



Inside/Out, Urban Peak Pilot Joint Outreach Project

This newsletter is published by the Colorado Springs Chapter of PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays).

PFLAG Mission Statement:

PFLAG promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT) persons, their families and friends through:

- √ **support**, to cope with an adverse society,
- √ **education**, to enlighten an ill-informed public, and
- √ **advocacy**, to end discrimination and secure equal civil rights.

PFLAG provides an opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation and gender identity, and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity.

PFLAG IS FOR EVERYONE

If you've never been to one of our meetings, we feel you will find it rewarding and may find it leads to a new sense of family.

Membership is not required.

All are welcome.

To join the chapter and receive the 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

Support Line: (719) 425-9567

P.O. Box 49131
Colorado Springs, CO 80949

PFLAG Colorado Springs website:
www.cspflag.org

PFLAG National Office website:
www.pflag.org

Newsletter Editor: Karen Flitton Stith
E-mail: karenfstith@gmail.com

To receive your newsletter by e-mail, send a request to info@cspflag.org

Joint Press Release— Youth who experience homelessness could be one step closer to getting off the street as Urban Peak Colorado Springs expands its outreach team and joins forces with Inside/Out Youth Services.

With start-up funding from the City of Colorado Springs Community Development Block Grant program, Urban Peak will have an additional outreach counselor primarily focusing in Downtown Colorado Springs. In addition to being on the streets of the city, the outreach team will now be able to utilize space at Inside/Out Youth Services location on South Tejon.

“Connecting youth to trusted adults who will not judge them is the first and most vital step in helping a young person get off the street and see the possibility of a better future,” says Shawna Kemppainen, executive director of Urban Peak Colorado Springs. “We know that Inside/Out is a safe space for all young people, and we know their staff are trained in working with youth experiencing homelessness. Youth are hesitant and often fearful of seeking assistance from adult-oriented organizations, and so the connection to Inside/Out is a natural fit.”

Eric Pizana is the executive director of Inside/Out Youth Services. “The unfortunate fact is LGBT youth are

anywhere from 25% to 40% of the homeless youth population,” says Pizana. “Inside/Out Youth Services regularly work with at-risk youth and we understand the kind of environment that will support young people in need. We are glad to be part of the solution that helps youth escape homelessness and to become accomplished and successful adults.”

Outreach counselors connect with young people on the street and provide basic needs such as socks, water, and hygiene kits. Additionally, they can connect youth with essential resources such as helping them replace lost and stolen IDs or even to reunify with family when that's an appropriate option. Most importantly, the outreach workers begin to build a relationship of trust with an adult that is often missing from a youth's life. That trust can lead to youth eventually seeking further support such as shelter, recovery programs and employment or education assistance. Last year, Urban Peak Colorado Springs reached 387 young people between the approximate ages of 15 to 25 who were living on the street, under bridges, in cars or in other uninhabitable environments.

The collaboration also brings two non-profit leaders full circle. Pizana was formerly an outreach counselor at Urban Peak, and Kemppainen is the former executive director of Inside/Out. Inside/Out Youth Services is a private 501(c)3 Non-Profit Organization in Colorado Springs serving the Pikes Peak Region.

Founded in 1999, Urban Peak Colorado Springs is a non-profit organization that provides a full convergence of services for youth ages 15 to 25 experiencing homelessness or youth who are at imminent risk of becoming homeless. Urban Peak serves youth along their individual journeys to self-sufficiency in providing a 20-bed shelter, street outreach, daytime life skills classes and activities, education and employment services, case management, behavior health services, meals and more. For more information, visit www.insideouttys.org and www.urbanpeak.org

Trans Youth Education and Support (TYES)

TYES is a satellite program of PFLAG offering education and support to families with gender variant children. TYES information is available at PFLAG meetings, and also at the PFLAG/TYES booth during PrideFest on July 19-20

A TYES meeting is scheduled for Sunday, August 9th. To contact the local TYES group, call PFLAG at (719) 425-9567 or send e-mail to info@cspflag.org. The national TYES website is www.TYES-Colorado.org



May 20th presentation by Steven Chavez, Director of the Colorado Civil Rights Division (CCRD).

By Bill Oliver

Anticipating a large attendance (which was just over 50), our May meeting was graciously hosted and co-sponsored by the Pikes Peak Metropolitan Community Church, Rev. Jim Lynch interim pastor. Our event was also co-sponsored by Citizens Project, COS Pride, PAGE (Peak Area Gender Expressions), the Pikes Peak Equality Coalition, S-CAP (Southern Colorado AIDS Project), and Urban Peak COS. Steven Chavez was accompanied by Maria DeHowitt, one of the division's regional supervisors.

The CCRD was originated in 1953, then only the third state to establish a civil rights agency. The division, which has been directed by Mr. Chavez for six years, is part of DORA – the Department of Regulatory Agencies. The director, a native of Denver, has an undergraduate degree from CSU/Fort Collins and a law degree from the University of Colorado.

The division basically has enforcement over Colorado's anti-discrimination laws in the areas of employment, housing and public accommodations. It also works hand-in-hand with the Colorado Civil Rights Commission, which is essentially an appellate agency and a rule-making body that reviews decisions that the division investigates. The commission is a broadly diverse, bipartisan seven-member panel appointed by the governor and confirmed by the senate. The Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act has been expanded to include prohibition for acts of discrimination against a person based on that person's sexual orientation, which includes transgender status.

A public accommodation is any place of business engaged in offering sales or service of any kind to the public. Typical examples include hotels, restaurants and stores. The division is largely complaint-driven, al-



Left to right: Maria DeHowitt, Steven Chavez, Bill Oliver

though it now has the authority to initiate action. As an impartial investigator, the division does not advocate for either side in a complaint.

The division has an excellent website and it provides details on the complaint process - www.dora.colorado.gov/crd. Please also check out this link for a brochure addressed to the LGBT community - <http://bit.ly/CCRD-LGBT>.

Mr. Chavez and Ms. DeHowitt each spoke for about 20 minutes, followed by a very informative Q&A session. Several leaders among our co-sponsors attended and participated, as did Representative Pete Lee, in whose district we were meeting.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED — Be a Part of PrideFest 2014— July 19-20

Please help PFLAG celebrate the 24th annual PrideFest in Colorado Springs on the weekend of July 19-20 by marching in the Pride Parade and/or volunteering to spend a couple of hours at the PFLAG booth in America the Beautiful Park. Volunteers hand out literature and talk to visitors about the support our PFLAG chapter provides. The booth is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. both days. Call Karen at 634-4433 to reserve your time.

TYES Partnership. This year TYES (Trans Youth Education and Support) volunteers will join us at the PFLAG booth. TYES is a satellite program of PFLAG which supports families with young gender-variant children. TYES

parents will be available to talk to other parents who have concerns about gender variant issues.

Saturday. Events run from 10 a.m.—8 p.m. Bounce houses, face painters and family-focused activities will be available throughout the park.

Sunday. Events run from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. A 5K fun run will take place at 10 a.m. More information about the run can be found on the Pride Center website: <http://www.cospride.org>

(Continued on page 4)



BULLETIN BOARD

July 19-20 - Colorado Springs PrideFest 24—America the Beautiful Park.—Plan to help staff the PFLAG booth. Both days! Send an e-mail to Jerry at info@cspflag.org to let the board know when you would like to help.

July 23— Off the Street Breakfast—sponsored by Urban Peak at its facility. Registration 7:00—7:30 a.m. 7:30 Breakfast and Program. 7:30 a.m. Program and breakfast. Breakfast is complimentary, Attendees will be asked to make a meaningful donation to Urban Peak. Sit at the PFLAG table—send an e-mail to PFLAG table captain Bill Oliver: gnarlybill@hotmail.com as soon as possible.

August 16 — Ally Awards Event - The annual signature event of the One Colorado Education Fund. Cable Center, Denver, 7:30—10:00 p.m. Tickets \$15 and \$20. The evening will culminate in an awards presentation to straight allies who work to advance equality and who make a substantial difference in the lives of LGBT Coloradans. The awards will be accompanied by live music, guest speakers and entertainers, a hosted bar, and heavy passed/stationed hors d'oeuvres. More information at www.one-colorado.org.

Oct. 3-5—The Pacific Northwest PFLAG Conference will be held in Boise, Idaho. The Gem State welcomes diversity supporting individuals, families and allies in the gay, lesbian, bi-sexual & trans* community. This conference is open to PFLAG members and others interested in an opportunity to grow their support, education and advocacy. Please register as soon as possible at <http://bit.ly/1mC55fR> If this does not take you to the registration form, try cutting and pasting it into your browser.

PFLAG Thanks The Saponas Foundation and First Congregational United Church of Christ for their significant, ongoing support of the Colorado Springs PFLAG Chapter.

PrideFest 2014 (cont.)

(Continued from page 3)

Sunday—New Starting Point and Parade Route The Pride Parade will line up at Tejon Street and Cimarron Avenue. Access to the lineup area will be via Cimarron Street only. We are encouraged to line up as early as 9:30—the parade starts at 11 a.m. PFLAG and TYES will line up together. Signs for us to carry will be available at the starting point.

The parade route is one mile long. Too far to walk? Join us where you can—just jump in along the way. From Tejon and Cimarron the parade will go north on Tejon to Colorado Avenue, then west on Colorado Avenue to Cimino Drive, which leads directly into the park.

Shuttle. A Sunday shuttle from downtown parking areas to the park is planned. Details will be on the Pride Center website when they become available.

Short Takes—from Bill and Carol Oberg

Huffington Post - June 20, 2014 It's heartbreaking to think that a state has erased the parents of children and put a family in legal jeopardy, simply because of discrimination against gay and lesbian couples. But that's what happened to a gay couple in Texas after what they described as the "magical" birth of their twin boys.

[Jason Hanna and Joe Riggs](#) are the proud fathers of Lucas and Ethan, who were born in April, after they'd connected with a surrogate mom, CharLynn.

Each of the men is a biological father to one of the babies. But, because Texas has a ban on gay marriage (it was [ruled unconstitutional](#) by a federal judge last February, but the decision was stayed pending appeal), and because a judge can use his or her own discretion in these cases, neither of the men is currently on the birth certificates of either of the boys, nor have they been able to co-adopt each other's biological child.

Support Colorado Springs PFLAG—Become a Member

You can join at any time of the year. The current membership year extends from October 1, 2013 to September 30, 2014.

Name: _____

_____ New member Renewing member

Address: _____

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

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

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

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 contributions are tax deductible. All information will remain confidential. PFLAG is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization.