



# PFLAG Colorado Springs

September, 2015

## Planned Parenthood—Responsible Sex Education Coordinator to Speak at September PFLAG Meeting

Taryn Bailey, the Responsible Sex Education Coordinator for Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains (PPRM), will be the speaker at our monthly PFLAG meeting in September.

The sex education program of Planned Parenthood has been recently revised to increase awareness and understanding of gender identity issues

Planned Parenthood has been providing health services and education to Colorado communities for over 95 years. A trusted healthcare manager, it provides free or low cost clinical breast exams, pap tests, and mammogram referrals to qualifying women in Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico and Wyoming as well as childbirth preparation classes and a men's sexual health program.



Sex Education Saves Lives

At its health centers, Planned Parenthood of the Rockies welcomes women and men of all ages and identities. All of its services are affordable and confidential. PPRM accepts many health insurance plans. Appointments can be made and walk-ins are welcome. <http://plannedparenthood.org/>

## Join the 2015 Race Against Suicide—September 20th



Pikes Peak Suicide Prevention will hold its 2015 Race Against Suicide on Sunday, September 20th at El Pomar Youth Sports Park, 2212 Executive Circle in Colorado Springs, starting at 10:30 a.m. Please plan to support this major annual event that raises funds to keep the local Suicide Prevention hotline and support programs strong.

Participants can register online at: <http://preventsuicide.webconnex.com/2015race> to participate in a 10K

or 5K run or the 3K walk. There will be a Memorial Balloon Launch at the end of the event. For more information, call Janet Karnes at (719) 573-7447.

Funds raised will help to ensure that the Suicide Prevention services and programs will remain strong and will continue to be offered free of charge to the public.

Janet Karnes, Executive director of Pikes Peak Suicide Prevention, was the speaker at our April PFLAG chapter program on Suicide Prevention. She provided a chilling account of the struggle that so many in the LGBT community face as they confront issues of rejection, hostility and exclusion at school, in the community and even within their families.

## SEPTEMBER PFLAG MEETING

Tuesday  
September 15, 2015

7:00 p.m.

Responsible Sex Education

Taryn Bailey  
Planned Parenthood of the  
Rocky Mountains

The Dwelling Place  
508 North Tejon Street

Everyone is welcome.

Social time begins at  
6:30 p.m.

## Time to Renew Your PFLAG Membership

It's membership renewal time at PFLAG!

If you currently receive this newsletter, you have also received a letter inviting you to renew your membership. If you are receiving a complimentary copy of the newsletter, you are invited to become a supporting member of the chapter for the 2015-2016 fiscal year.

Our chapter was formed over twenty years ago in response to the Amendment 2 controversy, and still is going strong today. We hold no fund-raising events. Donations from members enable the chapter to devote all of its energy to education and support.

In the past year, PFLAG volunteers staffed information tables and talked to others about PFLAG at PrideFest, the

*(Continued on page 2)*



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.

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**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.

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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@csflag.org](mailto:info@csflag.org)

Support Line: (719) 425-9567

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**Volunteer Opportunities - Colorado Springs PFLAG**

School Counselors Conference  
November 11-12-13. Volunteers are needed to staff our information table at the conference of school counselors from all over Colorado at the Antlers Hilton Hotel in Colorado Springs.

Represent PFLAG. We need a couple of volunteers to represent PFLAG at meetings of the Equality Coalition and Citizens Project.

If you can help, call Doug at 598-6509 or send him an e-mail at [info@csflag.org](mailto:info@csflag.org).

**Time to Renew Membership**

*(Continued from page 1)*

Diversity Fair, The Conference of Colorado School Counselors and numerous other events. We support the TYES family group. We publish the newsletter, hold monthly meetings featuring a wide range of speakers, maintain a website and respond to calls and e-mails requesting information and support.

To continue this work, PFLAG needs your support. Please send in your new or renewing membership or a donation in any amount today.

**Trans Youth Education and Support (TYES)**

TYES is a PFLAG affiliate that offers education and support to families with gender variant children. TYES information is available at PFLAG meetings.

TYES families in the Pikes Peak region keep in touch by phone and through a private Facebook page. They hold monthly family meetings. To contact the Colorado Springs TYES volunteers, call PFLAG at (719) 425-9567 or send an e-mail to [info@csflag.org](mailto:info@csflag.org).

The TYES program originated and is headquartered in Boulder,

More information is available at the national TYES website [www.TYES-Colorado.org](http://www.TYES-Colorado.org)

**Followup: Elsa's Story**

Our August newsletter included a brief summary of an excellent in-depth article and video produced by The Denver Post about a nine-year old gender-variant child from Boulder. (The article and video can be found at: <http://extras.denverpost.com/transgender/elsa.html> )

Elsa is growing up while transgender is having its moment. A civil rights battle is erupting alongside the eye-popping transition of Bruce Jenner to Caitlyn and a new comfort level in gender-identity exploration is playing out in television shows like "Transparent."

This new awareness is resulting in a pioneering generation of children who are socially transitioning to their preferred gender at home and at school.

Gender clinics for youth have opened in Boston, Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Dallas in the past few years, reporting overwhelming numbers of patients whose families are bringing them at younger and younger ages. In Colorado, more than 120 children are seeking hormone blockers at Children's Hospital Colorado in Aurora, to "pause puberty" and, later, hormones to stimulate puberty of the opposite sex.

"It used to be the case that people would say, 'Something is wrong with my kid. I need to fix them,' " said Kristina Olson, a University of Washington psychology professor and director of the TransYouth Project. "Now it's more, 'I didn't expect this.' "

**The Gender Identity Center of Colorado, Inc.**

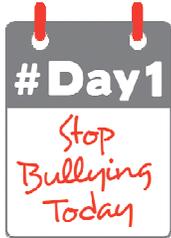
The Gender Identity Center was founded in 1978 to provide support to anyone gender variant in their gender identity and expression. It is also an excellent informational and educational resource for the community at large.

The Center is open to anyone, male/female/ other / who can benefit from its services or resources, including spouses, significant others, parents and siblings. Call (303) 202-6466 or go to <http://gic-colorado.org/>



## GSA Network Promotes “ #Day 1 Pledge”

As schools open for the fall, the Colorado GSA (Gay-Straight Alliance) Network is urging students, teachers, school administrators and families to take the #Day 1 Pledge to halt bullying., a project of the Tyler Clementi Foundation. To learn more, go to <http://www.day1campaign.com/>



In August, Colorado Springs PFLAG hosted a panel on efforts by the Safe@School Coalition to stem bullying in local schools.

Jan Tanner of the District 11 School Board, Lauren Cikara of OneColorado and Page Long, a senior at Palmer High School and co-president of its GSTA (Gay-Straight-Trans Alliance) led an in-depth discussion of student safety and issues faced by schools.

## Coalition of Colorado PFLAG Chapters

There are now seven PFLAG chapters in Colorado, located in Denver, Colorado Springs, Boulder, Highlands Ranch, Pueblo, Greeley and Ft. Collins. Representatives of the chapters meet quarterly .

The next Coalition meeting is scheduled for October 3rd at the Chun Mansion in Denver. If you would like to participate, contact Doug at 598-6509.

Volunteers are now coming together to establish a PFLAG chapter in Grand Junction. If you know someone in that area who could help or who would appreciate support from the new chapter, please have them contact Doug.

### **CORRECTED NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING**

The Annual Meeting of Colorado Springs PFLAG will take place at the monthly chapter meeting on Tuesday, September 15, 2015. The board of directors for the coming year will be elected.

## Though Not a Death Sentence, HIV/AIDS Still Bears a Powerful Stigma

*Program broadcast on National Public Radio (NPR) on August 16, 2015  
Narrator: Rachel Martin*

Indiana was hit with an outbreak of HIV/AIDS this spring, and it got a lot of attention because it is so exceptional.

Our perception of HIV/AIDS has changed since the disease emerged in the early 1980s. There are all kinds of treatments and resources — things that simply didn't exist when the epidemic began.



*"I was more so afraid of the stigma attached to the disease than the actual disease." says Guy Anthony*

In the U.S., an estimated 1.2 million people are living with HIV, [according to the CDC](#). New infections are down from the peak in the 1980s, but the epidemic is nowhere near over. HIV/AIDS has affected millions of people around the world. In this country, gay men have been hardest hit.

On [For the Record](#): HIV then and now. Two survivors, from two different generations, tell their stories, describe the stigma that shows up:

"Now, if you were to test positive today, how did that happen? What a disappointment you are. Why weren't you listening to all these prevention messages that we've been giving you all these years? You must be a terrible person."

To read/listento the story go to: <http://www.npr.org/2015/08/16/432435481/though-not-a-death-sentence-hiv-aids-still-holds-a-powerful-stigma>



Youth  
Services

Inside/Out Youth Services is hosting an [Open House on Thursday, September 10th from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.](#) to introduce its new Executive Director, Mary Malia, to the community and provide a chance to tour its space at 412 South Tejon Street. To RSVP, please send an e-mail to [director@insideoutys.org](mailto:director@insideoutys.org).

.Mary arrived on July 6th. "Inside/Out is a fabulous organization, with a long history of creating change in the community and providing a safe space for youth", she said.

She continued, " I am excited to be a part of that history, and look forward to ensuring that Inside/Out continues to strongly impact the community and our youth." Mary brings to Inside/Out many years of experience in organizational leadership and development.

The organization has provided activities and support for LGBT youth ages 13—22 in the Pikes Peak Region for over eighteen years, including regular meetings, pizza parties, movies, camping, LGBT Day at Elitch Gardens in Denver, and a Queer Prom in the spring. Several PFLAG chapter parents regularly volunteer as Inside/Out facilitators.

The annual Ally Up! Breakfast fundraiser for Inside/Out will be held on November 5th—Please put it on your calendar now.

Former Inside/Out youth who have aged out of the program have started a group called the Colorado Springs Queer Collective (CSQC) to foster community education, leadership and empowerment. More information is available on the Facebook page for "Colorado Springs Queer Collective" and on the website: [www.csqueercollective.org](http://www.csqueercollective.org)

### **PFLAG THANKS**

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



### News Notes

#### Julian Bond

*Chicago Tribune—August 23, 2015*

Civil Rights leader and former NAACP president Julian Bond died August 15, 2015 at a hospital in Fort Walton Beach, Florida, at age 75.

As an early proponent of same-sex marriage, Bond was among the few veterans of the civil rights movement to draw a link between racial discrimination of the 1960s and the drive for marriage equality.

In a video he made in 2011 for Marylanders for Marriage Equality, Bond said, "As chairman emeritus of the NAACP, I know a little something about fighting for what's right and just."

And "The humanity of any group of Americans is diminished when they are granted rights denied to others."

#### Chick Fil - A Location at DIA on Hold

*Denver Post, August 19, 2015*

Chick-fil-A's reputation as an opponent of same-sex marriage has imperiled the fast-food chain's potential return to Denver International Airport, with several City Council members this week passionately questioning a proposed concession agreement.

Councilman Paul Lopez called opposition to the chain at DIA "really, truly a moral issue on the city."

His position comes despite ardent assurances from the concessionaires — who have operated other DIA restaurants — that strict nondiscrimination policies will include protections based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Council members focused on political firestorms sparked by remarks made by Chick-fil-A's now-CEO Dan Cathy, reaching a peak in 2012 after court decisions favorable to same-sex marriage. The company came under fire for donations made by its charitable arms to groups opposing LGBT causes.

### BULLETIN BOARD

**September 10— Open House at Inside/Out Youth Services**  
5:30—7:00 at 412 South Tejon Street. See article p. 3

**September 13— Boulder Pride Celebration—** More information at Out Boulder: <http://www.outboulder.org/> Contact PFLAG in Boulder to participate. <http://pflagboulder.org/>

**September 20— 2015 Race Against Suicide—** Fundraiser for Pikes Peak Suicide Prevention. El Pomar Youth Sports Park, 2212 Executive Circle, 10:30 a.m. See article, p. 1

**October 3—Meeting of Colorado Coalition of PFLAG Chapters—** In Denver. If you would like to attend, contact Doug Kirkpatrick at 598-6509.

**October 16-18— PFLAG National Convention,** Nashville, Tennessee. Join PFLAG supporters from across the nation for two days and nights of honing skills, building relationships and celebrating. More information on the PFLAG website at: <http://community.pflag.org/2015convention>

**November 5—Ally Up! Breakfast for Inside/Out—** Hotel Elegante. This is a major fundraiser for Inside/Out. Please save the date and plan to sit at the PFLAG table(s). Call Karen Stith at 634-4433 to reserve your place.

**November 11-12-13—Colorado School Counselors Conference,** Antlers Hotel, Colorado Springs. PFLAG will have a table at the conference to acquaint counselors with the support services PFLAG and TYES offer. Volunteers are needed.

### Urban Peak "Off the Street" Breakfast

The Urban Peak breakfast on July 22 raised over \$100,000!

Those who sat at the PFLAG table in the cool shade under the Colorado Avenue bridge included Bill Oliver, Charlotte Saponas, Karen and John Stith, Marilyn Davis, Therese and Pam Van Overbeke and Cindi Waldmann. Over 800 people came out to take a stand against chronic homelessness in our city and stand up for youth who are experiencing homelessness now. Thirty-five table captains hosted 80 tables.

### Support Colorado Springs PFLAG—Become a Member

You can join at any time of the year. The current membership year extends from October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016.

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.