Taliaferro
President, Rainbow Rose Center
He/They

Youth Services Coming to the Rainbow Rose Center in 2024



The Rainbow Rose Center is thrilled to announce a

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January 2024, we are taking on The Curve program from Planned Parenthood Keystone, recognizing the critical importance of supporting our queer youth during times when they are politically targeted.


At the Rainbow Rose Center, we firmly believe that our queer youth are not just the future; they are the vibrant, resilient heart of our community. Our highest priority includes fostering an environment of inclusion, equity, and health where all LGBTQIA+ Community members thrive in York County, Pennsylvania. By taking this program and continuing it, we will provide a space for open dialogue, shared experiences, and the building of lasting connections.



We are looking forward to collaborating with esteemed partners such as PFLAG York, Free Mom Hugs, local GSA advisors, and Planned Parenthood to continue offering a comprehensive range of educational, advocacy, and support initiatives on a monthly basis. Together, we aim to create a nurturing and safe environment that fosters growth, understanding, and inclusivity.

As we embark on this journey together, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to Planned Parenthood Keystone for entrusting us with The Curve program. With the continued support of our community, we are confident that Rainbow Rose Center will make York County a place where everyone, especially our youth, can feel safe and welcome in their everyday lives.

Health Spotlight!



WORLD AIDS DAY

Free and Confidential HIV Testing

When: Friday, December 1st, 2023
from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Where: Wellspan Community Health Center
605 South George Street, York, PA 17401

FAMILYFIRST HEALTH

WELLSPAN HEALTH
In partnership with

Scan here for more information

December 1st is World AIDS day, a day set on the calendar when we, globally, as a community, and as individuals, reaffirm our commitment to ending the HIV epidemic.

As many are aware, Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is a disease caused by the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). In the 1980s, AIDS was a deadly diagnosis, and it was particularly traumatic for the LGBTQIA+ population in the United States. Today, the current state of HIV infection - a chronic but manageable disease - owes much to the LGBTQIA+ community, and the advocacy and determination with which they supported research and progress in treatment and prevention.

Though it is treatable, HIV is still a problem today, infecting 36,801 Americans in 2019. LGBTQIA+ people continue to be a group at higher risk of getting infected with HIV, and we all play a part in helping to prevent the disease and its spread.

HIV infection can occur by:

- having sex without a condom
- sharing injecting equipment like needles
- passing from mother to baby
- contaminated blood or organ transplants (rare in the US)

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diagnoses of HIV in the US to 3,000 by 2030 (over 90% reduction from 2019!). Because HIV is not curable (currently!), this can only be done by:

- Diagnosing all patients with HIV (ASAP)
- Treat infected individuals rapidly (Persons with HIV in treatment are very unlikely to spread HIV to others)
- Prevent new transmissions with practices like syringe/needle exchanges and medications that people can take to prevent themselves getting HIV, like Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PreP) and Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP)
- Responding quickly to potential outbreaks

These are lofty goals! But we can all commit to doing our part on this World AIDS Day:

- GET TESTED. Knowing your status and getting prompt treatment greatly reduces the chance that you could pass HIV to someone else. (see resources below)
- Talk to your family doctor about and consider treatments like PreP and PEP, to protect yourself or your loved ones.
- Advocate and encourage access to treatment for HIV, and treatments like PreP
- Advocate for ongoing research to find a cure for HIV

HIV resources and locations for testing, treatment, and medications like PreP

-[hiv.gov](https://www.hiv.gov)

In York

-Family First Health Caring Together Program
<https://www.familyfirsthealth.org/services/community-health/caring-together>

-York World AIDS Day Testing Event at WellSpan Community Health Center (flyer attached)

Where to Find Us in December



All Inclusive Holiday Bazaar
 Date: Dec 9th
 Time: 8am to 2pm
 Location: 1649 Broadway, Hanover
 Pa. 17331
 Inside the Markets of Hanover

For a vendor application please scan



Preferred Partnership with




2nd Annual All Inclusive Holiday Bazaar!
 Saturday, December 9, 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
 The Markets at Hanover
 1649 Broadway
 Hanover, PA 17331

Join us as we celebrate the holiday season with our Annual Holiday Bazaar! Are you looking for just the right gift for a member of the community, then look no further than this All Inclusive Holiday Bazaar. Lots of unique gifts for everyone in your life! Still accepting vendor applications! For more information, visit us [HERE](#).

Save the Date



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The  **ROSE CENTER**

Is excited to announce that

YORK
COUNTY
pride

**will take place at the
York Fairgrounds**

On June 22, 2024

York County Pride 2024
Saturday, June 22 (Hours to be announced)
York Fairgrounds
334 Carlisle Ave
York, PA 17404

Save the date for York County Pride 2024, and keep an eye out on our Facebook page for the open vendor registration coming in January.

Events We're Excited About



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The "First Wives of Christmas" Dinner Theatre Drag Extravaganza

December 3, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.
 Kingdom Builders Worship Center
 238 S. Belvidere Ave
 York, PA 17401

The Rainbow Rose Center is excited to partner with RC3 Loads of Love for this fun holiday event raising money for a good community cause. Get ready for a fierce and fabulous in-person Dinner Theater Drag extravaganza as "The First Wives of Christmas" sleigh the stage!

The First Wives of Christmas Dinner Theater Drag Extravaganza!

Come and join us for a fabulous in-person event that will get you into the holiday spirit! The First Wives of Christmas Drag Extravaganza is here to bring you a night of glitz, glamour, and laughter raising funds for RC3 LOADS of LOVE. Get ready to be entertained by some of the most fabulous HOUSE of DiOrio queens as they showcase their incredible talents.

Get your tickets now using "PRELOAD" promo code and get an \$5 discount on premium seating. For more information

Help Wanted!

The Rainbow Rose Center is looking for Board and committee members for the following committees:

Seeking a Board Treasurer - The Rainbow Rose Center is currently seeking a dedicated volunteer to join our Board as Treasurer and play a crucial role in managing our financial operations. The detail-oriented individual should have a passion for financial management and a commitment to supporting our organization's fiscal health.

Interested applicants can reach out to Tesla Taliaferro at ttaliaferro@rainbowrosecenter.org

Fundraising Committee - The Fundraising Committee is looking for new committee members to help raise money for the organization. The committee meets once a month for just one hour with work on-your-own between meetings. If you are not comfortable asking for money you can help in other ways:

- Create new fundraising ideas
- Make introductions to prospective financial supporters
- Provide ideas on businesses to call
- Tell your story to potential sponsors

For more information contact Nate Tile at 717-801-4482 or ntile@rainbowrosecenter.org

Volunteer Committee - The Volunteer Committee is looking for new committee members to help engage, vet, and train volunteers. For more information contact Maria Gable at dmmccargogable@rainbowrosecenter.org.

Marketing & Communications Committee - The Marketing & Communications Committee is looking for new committee

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at dsmith@rainbowrosecenter.org.

Programs Committee - The Programs Committee is looking for new committee members to help plan, coordinate, arrange, and moderate our programs. For more information contact Lauren Forrest at lforrest@rainbowrosecenter.org.

Program Schedule

Check out our upcoming meeting schedule below for dates and times!

Gender Diverse Support Group

Occurs 4th Saturday of Every Month from 8:30 p.m. -
10:00 p.m.
December 23

Queer and Trans People of Color (QTPOC) Support Group

Occurs 2nd Sunday of Every Month from 2:30 p.m. - 3:00
p.m.
December 10

Living Proudly HIV Support Group

Occurs 3rd Wednesday of Every Month from 6:00 p.m. -
7:30 p.m.
December 20

All Adult Identities Social Group

Keep an eye on our Facebook page for upcoming All Adult Identities Social Group meetings.

The Silver Triangle

Coming soon, sign up for our new support group for LGBTQIA+ adults age 50+ at:
[Silver Triangle Signup](#)

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[Facebook](#) for updates!

Safety is our utmost priority for all virtual support group meetings, so we do not publish meeting link details publicly. To participate our meetings, join each group's mailing list at:

[Rainbow Rose Center Support Groups](#)
and fill out the intake form to receive instructions on how to join the meeting.

There are Plenty of Volunteer Opportunities Throughout the Year!

By volunteering with the Rainbow Rose Center, you have the opportunity to make a positive impact in our beautiful community. Volunteering also presents the chance to meet and bond with likeminded LGBTQIA+ folks and allies! There are so many ways to get involved as a volunteer at the Rainbow Rose Center, and we have opportunities for volunteers of all ages! Each volunteer adds value to our organization, and we greatly cherish each individual that dedicates time to help our cause.

**Sign up to become a volunteer
[HERE](#).**

Don't have time to volunteer but still want to contribute?

**Consider making a donation to support the
Rainbow Rose Center!**

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community on where they can go to get the help they need to thrive right here in York County! Donate directly on our website at:

DONATE

Health Enrollment with Pennie

Are you seeking health insurance coverage?
Open Enrollment Period is November 1, 2023 - January 19, 2024

Need help enrolling in Pennie or considering your options?
Our Pennie Assisters will be available to provide on-site enrollment

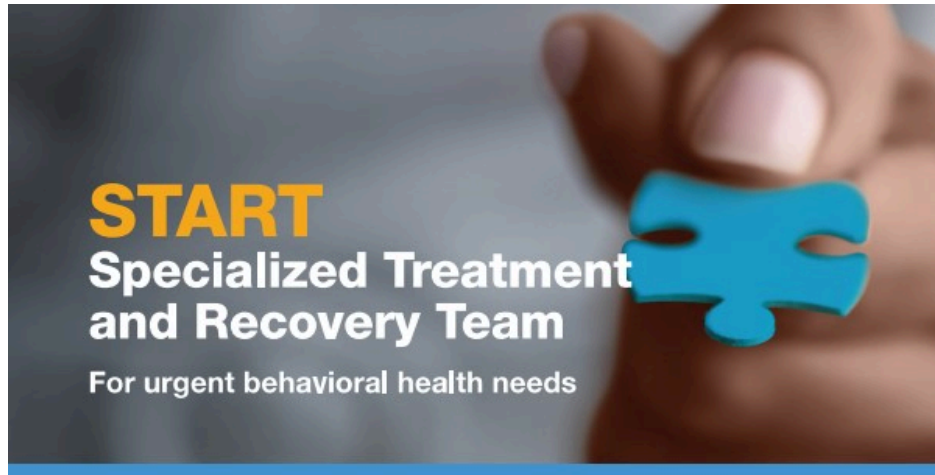
Logos: LANCASTER LGBTQ+ COALITION, EMMAUS PUBLIC LIBRARY, BETHLEHEM AREA PUBLIC LIBRARY, NORTHAMPTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE, HALIZONI CENTER, PHILADELPHIA FIGHT COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS, BRADBURY-SULLIVAN LGBTQ COMMUNITY CENTER (Serving the LGBTQ Community of the Greater Lehigh Valley)

The 2020 Pennsylvania LGBTQ Health Needs Assessment found that 1 in 20 respondents had no health care coverage. Financial security is another area of imbalance that affects the health of LGBTQ+ individuals. More than 4 in 10 respondents are living paycheck to paycheck. Access to affordable healthcare coverage is one crucial step in shrinking the health needs disparities experienced by those in the LGBTQ+ community.

Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center has paired up with Pennsylvania's Health Insurance Exchange (**Pennie**) to assist in getting members of the LGBTQ+ community enrolled in affordable, quality healthcare coverage. Pennie is the state-based healthcare insurance marketplace that takes the place of healthcare.gov, and is the only place to access financial assistance, if eligible.

Pennie Assisters will be scheduling both in-person and virtual events in order to promote and educate individuals about Pennie and how to obtain insurance through the state-based marketplace. In-person events will occur at LGBTQ+ community-based organizations across Pennsylvania. Virtual events will be hosted in conjunction with these organizations as well. In addition to these scheduled events, Assisters will have availability for one-

Assisters can help you apply and enroll in a health plan through Pennie.
 For more information, visit: <https://www.bradburysullivancenter.org/pennie>



START can help you get on the road to recovery and wholeness with the support of our diverse and multi-disciplinary care team, in a trauma-informed, patient-centered setting.

You'll receive a truly integrated care experience that includes screening, assessment and diagnosis of mental health and substance disorders, and related primary care screening. Through extensive collaboration with community partners, START will provide referrals for housing, job skills training, child care access and other support services, as needed.

Location

WellSpan Philhaven START
 Loretta Claiborne Building
 605 S. George St.
 Suite 100
 York, PA 17401

Phone

(717) 356-5060

Hours

Monday – Thursday, 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
 Friday 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

[WellSpanPhilhaven.org/START](https://www.wellspanphilhaven.org/START)

START also partners with the Community Action for Recovery & Diversion project (CARD) and the York County criminal justice system to recognize opportunities when treatment for individuals with substance use or mental health disorders could be a more appropriate path than incarceration.

Services We Offer

- Mental health and substance use disorder services
- Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT)
- Crisis mental health services
- Primary Care screening and monitoring of key health indicators and risks
- Recovery and Peer Support services
- Care coordination and social services

START is a Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC), the first of its kind in south central Pennsylvania.



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Visit the [Rainbow Rose Center website](#) for exciting new additions, program offerings, services, and

Thank You to Our Sponsors!

The Rainbow Rose Center is tremendously grateful to our sponsors. Their generous support provides the funds for the resources, services, and programs the York County LGBTQIA+ community needs and deserves. And it allows for creative solutions necessary to allow all York County individuals to feel safe and welcome in their everyday lives.

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LEADERS



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ALLIES



If you are part of an organization or business that would be interested in becoming an Organizational Sponsor, please reach out to Nate Tile at fundraising@rainbowrosecenter.org.

Thank You to The Markets at Hanover and St. Paul's UCC Dallastown for becoming Preferred Partners!

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The Markets at Hanover is a year-round indoor farmers market and food court featuring local, independently owned shops and unique restaurants and an onsite brewery and pub.

St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Dallastown

St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Dallastown is an open and affirming congregation. Their motto is "Living like Jesus with love and justice for all." They welcome everyone who wants to join them.

Visit Our Preferred Partners!

The Rainbow Rose Center Preferred Partner Program is designed to connect our supporters, allies, and the York LGBTQIA+ community with local consumer businesses and organizations that are passionate about equality and acceptance. Our Preferred Partners support our community every day by creating environments where people of all backgrounds can feel safe, supported, and welcome. We are proud to partner with the following organizations and businesses and encourage members of the York community, both LGBTQIA+ and allies, to visit and support them. Be sure to keep a look out throughout York County for our Preferred Partnership logo!



Current Preferred Partners include:

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[Appell Center for the Performing Arts](#)
[Opera Susquehanna](#)
[Unitarian Universalist Congregation of York](#)
[Union Lutheran Church](#)
[DreamWrights Center for the Community Arts](#)
[The Cantina](#)
[White Rose Bar & Grill](#)
[The Left Bank Restaurant & Bar](#)
[The Handsome Cab](#)
[YWCA York](#)
[Dover United Church of Christ](#)
[Kinetic Kreations](#)
[Fresh Start Law](#)
[Family First Health](#)
[Thrivent](#)
[The Markets at Hanover](#)
[St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Dallastown](#)

Become a Preferred Partner!

If you are part of an organization or business that would be interested in becoming a Preferred Partner, please visit our website at

<https://www.rainbowrosecenter.org/resources/preferred-partners.html> or email Nate Tile at fundraising@rainbowrosecenter.org.

Rainbow Rose Center Affiliations



**KEYSTONE
BUSINESS
ALLIANCE**

Proud and Active Member


CENTERLINK
THE COMMUNITY OF LGBT CENTERS
 Because Great LGBT Communities
 Begin With Great LGBT Community Centers
www.lgbtcenters.org


**Explore
YORK**

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events are **SMOKE FREE** as part of our vision for a healthier and longer-lived community! We do not accept sponsorship or vending applications from tobacco, vaping, cigarette, or other similar companies.



The Rainbow Rose Center is honored to partner with WellSpan Health's Freedom from Tobacco program to help the LGBTQIA+ community quit. WellSpan Health offers regular group cessation classes, one-on-one counseling, and additional support. [Find out more](#) and [register today!](#)

If you need information on smoking cessation or are interested in quitting contact the Pennsylvania Quitline at 1-800-QUIT-NOW or contact the Rainbow Rose Center Programs Committee at: programs@rainbowrosecenter.org

Join us on Facebook to learn more about Rainbow Rose Center, stay up to date on events and programs, and join the Rainbow Rose community!
www.facebook.com/rainbowrosecenter.

Visit us at www.rainbowrosecenter.org.

Email us at: info@rainbowrosecenter.org

Contact us by phone: (717-746-8738)

To Send a Letter to Rainbow Rose Center:

P.O. Box 1134

York, PA 27405

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