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THE RAINBOW CONNECTION

January 3, 2022

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+ Family and Friends,

I cannot believe how Rainbow Rose Center has grown in just two years! We went from meeting in the basement of the IDEAS Center in 2019 to establishing our first Board of Directors in 2020 to today- nearly two years into being an official non-profit organization. Throughout it all, we have seen this amazing York Community embracing us and getting behind our initiatives.

We cannot thank you enough for your support and your engagement!

Here is a brief reflection on 2021:

We initiated variety of new programs and services that benefit the community. Our Programs Committee formed support

Progress Council to help people at risk of losing their homes or utilities apply for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program. Our Preferred Partnership Program connected our supporters, allies, and the York LGBTQIA+ community with local, likeminded consumer businesses and organizations. Our Resource Specialists helped numerous transgender folx legally change their names, and our traveling clothing closet helped those in need find new, affirming outfits through generous community donations. All of these initiatives, combined with the continuation of our existing programs, allowed us to reach more than 500 members of the LGBTQIA+ community in need.

We put on some fantastic events this past year thanks in large part to our Preferred Partners, Sponsors, and the wonderful community we love to celebrate! We proudly followed the guidance of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the Pennsylvania Department of Health, and Governor Wolf by hosting our inaugural York County Pride event virtually, while still hosting several in-person small group events throughout the month of June. During 2021 we took every opportunity to safely gather in person: from the joyous Coming Out Day Celebration and Blessing to the somber and moving Transgender Day of Remembrance event. We were glad to see so many of you this year, and we appreciate everyone who engaged with our events, whether in person or virtually!

We hit some major milestones this past year that we couldn't be more excited about. First, we participated in Give Local York for the first time and met our goal of raising \$10k in 24 hours! We were the proud recipients of the Keystone Business Alliance 2021 Advocate of the Year Award and Downtown First Award for 2021 Outstanding Nonprofit Organization! We couldn't have made it this far without all of your support, generosity, and participation.

As we head into 2022, we will continue to foster an environment of inclusion, equity, and health where all LGBTQIA+ community members thrive in York County, Pennsylvania. We will certainly have challenges ahead, and we look forward to facing them head on with our community's backing. We know that together, we can

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everyday lives.

This newsletter highlights what each of our committees will be focused on over the next year. We hope you take heart in knowing that our Board, Resource Specialists, and Volunteers are committed to serving York County's LGBTQIA+ community with all the passion and energy needed to achieve our mission!

*Happy New Year, Everyone!
In Love and Service,*



*Tesla Taliaferro
President, Rainbow Rose Center*



Rainbow Rose Center Reveals Our Core Values!

In November, the Rainbow Rose Center Board of Directors engaged in a Strategic Planning session moderated by CenterLink, an organization founded to support the development

thorough Strategic Plan to guide our organization in the coming year, we created our organizational Core Values. They are as follows:



Inclusion: We embody and advocate for justice, fairness, and acceptance for all, especially those who are often silenced.



Empathy: We assume positive intent in every interaction with respect and understanding for all individuals.



Community: We respond to the needs of our community and seek out collaboration and feedback to grow with positive purpose.



Accountability: We hold ourselves to the highest ethical standards while providing transparency, efficiency, and stability through our services.



Courage: We bravely challenge the status quo and stand for what we believe in to grow and face the future together.

Community Engagement Committee

We're all fired up for 2022 and looking forward to attending more events, meeting more people, and finding new ways to give back to our community. We're already packing our calendars full of the festivals and events we hope to attend, and have plans to train more volunteers to extend our presence even further. In 2021 we started up The Clothing Closet - our traveling clothing pantry designed to put free, gender-affirming clothing into the hands of our community. Thanks to a generous grant from the York County Community Foundation, we plan on expanding this program. This year we hope to hold more events and to provide supplies like wigs, binders, and other necessities directly to

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continued help we know that 2022 will be even better!

Events Committee

We were grateful to partner with so many wonderful venues in 2021 to host our various events! Thank you to the Appel Center for Performing Arts for hosting our inaugural York County Pride stream, to People's Bank Park and the York Revolutions for having another fantastic Pride at the Ballpark event, for White Rose Bar & Grill and Out & About for hosting our Coming Out Day Celebration, Union Lutheran for the Coming Out Day Blessing, and to DreamWrights Center for Community Arts for hosting the Transgender Day of Remembrance. And thank you to all the businesses and restaurants that made York particularly Prideful in June to coincide with our events!

We are looking forward to hosting York County Pride on June 11, 2022, and are working on getting an in-person venue that meets the needs of our diverse community.

Fundraising Committee

The fundraising committee had a successful year in 2021. With the support of our community we raised over 35k in 2021 through sponsorship sales to the virtual York County Pride event, Give Local York, and the Rainbow Run 5K - all inaugural events for the Rainbow Rose Center and the community! We look forward to building upon this success in 2022 by introducing an annual sponsorship program, growing Give Local York, continuing with the Rainbow Run race, and by introducing new fundraising activities, to include an art show and sale. The Fundraiser Committee is also looking for new members. An ideal member is either someone with creative behind-the-scenes ideas for raising money OR someone who has the connections

Marketing and Communications Committee

This past year we've implemented the *Rainbow Connection*, our monthly newsletter, and we are really grateful for our volunteer who has consistently organized, edited, and published it on behalf of our Marketing & Communications Committee. We have worked on having more consistent communication with the community, with regular posts online and keeping our website updated.

Going into 2022, the Marketing and Communications Committee will help us create clear and consistent messaging, and help us spread the word about our organization and our work.

Recognizing that communications are perhaps our most important tool, we are currently searching for Marketing and Communications volunteers who can assist with social media, communications coordination, increasing our brand recognition and events, implementing campaigns, and graphics! If you or someone you know may be interested in any of these roles, please reach out to Christina Stetler at cstetler@rainbowrosecenter.org or visit our Volunteer Flyer below to learn more.

Programs Committee

This past year has seen the introduction of some much needed programs for our community, and we are looking forward to increasing their participation in the New Year. We're even more excited about the new things happening in the Programs Committee for 2022! We are having an All Identities Mask creating event, which will be part of the "I'm Fine." Project on January 15th at 6 p.m.. Registration is limited so please check out the flyer below to learn more and sign up, or visit our [Facebook page](#) for more details. This will be our first in person event of the year, so we hope to see folx come out and

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We are also working really hard behind the scenes to get three new groups up and running next year. First off we are going to continue to develop our All Adult Identities support group and social outlet by having more consistent meetings with both educational and fun opportunities. The first new program we will introduce in the spring of 2022 is our Silver Triangle Group, which will cater to LGBTQIA+ adults ages 50+. Later in the year we plan to start up a program specifically for families where parents who have LGBTQIA+ identifying children younger than 14 can come and meet other parents, while their children make new affirming friends their age! We will also be creating a partner support group for the significant others of the Transgender folx participating in our ongoing Transgender Support Group meetings. We are so excited for 2022 and for our wonderful Rainbow Rose Center Community to be a part of it all!

Resources Committee

At the Rainbow Rose Center, we aim to refer our clients only to the resources we know and trust. That means the Resources Committee has to do our due diligence! We vet doctors, therapists, lawyers, businesses, organizations, religious spaces, and more to find out where our LGBTQIA+ community can feel safe, welcome, and affirmed. In 2021 we implemented the Preferred Partnership program to help with this goal, and in 2022 we plan to extend our outreach into all areas of our community and to all types of resources so that you will have confidence that your care will be handled with the dignity and respect you deserve!

Our Committee is searching for volunteers who have a passion for advocacy, research, networking, community, and resources to join. Visit our Volunteer Flyer below to learn more!

Volunteer Committee

Working with such an amazing community takes positive energy, compassion, and people with open minds, ears, and hearts. What's even better is having people who think outside the box and who are ready to get creative and get down to business when it comes to making things happen. Luckily, the Rainbow Rose Center has had a number of passionate volunteers to help us work toward our mission in 2021! We're going to need more volunteers, and especially consistent and dedicated folx willing to help us reach even new heights in 2022. What are we looking for in a Rainbow Rose Center Volunteer? YOU! Whatever your passion is, however you express it, we need your brilliance to help us shine.

There are so many ways to get involved as a volunteer at the Rainbow Rose Center! Each volunteer adds value to our organization, and we greatly cherish each individual that dedicates time to help our cause. Maybe your aim is to help members of the community find the resources they need to thrive as a Resource Specialist. Perhaps you want to offer some new ideas and support our organization directly by joining one of our Committees. Or, if you have the mindset, we always need moderators for our growing programs. Every event brings new opportunities to get involved, from the planning stages to the day-of implementation and cleanup. Sometimes there's even opportunities to become a leader in our community by joining our board of directors! [Find out more and volunteer with us today!](#)

There are Plenty of Volunteer Opportunities!

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+ folx and allies! We need help with day to day activities, and we're also looking for committee

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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! 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 <https://www.rainbowrosecenter.org/donations/>



I'm fine. Mask Making Project for All Adult Identities Group!

On Saturday, January 15th from 6-8 p.m., the Rainbow Rose Center will be hosting our first in-person event of the year. This

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represent the mask they wear to overcome, portray, or minimize their mental health struggles. The masks will become part of the Creative York "I'm fine." exhibit from March through May 2022. Then they will be part of a statewide exhibit through 2024. The I'm fine. Project is committed to keeping the identities of the mask creators anonymous. Participants may choose to share the stories behind their masks as part of the exhibit through a separately recorded message.

Participation is limited, so make sure to Sign Up using the button below!

The Rainbow Rose Center would like to thank Janelle Mancuso and Greg Dwyer for sponsoring this event. We would also like to thank co-curators Maureen Joyce and Carrie Breschi for putting this event together for our community! Learn more about the ["I'm fine." Project here.](#)



**SIGN UP FOR THE "I'M FINE."
PROJECT HERE**

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT!

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regular schedules starting in January. See the schedule below for dates and times!

Check the [Rainbow Rose Center Website](#) or visit us on [Facebook](#) for updates! We hope to see you there!

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

We are currently only meeting virtually via Zoom but this may change in future months.

York Transgender Support Group

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

January 22nd

February 26th

Queer and Trans People of Color (QTPOC) Support Group

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

January 9th

February 13th

Living Proudly HIV Support Group

Occurs 2nd Wednesday of Every Month from 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

January 12th

February 9th

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:
www.rainbowrosecenter.org/programs/
and fill out the intake form to receive instructions on how to join the meeting.

For more information about services for our Transgender community in Pennsylvania, visit: www.TransCentralPA.Org



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VISIT THE [RAINBOW ROSE CENTER WEBSITE](#) FOR exciting new additions, program offerings, services, and more! Don't forget to check out the Rainbow Rose Center's new digital pamphlets:

[Rainbow Rose Center Main Pamphlet](#)

[Rainbow Rose Center Programs & Services Pamphlet](#)



BRADBURY-SULLIVAN
LGBT COMMUNITY CENTER

*Serving the LGBT Community
of the Greater Lehigh Valley*

The Rainbow Rose Center is a Smoke Free Organization. All our events are SMOKE FREE in partnership with **Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Center** as part of their initiative for a healthier and longer-lived community! We do not accept sponsorship or vending applications from tobacco, vaping, cigarette, or other similar companies.

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

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Living Proudly. Living Longer
LGBT SMOKE FREE

LGBTQA populations have increased rates of tobacco use, while also facing challenges accessing and receiving care.

For help quitting smoking call 1-800-QUIT-NOW

 

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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Proud and Active Member



Because **Great LGBT Communities**
Begin With **Great LGBT Community Centers**

www.lgbtcenters.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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Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of York
Nurture Your Spirit,
Help Heal Our World!



DreamWrights
Center for Community Arts

Building characters for life



The LEFT BANK
Restaurant & Bar

THE HANDSOME CAB
Restaurant • Wine Bar • Cocktails • Beer

eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca
York

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/preferred->

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