



THE RAINBOW CONNECTION

December 1, 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.

Hello!

My name is Christina Stetler (she/her/hers) and I am the Development Director for the Rainbow Rose Center, moving over from the Secretary role from the last two years. My role is to help raise the funds needed to run our organization. We are a nonprofit organization, meaning we raise the money ourselves to provide the programming, resources, and events that celebrate and honor the LGBTQIA+ community and allies.

I have been a fundraiser for 15 years and am excited to bring my experience to the Rainbow Rose Center. It is a cause I feel passionate about - creating an equitable community where everyone *is* safe wherever they go.

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dreams and passions to their fullest.

I invite you now to support the Rainbow Rose Center with a gift today. We are excited to have signed a lease for our first office space since 2020 and we need **your** help to fill it! Your donation will help us purchase everything from pens, paper, and staplers to laptops, chairs, and tables. A gift of any amount will make a huge impact on how our LGBTQIA+ friends and family can live their full lives.

Thank you for your support! I would love to chat with you more about being a sponsor, Preferred Sponsor, or making a gift to the Rainbow Rose Center. You can reach me at cstetler@rainbowrosecenter.org.

Have a wonderful holiday season!



Chris
She/Her/Hers
Development Director

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Exciting News About Our Office!



Giving Tuesday dropped some hints, as did this newsletter's introduction, so you may have already guessed it. Thanks to our community's generous support and the Board of Directors' hard work, the Rainbow Rose Center has secured an office!

Opening in early 2023 in East York, once we have the space furnished, our first office post-pandemic meets many of the community's needs and desires. These include accessibility, free off-street parking, proximity to major roadways, and a location central to the county but not in the city's downtown.

We are very excited to have a place to call home, and we're looking forward to providing community members a place to stop by during office hours to speak to Resource Specialists, get resources, participate in support group meetings, check out books from our lending library, and take what they need from The Closet.

Donations to the Rainbow Rose Center through the end of the year will receive recognition in the new office space. We appreciate you helping us to secure and create this brave space for the community!

Thank You!



We would like to thank all of our community members who donated for our #Giving Tuesday Campaign, where we raised over \$400!

We are so incredibly grateful to have such wonderful support from our community and are also excited to use your donations towards furnishing our new office space opening in 2023! If you missed out on Giving Tuesday, there is still time to donate, here is the link below: <https://secure.givelively.org/donate/rainbow-rose-center/giving-tuesday>

Today is World AIDS Day



First observed in 1988, World AIDS Day is annually recognized on December 1st as a day to unify in the fight against HIV and remember those lost to AIDS-related

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people to unite globally to eliminate the disparities and inequities that create barriers to HIV testing, prevention, and access to HIV care.

HIV continues to be a global health crisis, but it is no longer a death sentence. There is treatment that allows people living with HIV to be undetectable and unable to transmit the virus and to live long and fulfilling lives. There are also medicines that prevent HIV, such as the consistent use of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), which lowers the risk of acquiring HIV through sex by up to 99 percent. One of the best ways to reduce your risk of HIV and other STIs is to practice safe sex and to get tested regularly and know your status. Free testing is available in York County and surrounding areas. Education and awareness are important tools that bring us closer to ending the HIV epidemic.

To get more information about PrEP and other HIV preventatives and treatments, we encourage you to talk to your primary care provider. If you need help finding an affirming medical provider, please contact [the Rainbow Rose Center](#).

Holding Space for Club Q

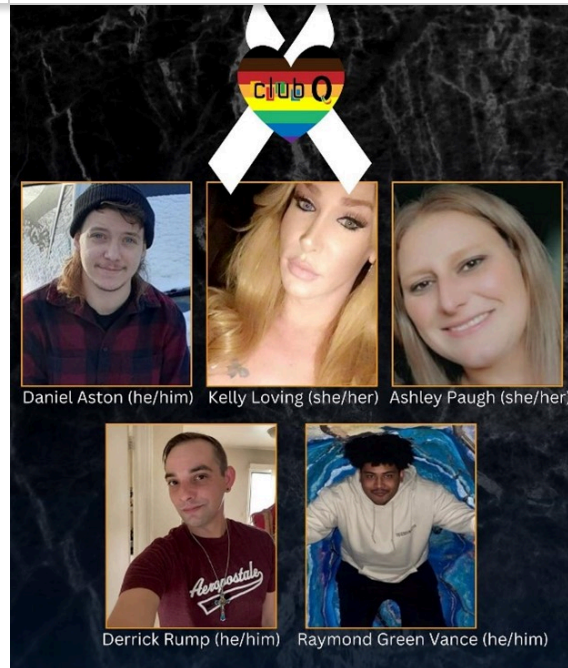
November 20th was a terribly sad day, not only because we honored the 70 gender diverse lives lost to violence on Transgender Day of Remembrance, but because senseless violence and bigotry again impacted our sibling community in Colorado.

We have wept with sorrow and risen in solidarity with our LGBTQIA+ siblings in Colorado Springs. We continue to hold space for the five individuals murdered and those injured at Club Q. We remember Raymond Green Vance (he/him), Kelly Loving (she/her), Daniel Aston (he/him),

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Daniel Aston (he/him) Kelly Loving (she/her) Ashley Paugh (she/her)

Derrick Rump (he/him) Raymond Green Vance (he/him)

This violation of a safe space impacts every single one of us, whether we live our authentic lives openly or still wait for the day we feel safe enough to come out. Our board president, Tesla Taliaferro, spoke about this on Monday, November 28th, on WITF's The Spark with Amanda Arbor, Executive Director of the LGBT Center of Central Pennsylvania. Listen to that conversation here: <https://www.witf.org/2022/11/28/club-q-shooting-is-another-example-of-growing-violence-against-lgbtq-community/>.

The Rainbow Rose Center Board of Directors donated to the [Colorado Healing Fund](#), which supports those directly impacted by this tragedy. Like many organizations throughout the U.S., we are taking proactive measures to keep our York County LGBTQIA+ community safe as we prepare to open our office.

Know that throughout our individual and communal grief that you are not alone. There is an entire network of support and a whole community here to embrace and affirm you. Our allies, open and affirming ministers, affirming medical and mental care providers, and the Rainbow Rose

You Have Been Heard!



On November 29th, the U.S. Senate passed the Respect for Marriage Act, providing a massive win for LGBTQIA+ families and moving one step closer to solidifying the freedom to marry for same-sex and interracial couples under federal law.

The bill, which previously passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 267 to 157, passed in the Senate by 61 to 36. Support poured in from both sides of the aisle, with 47 House Republicans and 12 Senate Republicans voting in favor of the bill. The bill is now back in the hands of the House of Representatives for a final vote and, if approved, will head over to President Biden to be signed into law.

We hope to celebrate the codification of the Respect for Marriage Act in the coming days, but it doesn't end there. Even after we protect the freedom to marry, it will be critical to continue pushing for federal nondiscrimination protections so our community is protected in ALL aspects of our lives.

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Interested in joining the RRC Board of Directors?

The Rainbow Rose Center currently has an opening for a Community Engagement Co-Chair. Our Community Engagement Committee helps the organization build community relationships. This includes maintaining The Closet, researching and registering for upcoming events throughout the community, helping to represent the organization at said events, and providing academic support to student-based/academic LGBTQIA+ organizations (i.e. GSAs) in the community.

If you're interested learning more, or leading this effort, please email Tesla Taliaferro at ttaliaferro@rainbowrosecenter.org.

New Preferred Partners!



It's been a minute since we updated our Preferred Partners listing, which connects our supporters, allies, and the York LGBTQIA+ community with local, likeminded consumer businesses and organizations. Please take a few moments to see all our new affirming partners in the community!



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bankruptcy, pardons, expungements, and criminal defense. Fresh Start Law, PLLC is owned by Dawn Marie Cutaia (she/her), who has been practicing law in York County since 1996 and supporting the LGBTQIA+ community for many years. We're looking forward to working with Fresh Start Law, PLLC to help support the legal needs of our community.

Website: www.freshstartyork.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/freshstartlawPA>



Kinetic Kreations is the mastermind behind the deliciously interactive snow cones that make you the hamster! A family-owned and operated business, their generosity of time and services at our events over the years have been so appreciated. We love their human powered frozen treats and encourage you to bring them to your next event!

Website: kinetickreations.com

Facebook: [Facebook.com/kinetickreations21](https://www.facebook.com/kinetickreations21)



Family First Health is a federally-qualified health center (FQHC) that is accessible and community-minded. They take a beyond healthy approach that goes outside the confines of the doctor's office. As an inclusive health care model, they put everyone first and want happy, healthy patients who can live better lives in better health. FFH strives to build a healthy community by being the accessible York community health center. Their services

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health programs like Caring Together, a program focused on supporting the overall health needs of persons living with HIV.

Website: www.familyfirsthealth.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FamilyFirstHealth/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/familyfirsthealth/>

Twitter: [#famfirsthealth](https://twitter.com/famfirsthealth)



Beth McKinley at Thrivent recognizes that a financial strategy is as unique as you are. You deserve guidance that you feel confident and that reflects your priorities. That is why Beth takes time to learn what matters most to you. And because Thrivent sees money as a tool, not a goal, Beth will equip you with what you need to focus on your life's purpose by providing the support and resources you need to prioritize what's meaningful to you.

Website: <https://connect.thrivent.com/beth-mckinley>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Beth.McKinley.Thrivent/>

Where To Find Us in December!



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Holiday Bazaar

Saturday, December 10th 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Red Lion Recreation Center

190 South Charles Street

Red Lion, PA

Please join the Rainbow Rose Center for our first ever all inclusive Holiday Bazaar at the Red Lion Recreation Center. Come shop for friends and family in a safe environment and find one of a kind LGBTQIA+ merchandise! For more event information, visit us on

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/rainbowrosecenter/>

Request for Facebook/Google Reviews



Your help is requested!

If you believe the work the Rainbow Rose Center is doing is helping you, someone you know, or just the community in general, your review can help build confidence in the work we're doing. We thank you for your consideration and look forward to continuing benefit the LGBTQIA+ York County Community!

You can leave a Google review by clicking this link: https://g.page/r/CR37_dQIKXKdEAg/review and on Facebook by clicking the "Share Feedback" button at this link: <https://www.facebook.com/rainbowrosecenter/reviews>

Thank you for considering leaving us a review!

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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

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

Program Schedule

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

York Transgender Support Group

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

December 24th(keep an eye out for any schedule change

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Queer and Trans People of Color (QTPOC) Support Group

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

December 11th, January 8th

Living Proudly HIV Support Group

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

December 21st, January 18th

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:

www.rainbowrosecenter.org/programs/

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!

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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.

CHAMPION



LEADERS



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.

Visit Our Preferred Partners!

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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](#)
[YWCA York](#)
[Dover United Church of Christ](#)
[Kinetic Kreations](#)
[Fresh Start Law](#)
[Family First Health](#)
[Thrivent](#)

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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-partners/> or email Nate Tile at fundraising@rainbowrosecenter.org.

Rainbow Rose Center Affiliations



**KEYSTONE
BUSINESS
ALLIANCE**

Proud and Active Member



The Rainbow Rose Center is a Smoke 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.



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.

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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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