



THE RAINBOW CONNECTION

July 3, 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.

Dear York County LGBTQIA+ and Ally Community,

I hope this message finds you well and filled with the resilience and love that has always been the backbone of our LGBTQIA+ community. Pride Month is over, yet our queerness still exists, still deserves to exist, and deserves to do more than exist - we deserve to thrive.

This month we've faced setbacks - local school districts passed anti-LGBTQIA+ and especially anti-transgender policies that harm our youth; corporate businesses and local organizations

undermines our protection from discrimination. However, this month we've also enjoyed victories - we had safe and many Pride celebrations in our local communities. That included the very successful York County Pride with over 3,000 participants! We have seen our allies hold those corporations and local organizations accountable for their inaction and inappropriate actions; and as a community we have stayed resilient and strongly united.

Overall, these ups and downs take a mental toll, and today, I am writing to share some news that comes with mixed emotions but carries a promise for a brighter future.

After much introspection and careful consideration, I have decided to take a two-month hiatus from my role as the president of this remarkable organization. This decision has not been an easy one, but it is essential for my mental health and personal well-being. I want to be transparent and share with you that I have been grappling with my own mental health challenges, which have reached a point where I need to prioritize self-care and healing.

Mental health is a topic close to my heart, and it is an issue that impacts countless members of our community. By taking this step back, I hope to not only address my own needs but also contribute to the de-stigmatization of mental health issues within our LGBTQIA+ Community. We are often too familiar with the pressures and unique struggles faced by our queerness, and it is vital that we foster a culture of understanding, support, and compassion.

During my absence, I want to emphasize that the mission and vision of the Rainbow Rose Center remains strong, and its goals and values will

LGBTQIA+ individuals will never waver. We have an incredible board in place, filled with passionate and dedicated individuals who will ensure that our initiatives, events, and support systems continue to flourish.

I invite all of you to support and uplift one another. Let us remember that our queerness is a source of strength, resilience, and beauty. It is our shared experiences, diverse identities, and unwavering Pride that make us a vibrant and thriving community. Reach out to each other, lend an empathetic ear, and continue to foster an environment where conversations about mental health are embraced with love and understanding.

I have complete confidence in the Rainbow Rose Center's Executive Committee that will be leading in my absence. They are equipped with the knowledge and compassion needed to continue guiding our community towards progress and empowerment. I will be in touch with them periodically to offer guidance and support, but I trust that they will continue the work admirably and ensure that our organization thrives in my absence.

As I take this time to recharge, heal, grow, and plan my upcoming wedding, I remain ever grateful for your unwavering support. Your love and understanding have been a constant source of inspiration for me, and I am honored to be part of this incredible community. Together, we will emerge stronger, more resilient, and better equipped to face the challenges that lie ahead. Remember, self-care is an act of radical love. Let us take this opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to mental and physical health and well-being, both individually and as a community. I eagerly anticipate our reunion after this hiatus,

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With heartfelt gratitude and in service,

Tesla Taliaferro
(he/they)
President, Rainbow Rose Center

Give Your Feedback Here!



Thank you so much to the over 3,000 participants who came out to York County Pride on June 10 at the York County Fairgrounds! We are asking everyone to provide feedback on what went well, what we can improve upon, and any feedback you wish to convey so we can better future Pride celebrations. Thank you for taking the time to complete the following survey.

For Attendees: [Event Attendee Survey Link](#)

Note: Anyone who attended York County Pride, or who wanted to attend but couldn't, is welcome to fill out this survey.

For Performers: [Event Performer Survey Link](#)

For Vendors: [Event Vendor Survey Link](#)

For Sponsors: [Event Sponsor Survey Link](#)

Name and Gender Marker Change Workshop

Are you interested in changing your legal name and gender on official documents but not sure where or how to start?

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2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. as we host a Name and Gender Marker Change Workshop. We will have all the documents you will need and help you with filling them out appropriately. We will also have information on scholarships and provide the ability to apply for them on site. We will provide guidance on what the process looks like and may be able to accompany you to filing the paperwork and Court.

This is a free workshop open to anyone who wants their legal documents to reflect their authentic identities. Youth under 18 must have a parent accompany them as there are separate documents to file.

The Rainbow Rose Center **cannot** offer legal advice and this process does not require a lawyer. We have successfully helped over 35 people successfully complete their legal paperwork for Court over the past few years. For questions or more info, reach out to: info@rainbowrosecenter.org.

Pennsylvania Statewide Broadband Connectivity and Digital Access Survey



As the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania seeks to expand and invest in improved broadband connectivity and digital access, your input as a Pennsylvania resident will provide vital support to the Commonwealth's strategies to close the digital divide.

Your input will inform the 5-Year Action Plan and Digital Equity Plans, being prepared in 2023 by the Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority (Authority). By completing this survey, you are providing critical information that will help the Commonwealth qualify for

Participation in this survey is voluntary. Your services will not be impacted in any way if you do not complete the survey. The survey is private and confidential, meaning that we will never ask you to identify yourself, and we will never try to identify you. There are no foreseeable or anticipated risks for completing this study. If you have any questions about this study, please contact pabroadbandauthority@pa.gov.

We appreciate you taking this 10-15-minute survey!

The link to the survey can be found here: [Pennsylvania Statewide Broadband Connectivity and Digital Access Survey \(surveymonkey.com\)](#)

Our Commitment to Stay Tobacco-Free

Since the Rainbow Rose Center made the commitment to be a tobacco-free organization, we have taken, and continue to take pride in promoting the health and well-being of our LGBTQIA+ Community in York County and beyond. We were excited to become a sub-recipient of the WellSpan Health American Lung Association (ALA) grant to enhance tobacco resistance and tobacco cessation last year and want to share the results with our community.

We recognize that Big Tobacco has long impacted our community, creating ads and coopting community influencers to push harmful products, from targeted advertising to product placement to event sponsorship and directly supporting LGBTQIA+ organizations. Their goal is to associate smoking with social acceptance, inclusion, as well as rebellion, themes the community often relate to.

...community groups and messages to counter the messaging and to raise awareness of the harmful impacts of tobacco. We have held tobacco-free events, promoted WellSpan's Freedom from Tobacco Program and the Pennsylvania Quitline, and recruited 79 youths to stay tobacco free. We've also included information about tobacco cessation in every newsletter publication, and we'll continue to do so as part of our commitment. And we have and will continue to connect those interested in cessation with the resources that will empower them to succeed.

The Rainbow Rose Center continues to partner with WellSpan Health to promote their Freedom from Smoking program to help our community quit. The next virtual class starts this month on July 11.

Freedom from Smoking Registration



Where to Find Us in July



CAPITOL THEATRE
DRAG ARENA ALL STARS

Drag Arena All Stars

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50 N. George Street
York, PA 17401

The Rainbow Rose Center is excited to sponsor Drag Arena All Stars at the Appell Center. Come out and see who will be crowned Drag Arena All Star 2023! The winner will receive \$1,000 cash, a crown and sash, and a photo shoot by EDM Photography! Hosted by Madam D and Jaslene Sparks Dickson, with special performances by Head Judge Krishnara Sparks Diamond and Judges Divinity Cruzz, Elektra Fearce Candice Candy. Guest performances by Ashlyn Manhattan, Jade Ferari, Majestee, Rosey Hart and Kendryaliz D'Quest. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. The show starts at 7:00 p.m. Get your tickets [HERE!](#)



Pride Festival of Central PA
Saturday, July 29 - 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Soldiers Grove
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Join the Rainbow Rose Center for the 31st Anniversary of the Pride Festival of Central PA! Suggested Donation - \$10. Special Event Parking - 7th Street Parking Garage \$10. *Limited ADA parking in Soldiers Grove* Food Trucks will be on Commonwealth Avenue. A stage for performances is off of 7th Street. Free Confidential HIV testing sponsored by Take Control HIV. For more info, visit: [Central PA Pride](#)

Other Events We're Excited About



Songwriting Masterclasses

Wednesday, July 12 - 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Appell Center for the Performing Arts
50 N. George Street
York, PA 17401

For more information, visit: [The Appell Center](#)



In Living Color - A Night in the 90s

Saturday, July 15 - 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
The State Museum of Pennsylvania
300 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120

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90's. This event is for LGBTQ+ individuals 18+ at the State Museum. You must register in advance to attend. This event is free to GLO participants.

Admission is \$20.00 for non-GLO participants. Payment may be made via credit card by following this link: <https://www.paypal.me/lgbtcentralpa> and typing "GLO PROM" into the comments section. GLO encourages you to submit payment in advance, although there will be an opportunity to pay cash at the door. For questions, visit: [The LGBT Center of Central PA](#)

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.](#)**

Consider making a donation to support the Rainbow Rose Center!

Your support helps our Resource Specialists provide invaluable information to members of the LGBTQIA+ 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](#)

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.
July 22, August 26

Queer and Trans People of Color (QTPOC) Support Group

ON HIATUS - Until further notice, this group is on hold as we actively work on finding new folks to lead the meeting! If you are a QTPOC, please take a few moments to answer this brief revitalization survey:
[QTPOC Support Group Survey](#)

Living Proudly HIV Support Group

Occurs 3rd Wednesday of Every Month from 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
July 19, August 16

All Adult Identities Group

Keep an eye on Facebook for additional upcoming events and activities!

The Silver Triangle

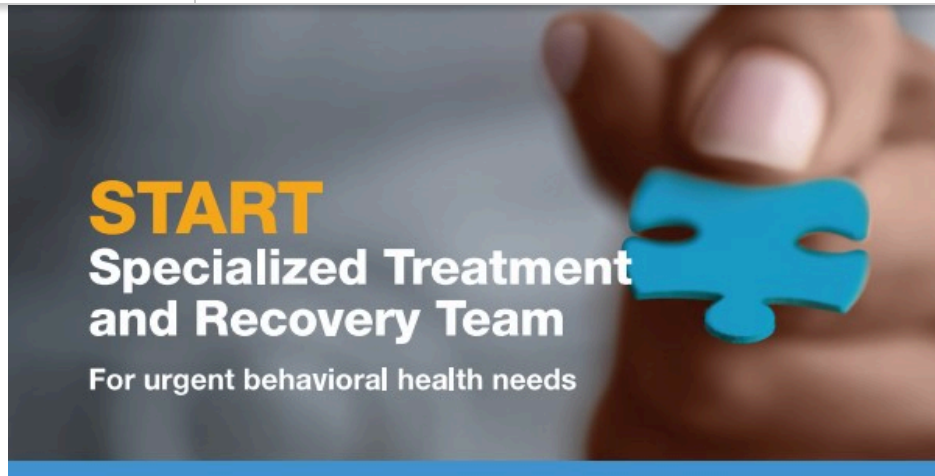
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[Silver Triangle Signup](#)

Check the [Rainbow Rose Center Website](#) or visit us on [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.



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

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 more!

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+

safe and welcome in their everyday lives.

CHAMPION



LEADERS



ALLIES



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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.

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](#)

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**

The Rainbow Rose Center is a Tobacco Free Organization. All our events are SMOKE FREE as part of our desire for a healthier and longer-lived community! We do not accept sponsorship or vending applications from tobacco, vaping, cigarette, or other similar companies.

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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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