



INDY PFLAG NEWS

APRIL 2009

PFLAG meets the 2nd Sunday of each month. The next meeting will be Sun., April 12 from 2 to 4 pm at St. Luke's United Methodist Church in the Youth Wing (North door), just west of Meridian on 86th St.

April 12 Meeting

Our program on this Easter Sunday will be an open discussion.

Who are PFLAG's members?

Our members come from all walks of life. We are straight, we are gay and we are bisexual. We are transgendered. We are moms and dads, siblings, grandparents, aunts and uncles, friends, children and allies. We come from large cities and small towns. We live in rural areas. We are people of color. We come from all economic backgrounds. We come from all faith traditions. We are disabled. We are youth and we are elderly. Our membership and our leadership are diverse, but what we have in common is our commitment to grow beyond false and harmful perceptions of GLBT people, to educate our communities, and to stand up for full equal rights and protections for GLBT people. Everyone who shares PFLAG's vision is welcome to join us in our work.

PFLAG Annual Meeting and Pitch-in Dinner **Sunday, May 3 - Plan to be there!**

This year the annual Indy PFLAG meeting will be held at the home of our president, Mimi Jacobs. The meeting will start at 4:30 with dinner afterwards. The business this year is minimal. We need to elect our president, secretary and treasurer, and three or more at-large board members.

Address: 1615 Guildhall Ct (just northwest of 86th and Ditch Rd)

Telephone: 317-228-9484 (home); 317-446-9998 (cell)
Link to Google map:

http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&source=s_q&hl=en&geocode=&q=1615+Guildhall+Ct,+Indianapolis&sl=37.0625,95.677068&sspn=51.443116,40.341797&ie=UTF8&ll=39.916715,86.177788&spn=0.024226,0.030642&z=15

The officers currently serving are:

President - Mimi Jacobs

Secretary - Dick Patterson

Treasurer - Sue Hazer

Board members - Jeff Jones, Jan Nichols, Marcia Neff, Sarah Patterson and Annette Gross.

Notes from Annette

PFLAG is a family-oriented organization. We are comprised of parents, children, friends and relatives of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people. We pride ourselves on being a friendly, non-judgmental group.

Every year we have an Annual Meeting where we all get together and share food and conversation. Yes, we do some business. We discuss where we are as a chapter and what we would like to achieve in the future. And we welcome and ask for the input of all of our members.

This year our Annual Meeting is going to be held on Sunday, May 3rd at the home of our president, Mimi Jacobs. The business part of the meeting will begin at 4:00 p.m. Then we will adjourn and enjoy a pitch-in dinner together.

I hope most of our members will attend. This is an informal way to get to know each other and share stories and information in a relaxed manner.

Mimi's address is 1615 Guildhall Court, Indianapolis, IN 46260 (North Willow Subdivision). Please RSVP to her by e-mail – mimildc@aol.com. **We're asking that each person who attends brings either an appetizer, main dish, or salad.** Let Mimi know in the e-mail what you will be bringing. You can look up her address on Mapquest. If you still need directions, let her know in the e-mail.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you on May 3rd. We all want to see our Indianapolis Chapter of PFLAG grow and thrive. Help us to keep our chapter moving ahead!

"When you do nothing, you feel overwhelmed and powerless. But when you get involved, you feel the sense of hope and accomplishment that comes from knowing you are working to make things better."

HRC FOUNDATION RELEASES LIST OF 2009 "BEST PLACES TO WORK FOR LGBT EQUALITY"

WASHINGTON – The Human Rights Campaign Foundation, the nation's largest lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender civil rights organization, has released its annual list of "Best Places to Work for LGBT Equality." In 2009, 260 companies were awarded this distinction for their employment policies and practices that include LGBT workers. A complete list of the honored businesses is available online:

www.hrc.org/placestowork

Indy PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) is a group of people who share common experiences and provide support for each other. We listen and love. We help families have open, positive and loving relationships with GLBT children and we work for their civil and human rights.

**FOLLOWING ELECTION 2008, PFLAG REPORTS
SIGNIFICANT SPIKE IN CHAPTERS AND ATTENDANCE ACROSS
THE UNITED STATES**

*ORGANIZATION SAYS IT RECEIVED 75 INQUIRIES ABOUT LOCAL CHAPTERS
SINCE NOVEMBER*

WASHINGTON, DC – The national office of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) reported today that it has received at least 75 inquiries about starting new chapters in communities across the country since Election Day 2008. The significant spike in requests about founding chapters follows passage of anti-equality ballot initiatives in California, Arkansas and Florida and the premiere of the films *Milk* and *Prayers for Bobby*, which portrayed the true story of Mary Griffith, a PFLAG mother's journey from rejecting her gay son to becoming an advocate for the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. The organization, which already boasts nearly 500 chapters and affiliates across the country, is working with local allies who have expressed interest in bringing PFLAG to their communities.

"If there is a silver lining to the set-back our families experienced on Election Day, it is that our allies in communities across the country have started to mobilize at the local level and work for change," said Jody M. Huckaby, PFLAG's executive director. "From coast to coast, families have been inspired to organize because of issues like Proposition 8, and empowered by the example of heroes and heroines like Harvey Milk and Mary Griffith. New PFLAG chapters are forming in critically important districts and existing PFLAG chapters in many communities are reporting an increase in their membership. Today, our families, allies and loved ones are organizing and pressing for change as they never have before."

PFLAG says it has received inquiries about starting new chapters in states such as Mississippi, Alabama, Ohio, Florida, California, Utah, Texas and Idaho, among others. In Texas, a half-dozen people have expressed an interest in organizing a local PFLAG presence and at least four inquiries have come from California, where many community leaders are working to rally allies in the wake of Proposition 8's passage. The national office has also heard from organizers in Tennessee, Missouri, South Dakota, New York and New Jersey.

In Indiana, local allies have organized a new PFLAG chapter in Terre Haute. Writing in this morning's *Terre Haute Star-Tribune*, columnist Stephanie Salter praised the new chapter, noting that, "the organization is based on personal relationships — familial, collegial, among friends. It is always the personal level at which the most effective consciousness raising occurs." Chapter organizers told Salter they were inspired to bring PFLAG to Terre Haute after viewing *Prayers for Bobby*, the film based on the story of Griffith, and seeing the change in their own families.

"When I saw that change in my mother, I thought, 'This is important,'" David Turner told the paper. "I've been out for 11 or 12 years, but I was not necessarily that active. What was I doing?"

Huckaby says the new chapters underscore the fact that, even today, PFLAG is a critical part of communities across the country. "As President Obama has so often reminded us, change doesn't come from Washington, it comes to

Washington," Huckaby said. "That change in our culture, our communities and our country begins with local PFLAG chapters, and our national office is working hard to make sure that everyone who wants to bring PFLAG to their community has the resources and support to do so."

Dining Out For Life: Are you hungry?

The Damien Center's 14th annual Dining Out for Life event is coming up on April 30th - Save the date and get your appetite ready! On April 30th, restaurants around the city will donate a portion of their proceeds to the Damien Center. You and your friends can eat and drink all you want, knowing that you're helping to fight HIV/AIDS.

What is Dining Out for Life? Dining Out For Life® is an annual fundraising event involving the generous participation of volunteers, corporate sponsors and restaurants. In exchange for their financial support, restaurants are listed in a city wide marketing campaign in an effort to increase customer traffic.

More than 2,500 restaurants a year around the country donate a portion of their proceeds from this one special night of dining to the licensed agency in their city. Over \$2 million dollars a year is raised to support the missions of agencies throughout North America. With the exception of the annual licensing fee of \$600, all money raised in these cities stays there.

Our Mission: The mission of the Damien Center is to lead the fight to prevent the spread of HIV and to empower persons in Central Indiana affected by HIV/AIDS to move forward each day with dignity. For a list of participating restaurants go to: www.damien.org

March speaker follow up

Last month's program speaker was Dr. Leslie Ashburn-Nardo who talked about confronting prejudice. She defined confrontation as "verbally or nonverbally expressing one's dissatisfaction with prejudicial and discriminatory treatment to the person who is responsible for the remark or behavior." She noted that people who do confront reduce others' use of stereotypes and expressions of prejudiced attitudes and empowers the targets of prejudice.

When people don't confront they sometimes feel guilt and ruminate about what happened. They are even physiological responses at times. If a person does decide to confront prejudiced remarks, Dr. Ashburn-Nardo offered these suggestions for ways to confront those who make such remarks:

- Frame confrontation in the form of a question (e.g., -Do you feel that way about the entire group or just one individual?)
- Invoke the perpetrator's equalitarian self-concept (e.g., I always thought of you as open-minded.)
- Focus on how the perpetrator's actions made observers feel (e.g., I'm uncomfortable when you say things like that.)
- Avoid self-righteousness (e.g., with all the stereotypes we encounter, I can see how you might say that, but we should all try harder to avoid thinking that way.)

Here's the citation for the article for the items above:

[The Confronting Prejudiced Responses \(CPR\) Model: Applying CPR in the Workplace \[Academy of Management Learning and Education -> Volume 7, Number 3 September 2008\]](#) - *Leslie Ashburn-Nardo, Kathryn Morris, Stephanie Goodwin*

To talk with a parent who also has a gay son or lesbian daughter & to learn more about Indy PFLAG, please contact:

***Sarah (317) 545-7034**

***Charlene/Oran (317) 897-0126**

***info@indypflag.org**

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