



THE RAINBOW CONNECTION

February 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.

Happy February, Happy Valentine's Day, and Happy Love is Love Day to those who celebrate it. My name is Mary Almy and I am currently serving as the Treasurer for the Rainbow Rose Center. I am so excited to be a part of this great organization and to volunteer with some really great people as we seek to serve the LGBTQIA+ community in York County. In my previous lives I have served as the Treasurer for Butler PFLAG, on the board of the Transgender Veterans Association, and on the Planning Committee for the Empire Conference, a Transgender conference that was held in Albany, New York.

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Since moving to York, I have been thrilled to find an active and strong community through the Rainbow Rose Center who are not only active socially but who work to be advocates for the community and to be a source of support as needed. These are exciting times for the Center as we will be hosting our second in person York County Pride on June 10th, and we are finally preparing to open the doors on our new physical office location. Our Board of Directors and our volunteers are working on creating more and more events for education, support, and just plain fun. These are also challenging times as we are seeing more and more anti-LGBTQIA+ legislation trying to be passed at every level of government, from local ordinances to national. It is a time that we as a community must be more committed to each other and to helping to be the change. I am looking forward to this year, both the challenges and joys we will share, but most of all I am looking forward to getting to meet and know more of you as I see you at our activities and events. We make up a beautiful rainbow of people, and the Rainbow Rose Center is proud to be a part of that rainbow. Hope to see you soon!!

Mary
She/Her/Hers
Treasurer

A Great (and Grateful) Start to 2023

January proved to be a wonderful start to the new year. As

business partners reached out with generous donations. We also had the opportunity to collaborate with many wonderful community partners and members this last month, setting a healthy precedent for the rest of the year! Here's some highlights:

Carol Stowell, a community ally and co-chair of the UUCY Social Justice Committee, hand-painted two beautiful chairs for the new office space. Complete with the rainbow rose and a quote from lesbian poet, Mary Oliver, we cherish these beautiful and functional pieces of art.



Our connection with the Comcast OUT employee resource group (ERG) deepened this month with the opportunity to acquire some new office furniture from one of their offices closing down. We are grateful for the nice chairs and table that will provide great work and community spaces in our new office!



their sponsorship. Without these fantastic, affirming organizations and businesses, the Rainbow Rose Center would not have grown nearly so much in the past few years. Check out all our Corporate Sponsors, who make great resources and employers for the community, [here](#).

Our Preferred Partnership Program has likewise seen healthy growth and presented some wonderful community event opportunities! The Appell Center for the Performing Arts showed the film "Firebird" the last weekend of January. We deeply appreciate their continued showcasing of LGBTQIA+ stories, and for the community's support by coming out and watching the film. We also enjoyed the free popcorn sponsored by the Cultural Alliance of York.



Finally, we were glad to collaborate with so many wonderful organizations, including the YWCA York, Valley Youth House, Tenfold, and Harley-Davidson EAGLES ERG during the Red Sand Project in downtown Cherry Lane Park. We recognize that members of the LGBTQIA+ community are at particular risk of human trafficking, and were honored to take part in raising awareness by filling the cracks in the sidewalk and between the bricks with red sand.

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(Photo Credit: Sean McDonald, Program Coordinator at Valley Youth House)

Where To Find Us In February



Ballroom Dance Lessons

Friday, February 17th at 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Red Lion Recreation Center

190 S. Charles St.

Red Lion, Pa 17356

Try something new this month with an open ballroom dance lesson! Traditional dance school lessons seem a little intimidating or awkward? Then this is the event you want to try. Instruction will be fun and tailored for ALL couples to enjoy no matter who or what dance experience they have.

This event is offered free of charge with a \$10 per person suggested donation to cover instructor fee and refreshments. To sign up for one of the 20 spots available

Save The Date



TENFOLD

Tabor & LHOP are now Tenfold

Fair Housing Month Summit: Pink Rose Panel

Saturday, April 22 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Rivertown Pride Center

324 Walnut Street

Columbia, PA 17512

The Rainbow Rose Center is excited to be a part of the Fair Housing Month Summit: Pink Rose Panel once again. Finding and maintaining secure housing continues to be a barrier for our LGBTQIA+ neighbors in the Red and White Rose communities. The joint Lancaster-York panel will explore current housing issues, as well as supportive programs and remedies.

This will be a free, in person event with the option to attend virtually. To learn more and get tickets, visit: <http://www.WeAreTenfold.org/Events>.



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Your support during Give Local York creates a lasting impact all year! Save the date for the 2023 Give Local York and help the Rainbow Rose Center fulfill it's mission to foster an environment of inclusion, equity, and health where all LGBTQIA+ community members thrive in York County, Pennsylvania. We envision an inclusive community where all York County individuals feel safe and welcome in their everyday lives.



YORK COUNTY PRIDE 2023

Saturday, June 10 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
York State Fair All Trans Memorial Hall
334 Carlisle Avenue
York, PA 17404

Join the Rainbow Rose Center for York County Pride 2023. Our June 10, 2023 event will take place at the [York State Fair All Trans Memorial Hall](#) from 10:00 a.m. till 4:00 p.m. We are eagerly anticipating the ability to accommodate the needs of our diverse community by providing an accessible venue with ample parking that's safe from the elements (both excessive shine and dreary rain).

York County Pride provides an excellent opportunity to distribute information, sell products, and/or advertise services that support and are of interest to the LGBTQIA+ community. We welcome sponsors, organizations, businesses, vendors, and performers to apply on our new website! Registration closes May 12th! Food vendors are not

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<https://www.rainbowrosecenter.org/events/york-county-pride/>

Questions about the event? Contact our Events Committee Chair, Christina Wingert, at events@rainbowrosecenter.org.

Interested in joining the RRC Board of Directors?

The Rainbow Rose Center is looking for a dedicated individual to join our board as the Marketing and Communications Co-Chair. The position will include managing our social media pages, developing branded content, and creating a posting calendar, so social media experience is a must! Join this amazing committee by contacting Deb Smith at dsmith@rainbowrosecenter.org.



START
Specialized Treatment
and Recovery Team
 For urgent behavioral health needs

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

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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.



The Thirteenth Annual

Keystone Conference

The Rainbow Rose Center will again partner with TransCentralPA to organize the Clothing Exchange at Keystone Conference! The Thirteenth Annual Keystone Conference, "A Celebration of Gender Diversity," will be hosted at the splendid Harrisburg Hilton Hotel from March 22 - 26, 2023. We're looking for volunteers to help us accept the generous clothing and gender-affirming

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Rose Center will work with other organizations to distribute leftover donations after the conference. If you're interested in volunteering, or in attending the event, please contact Tesla Taliaferro at ttaliaferro@rainbowrosecenter.org.

For those in need of scholarships to cover the cost of workshops (does not include lodging, transportation, or food), contact info@rainbowrosecenter.org.

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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+ folx 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!

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.

February 25th, March 25th

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

February 12th, March 12th

Living Proudly HIV Support Group

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

February 15th, March 15th

All Adult Identities Group

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

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.

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

solutions necessary to allow all York County individuals to feel safe and welcome in their everyday lives.

CHAMPION



LEADERS



ALLIES



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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:

[Heidelberg United Church of Christ](#)
[I-ron-ic Coffee Shop & Art Boutique](#)
[York Revolution](#)
[York Jewish Community Center](#)
[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](#)

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[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.



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](#)

[Subscribe](#)

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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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