Join PFLAG Denver Team for AIDS Walk Colorado

The 30th annual AIDS Walk Colorado will take place on Saturday, August 19. The AIDS Walk is the Rocky Mountain Region’s largest one-day HIV/AIDS fundraiser. More than 8,000 people throughout the state come together as a community to raise money for vital services for HIV/AIDS clients of Colorado AIDS Project and many other outstanding AIDS service organizations. If you haven’t already done so, join and/or make a donation to the PFLAG Denver team, but be sure to specify our team.

This will be the 25th year that PFLAG Denver has been a beneficiary organization of the AIDS Walk, i.e., we receive back a large percentage of the money that our team raises. With this money we provide financial assistance to needy persons and families coping with HIV/AIDS. Over the years we have provided over $50,000!

The need for assistance diminishes each year, but it has by no means disappeared. For example, we have been able to help a homeless HIV+ man pay for housing; to provide a gas card for a man who had finally landed a job interview but lacked the funds for gas to drive there; and to present a gift card to someone who had been offered a job but couldn’t afford to buy the work clothes required. In recent years we have often been asked to help pay for dental needs, and we work closely with the Howard Dental Center which has now merged with the Colorado Health Network.

The AIDS Walk serves as a day to remember those lost to the disease, with prominent speakers and panels of the AIDS Memorial Quilt, in addition to the Celebration of Life Festival, live music, food, beverages and the annual AIDS Walk Colorado Volleyball Tournament, held in conjunction with the Colorado Gay Volleyball Association.

AIDS Walk Colorado - August 19, 2017 - Cheesman Park

Join the PFLAG Denver Team by walking, donating, or both.

Opening Ceremonies at 9 a.m., Walk at approx. 9:30 a.m.

To make a donation, go to www.aidswalkcolorado.org, click on Teams, then scroll down to PFLAG Denver.

When our team’s web page opens, sign up to join and make a donation specifically to our team.

Alternatively, write your check to AWC and send it to PFLAG Denver, P.O. Box 18901, Denver 80218.

PFLAG Denver Board of Directors – Update

The PFLAG Denver Board of Directors is sorry to announce it has had two recent resignations:

- Steve Lee-O’Neal began serving on the Board in 2015 and has contributed greatly to the success of fundraising events for the scholarship program.
- Deborah Henson served on the Board since autumn 2016.

The remaining board members and the entire membership are grateful for their service!

The chapter is now looking for two to three new board members to serve on the Board of Directors.

The board meets once a month. Its responsibilities are to hold true to the organization’s mission, raise the necessary funds for the chapter to operate effectively, represent PFLAG Denver in the community, and more.

The Board of Directors is a dynamic group of passionate individuals who are very active in the community.

If this sounds like something you would be interested in, please call the office at 303-573-5861 or send an email to pflagden@tdte.com.

All applicants will be considered by the current board, and those chosen for nomination will stand for election at the Annual Meeting next February.
Heartfelt condolences are extended to Gay Bossart and her family on the death of her brother Steven Kent on July 12. Steve taught and directed plays as a member of the theatre department of the University of La Verne, just north of Los Angeles. Gay reminds us that Steve was ten years her junior, and was her reason for joining PFLAG many years ago.

Thanks to Loretta Martin for sharing this interesting item from a recent newsletter of the Denver Art Museum:

In 1932 the Denver Art Museum received an unexpected $100,000 bequest from Denver school teacher Helen Lynch Dill. The greater part of the funds ($100,000 would be equal to $1.65 million today) went to purchase art by “living or near contemporary painters of reputation,” and made possible acquisitions of works by Monet and Renoir, among others. No picture of Helen Dill was ever available, until.....

Deborah Stone Elected to Hall of Honor

At the second annual Awards Brunch, held at the CHUN mansion on July 15, Deborah Stone was officially welcomed into the PFLAG Denver Hall of Honor.

Deborah joined PFLAG soon after her only son, Sam Roecker, had been outed and had come out to her at age 14. She quickly became involved, taking facilitator training and regularly facilitating support groups. She was elected to the Board of Directors in 2010, and then elected President.

When her son Sam applied for and won a college scholarship from PFLAG National, Deborah was moved to establish a scholarship program for Colorado students. She took the lead in creating and implementing the PFLAG Denver Scholarship Program in 2010. The program has since flourished and has provided more than $30,000 in scholarship awards to LGBTQ+ youth.

Deborah was born and raised in the Cleveland suburb of South Euclid, Ohio, lived in Berkeley for nine years, and moved to Denver in 1981. As a Certified Performance Technologist and Cognitive Psychologist, she founded her own consulting firm in 1983 and received many professional awards for her work. She is now retired.

In high school Sam was president of his school’s GSA and participated enthusiastically in the PFLAG Speakers’ Bureau. In 2009 the chapter awarded him a Lifetime Promise Award, the first of its kind, because of his many contributions to chapter activities.

Sam attended Tulane University, graduating in 2014 with a major in business. He now lives in Chicago with his partner of several years, and has started a business of his own.

Keeping Up with Chapter

Support – Education – Advocacy

SPEAKERS’ BUREAU – No speaking events in June.

HELPLINE—The office and Helpline received 18 calls this past month.

SUPPORT GROUPS – Four persons attended the New Families Support Group on July 6; no one attended the July 12 Latino Support Group. Attendance was 10 at the July 12 Trans Community Circle led by Crow Carag and Jules Tybor.