



# PFLAG Colorado Springs

Parents, Families, Friends, and Allies United  
With LGBT People to Move Equality Forward

April 2020

## Inside Out Youth is a HIRO

This is a March 20th message from Inside Out Youth Services Executive Director Jessie Pocock:

“Daniel, also known as “Hiro,” first came to Inside Out as a bright 13-year-old who wanted to connect with other young people. Connection felt important to Daniel because he was home schooled, gay, and because he is autistic – all things that position young people like him, like the ones who come to IOYS daily, to feel isolated.

“Our adult mentors knew we were going to champion Daniel. What we might not have known then was just how he was going to champion us during a global health crisis.

“Since we made the difficult decision to close our center 4 days ago, Daniel has emerged as our HIRO, working side by side with program staff to build and launch a virtual online community center that provides our youth with access to digital support, professional mental health counseling, and importantly, to each other.

“Thanks to Daniel, most of Inside Out’s services and programs have continued uninterrupted and engage scores of youth every day, including some we haven’t seen in person for a while and even brand-new attendees from this region and beyond! We have essentially had *no gap* in our life-saving programs.

“It’s a scary time for our youth—many of whom are experiencing homelessness and lack of access to healthcare, and are feeling the stressful effects of COVID-19 as their parents lose jobs and struggle with financial insecurity or are confined to a home that is not safe space.

“The chronic isolation that plagues LGBTQ+ youth in our community is amplified by school closures and quarantine, making the need to connect greater than ever.

“Although our physical space is closed, our lifesaving and life affirming work stops for no virus!

“We are continuing to develop innovative means of community building



Daniel at his computer, making the magic happen.



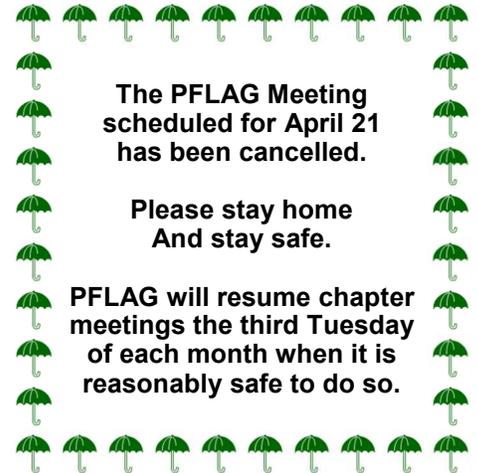
Daniel speaking at the 2019 You Belong Ally Up breakfast fundraiser. Photo by Mandy Penn Photography

and creative space-making for hope and healing.

“Keep an eye on our social media presence for fun engagement from Guest Curators and we welcome your words of encouragement to the youth in video, photo, or written format.

“We know this difficult moment will bring hardship in many forms. **But we are resilient, and we know that the sun will shine again.** This is the story of our lives as LGBTQ+ people. While we’re in the midst of the storm, we can still **LOVE BIGGER** and remind young people that we’ve got their backs! And we can delight in the way that young people—like Daniel—have our backs, too.”

*Jessie Pocock*



The PFLAG Meeting scheduled for April 21 has been cancelled.

Please stay home  
And stay safe.

PFLAG will resume chapter meetings the third Tuesday of each month when it is reasonably safe to do so.

Dear PFLAG Members and Supporters,

Your health and well being are a top priority for our PFLAG chapter.

With that in mind, and based on the information we have received from PFLAG National, the CDC and our local Health Department, we are suspending all in-person chapter meetings until further notice.

1) Specifically, we are cancelling the meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 21st. We have not made a decision about our May meeting but we will notify you by email and on our website- ([www.cspflag.org](http://www.cspflag.org)).

2) We will continue to provide support by email and phone. Send email to [info@cspflag.org](mailto:info@cspflag.org) or call us at (719) 425-9567.

Thank you for your understanding and support. Keep safe and keep washing your hands!!!

Colorado Springs PFLAG



Please make a donation to Inside/Out if you are able to do so. Donate on its Website: [www.insideoutys.org](http://www.insideoutys.org)



From the PFLAG Colorado Springs Facebook Page

This newsletter is published by the Colorado Springs Chapter of PFLAG.

**PFLAG Vision Statement.** PFLAG envisions a world where diversity is celebrated and all people are respected, valued and affirmed inclusive of their sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression.

**PFLAG Mission Statement:** By meeting people where they are and collaborating with others, PFLAG realizes its vision through:

Support for families, allies and people who are LGBTQ

Education for ourselves and others about the unique issues and challenges facing people who are LGBTQ

Advocacy in our communities to change attitudes and create policies and laws that achieve full equality for people who are LGBTQ.

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To join the local chapter and receive this newsletter regularly, complete and mail the membership form on page four. To receive complimentary copies of the newsletter, please contact us.

E-mail address: [info@cspflag.org](mailto:info@cspflag.org)

Support Line: (719) 425-9567

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Colorado Springs, CO 80949

PFLAG Colorado Springs website: [www.cspflag.org](http://www.cspflag.org)

PFLAG Colorado Springs on Facebook: PFLAG - Colorado Springs <https://www.facebook.com/PFLAGCS/>

PFLAG National Office website: [www.pflag.org](http://www.pflag.org)

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To receive your newsletter by e-mail, send a request to [info@cspflag.org](mailto:info@cspflag.org)

*Cindy Waldmann manages the PFLAG Facebook page, posting all sorts of LGBTQ stories, homilies, and rants. Here are some recent posts.*

**Dr. Fauci Had Zero Problems Criticizing Homophobia Right in Front of Mike Pence**

Dr. Anthony Fauci, one of the most prominent members of the White House Coronavirus Task Force, praised the LGBT community for their "incredible courage and dignity and strength and activism" during the HIV/AIDS epidemic at a White House press briefing on April 8.

That wouldn't be big news under normal circumstances, but he did so under the watchful eye of Vice President Mike Pence.

Mike Pence has supported numerous anti-LGBT laws (see <https://bit.ly/2xqv5HY>) throughout his political career. As governor of Indiana, he signed a "religious freedom" law that allowed business owners to discriminate against LGBT cus-

tomers.

He's also supported legislation that would jail same-sex couples for applying for a marriage license and tried to use AIDS funding to pay for gay conversion therapy.

This article in *Upworthy* can be read at: <https://bit.ly/3cq3cif>



**Transition Showers—Faith Naff**

"I think trans people should get thrown transition showers like brides and pregnant people get. All your friends come over to celebrate this big moment in your life, gift you things you'll need to start living your true gender, and just have a big party. Can we make that a thing?"

**I See You**



TO ALL THE LGBTQ+ KIDS  
Quarantined in unsupportive homes and spaces —

I SEE YOU  
Surviving day by day, and  
I'm SO proud of you.  
KEEP GOING.

*If you are a Facebook user, please respond to Cindy's posts and be sure to "like" the page to help it reach further into the community.*

**TYES**

Transgender Youth Education and Support (TYES) is a Boulder-based parent group that provides information and a community of support for parents of gender dysphoric and gender variant younger children.

PFLAG collaborates with TYES to provide support to parents in the Pikes Peak region. For more information, call (719) 425-9567 or send an e-mail to [info@cspflag.org](mailto:info@cspflag.org). The national TYES website is: [www.TYES-Colorado.org](http://www.TYES-Colorado.org).

**TransParent Group**

The TransParent group at Inside/Out for parents of gender variant and transgender youth usually meets on the third Thursday of the month from 6:00—7:30 p.m. at Inside/Out Youth Services, 223 North Wahsatch Ave.

For more information about the meetings, call Inside/Out at 328-1056 or send an e-mail to: [transparenting@insideoutys.org](mailto:transparenting@insideoutys.org)

**Stand With Trans**

Stand With Trans is a national support group of parents supporting the transgender community. See <https://standwithtrans.org>



## What's It Like to be in the Shelter?

Andy Petersen, Director of Development at The Place, has sent this message about the youth experiencing homelessness who are being served by the shelter at this time.

"Many of you have been asking what life has been like for the youth in the shelter and housing, as well as for the staff. On April 9, The Place's Employment & Education Case Manager, Karen Henschel, shared some of the day-to-day challenges in this video:

<https://theplacecos.org/covid-19/>

Executive Director Shawna Kempainen notes that "People experiencing homelessness have an increased risk of infectious disease due to their housing instability, limited access to standard hygiene, and frequency of other illnesses.

"While most prevention and mitigation strategies to address COVID-19 call for people to stay home, for the young people served by The Place, that could mean a tent, a car, our shelter, or possibly our housing program."

The Place currently provides:

Shelter—20-beds for youth age 15-20;  
Housing — 70 youth in apartments and homes; and  
Outreach — 500+ youth annually.



Kempainen continues, "While there is no cause for panic, there is real cause to invest now in planning, prevention and mitigation of the virus among the youth we serve, our staff and volunteers.

"The U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, Department of Housing and Urban Development and other such authorities have well-established guidelines for operating shelters and housing for people experiencing homelessness during times of increased risk of infectious disease spread. The Place is following such guidelines, and our approach is to be aggressively cautious within programs and facilities."

See the website, above, for updates from Shawna and an opportunity to donate.

If you can, please make a donation to The Place to support its work in this difficult time. Go to:

<https://www.theplacecos.org>

## San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus—Historical Notes

During the fall of 1978, a call went out to men in and around the Castro District (in San Francisco) who liked to sing, inviting them to a gathering with the purpose of possibly creating a chorus. The driving force was Jon Sims, the conductor of the Freedom Band.

October 30 was chosen as the date of the first "rehearsal" to be held at Everett Middle School. The word went out and flyers were posted around the neighborhood.

Interest mounted, leading up to that first gathering held at Everett Middle School. Around 100 men showed up on the first night. The atmosphere of excitement was described as palpable.

The men sang "If They Could See Me Now" and "Stouthearted Men." Jon Sims conducted the first couple of rehearsals, planning to call the group "Men About Town."

Other suggested names for the group (seriously) were Foggy City Chorus and Homosexual Choir ("gay" was still considered denigrating).

After a few weeks, Dick Kramer was brought on to conduct the new group, and thankfully, they settled on the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus as their name. It turned out to be a fortuitous decision.

The rest of the story is now legendary, suitable for movie scripts.

At the fourth rehearsal, on November 27, having spent the day with the news of Harvey Milk and George Moscone's assassinations, the singers showed up to rehearsal grief-stricken and in shock. Dick Kramer passed out Mendelsohn's "Thou, Lord our Refuge." The group then set out from there to the steps of City Hall for the candlelight vigil where they performed for the very first time.

Little did the men who gathered more than 40 years ago know they were actually giving birth to a worldwide LGBT choral phenomenon that now boasts hundreds of choruses around the globe.

— From the SFGMC Archives

## SFGMC Virtual Chorus Honors COVID-19 First Responders

*Thank you to Carol Oberg for providing this news from the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus.*

Watching "Truly Brave", the SFGMC tribute to COVID-19 First Responders online is like being in a Zoom session with the chorus. They're singing, blending their voices, but they're not standing together! Each singer's face appears in a separate box.

Watch this bit of magic by going to: <https://www.sfgmc.org/in-concert>



The website also introduces the new SFGMC-TV resource at: [www.sfgmc.org/sfgmctv](http://www.sfgmc.org/sfgmctv) with this message from the chorus:

"We're thrilled to bring the very best of the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus free and online to our friends and supporters around the world. While a small sample of our performances is included here, SFGMC is so much more — you'll also find interviews with notable stage and screen performers, bits of wisdom from our youth education programs and artistic team, and plenty of gaiety getting to know our singing members."

## Name Change Workshop Uses Videoconferencing

In lieu of the in-person meeting previously scheduled at the Inside Out facility in Colorado Springs, the Colorado Name Change Project, in collaboration with Inside Out Youth Services, Arrow Insight Counseling and the TransParenting group at Inside Out, used Zoom videoconferencing to present its Name Change Workshop on April 11th.

The workshop provided information and discussion about the process of updating a person's name and gender marker in Colorado.

The Colorado Name Change Project is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization formed in 2018 that provides free services to help Coloradans with name change and gender issues.

For more information, go to: <https://www.namechangeproject.org/> and also on Facebook: Colorado Name Change Project.



**BULLETIN BOARD**

**April 19— One Colorado LGBT Health Online Session —** 2:00—4:00 p.m. See article, this page.

**May 16—Queer Prom —** Inside/Out Youth Services has tentatively moved this event from April to May. Check [www.insideoutys.org](http://www.insideoutys.org) and its Facebook page for updates.

**June 20-21—Denver PrideFest —** Civic Center Park. Check website: <https://denverpride.org/> for up to date information.

**July 11-12—Colorado Springs Pridefest —** Check the website <https://www.cospridefest.com/> for updates.

**August 7-8—Out Loud Colorado Springs Men’s Chorus Spring Concert “Why We Sing” —** First Congregational Church, 20 E. St. Vrain St., Fri. at 7:30 p.m. and Sat. at 2:00 and 7:30 p.m. See article, this page.

**Ally Awards**

One Colorado originally scheduled the 2020 Southern Colorado Ally Awards at the Mining Exchange in Colorado Springs on March 27. Because One Colorado has been obliged cancel all of its in-person events through April, the awards ceremony will be rescheduled for a later date. For up to date information, see the One Colorado website: [www.onecolorado.org](http://www.onecolorado.org).

**This is Important**

You don’t always know where other people are on their journeys.

THEREFORE, PFLAG meetings must always be a safe space.

Who you meet, and what you hear  
Must remain strictly confidential.

**Thank You**

To the Saponas Foundation, First Congregational United Church of Christ and the Ruskey/Bianchi Family for their significant, ongoing support of Colorado Springs PFLAG.

**Out Loud Spring Concert “Why We Sing”**

*Update From The Out Loud Colorado Springs Men’s Chorus—April 13, 2020:*

In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, and to protect the health of the chorus members, patrons, friends, and family, Out Loud initially postponed the Spring concert until May 22 and 23. It has subsequently been further postponed to August 7-8. Any tickets already purchased will be honored.

The singers of Out Loud are looking forward to sharing their Love, Strength and Resilience with you in song.

Keep in touch by checking their website <https://www.outloudcsmc.com/> and on Facebook.

**One Colorado’s 2020 “What the LGBTQ Health? Closing the Gap Statewide Tour” Goes Virtual**



**LGBT Health Tour.** Data from One Colorado’s 2018 health report reveals that there is a gap between legal and lived equality in healthcare across the state. The organization is seeking community input to help close that gap through a statewide tour to provide information and foster community conversations about state of LGBT healthcare in Colorado.

One Colorado announced its “What the LGBTQ Health? Closing the Gap Statewide Tour” in January, not long before the Covid-19 virus triggered a statewide shut-down. Undaunted, One Colorado transformed its series of town hall meetings into online sessions using Zoom, a popular video conferencing program. The next one will be held on Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

To sign up for this session, go to: <https://bit.ly/3b4goJl> If you have questions/issues about accessing the session, contact Marvyn Allen in advance at [marvyna@one-colorado.org](mailto:marvyna@one-colorado.org) or 303-727-0632.

**Support Colorado Springs PFLAG—Become a Member**

You can join at any time of the year. The current membership year extends from October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

New member  Renewing member

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if you wish to receive the newsletter by e-mail

- Regular Membership \$ 30
- Supporting Member—Silver 40
- Supporting Member—Gold 60
- Supporting Member—Platinum 100

Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Each year our chapter must contribute \$15.00 for each paid membership to the PFLAG national office to support its mission.

Make checks payable to Colorado Springs PFLAG and mail to P.O. Box 49131, Colorado Springs, CO 80949. Membership fees and additional donations are tax deductible. Or pay by credit card online at website: [www.cspflag.org](http://www.cspflag.org) PFLAG is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.