Help Us Meet $5,000 Goal on December 4

By Blanca Leos

Hello, PFLAGers!

As many of you know, Colorado Gives Day is just around the corner. We really need your support in helping us reach the $5,000 fundraising goal that PFLAG Denver has set this year. All you have to do is make a donation on December 4!

With the money you donate, we will continue to reach diverse communities, help advocate for our trans and gender-expansive families, grow our groups, and be able to give out scholarships to our young leaders! These are only some of the many activities that a contribution from you will make possible. Together we can continue to make a difference and carry our mission forward!

Last year, with your help, we were able to surpass our goal of $4,500. This year we increased the goal to $5,000 and we hope to exceed it once again!

Please keep an eye out for upcoming events and help us make this happen!

Continuing Outreach to Asian/Pacific Isl. Community

By Blanca Leos

PFLAG Denver continues to reach out to the Asian and Pacific Island (API) community by providing gatherings and by networking with other API organizations.

On October 21 we held a gathering at the CHUN Mansion to help us understand how that community wanted us to be involved, and how we could partner to make it happen. Seven people attended the event. Stacey and Paul from the API community led the discussion group.

To follow up, we plan to send out a questionnaire to get additional feedback. Our goal is to continue to plan these types of events quarterly to continue to network with the community. We believe that diversity in the LGBTQ and API groups is important and our chapter needs to participate fully in this effort.

Please keep an eye out for upcoming events and help us make this happen!
Trans Erasure? NOT ON OUR WATCH!

From PFLAG National, Oct. 22, 2018

You’ve no doubt read it: the memo (obtained by the New York Times) from the Trump Administration’s Department of Health and Human Services, where they argue that government agencies should adopt a new definition of gender which would essentially obliterate federal recognition of the estimated 1.4 million transgender and gender-expansive people living in America.

Make no mistake: The Trump Administration is doing everything they can to erase transgender people and deny them protections, despite clear messages from the mainstream medical, psychological, and scientific communities, court case after court case recognizing the rights of trans people, and of course the lived experiences of trans people and their families.

We shared a message yesterday from PFLAG National Board Member Stephanie Battaglino. That message—which can be read in its entirety on Twitter—represented not only PFLAG’s unyielding support of transgender and gender-expansive people but also harnessed the collective rage and fear felt by so many in the community.

“YOU CANNOT ERADICATE ME! My true self is a living, breathing, loving, human being. These things you cannot and will not take away from me, for they are embedded in my soul and in my spirit! And with PFLAG, I know I’m not alone.”

Stephanie is right—she isn’t alone.

PFLAG was the first national organization to include transgender people in its mission, and one of the only national organizations to walk away from advocating for the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, after it was suggested it be passed without the inclusion of gender identity and expression. Now we are leading on The Equality Act, legislation which is more critical than ever, given what we’ve learned in the last 24 hours about this plan to erase our trans loved ones.

Today, our Director of Advocacy, Policy, and Partnerships Diego M. Sanchez—a transgender Latino man of color and the first openly trans senior staffer to serve on Capitol Hill—will join leaders from other national organizations to speak out on yesterday’s horrifying developments, and then lead a protest rally all the way to the White House. As a representative of PFLAG who is also transgender, he knows what’s at stake...and so do we.

To our transgender, gender-expansive, and non-binary loved ones, we are here to say:

We will continue to work every day so that no one defines you out of existence. We see you, we hear you, we love you, and we will continue to fight for you, because we are all in this together.

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