



# HeartBeat



PFLAG Olympia, Washington

Issue 121 ~ Spring 2014

## Homelessness in Olympia: Focus on Queer Youth

**I**magine that you come out to your family as LGBTQ, or maybe just tell them you are questioning, and... they kick you out the house.

Now imagine finding yourself on the street with nowhere to turn. Your main source of income is panhandling, which does not always sit well with local businesses or police. Perhaps you've turned to drugs or alcohol to self-medicate. Sometimes people insult you, beat you or pee on you after the bars close. And if you are lucky enough to get a bed at a shelter, many of them are traditionally binary in gender assignments.

These are some of the real life stories we heard recently at the PFLAG-Olympia program on Homeless Queer Youth. Thanks again to **Cole Ketcherside** from Community Youth Services; **Meg Martin** from the Emma Goldman Youth and Homeless Outreach Project (EGYHOP), Interfaith Works Shelter Coordinator, and Program Director for The People's House; and **Sammy Harvell** from Partners in Prevention Education, Stonewall Youth. These amazing speakers helped us understand the challenges and needs our community's homeless population faces on a daily basis and how queer youth are more at risk. "A lot of good people end up on the streets," Ketcherside said. "That doesn't mean they are bad or unsafe."

Donations of time and money are appreciated to their various programs and shelters, including a new Young Adult Shelter. You can also help educate others and advocate for homeless services. For more info these and other resources visit [www. http://www.pflag-olympia.org/resources.html](http://www.pflag-olympia.org/resources.html).

**Courtney Schrieve**, PFLAG-Olympia President  
[president@pflag-olympia.org](mailto:president@pflag-olympia.org)

"We need in every bay and community a group of angelic troublemakers." ~ Bayard Rustin

**Our Mission** — PFLAG promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered 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 to secure equal civil rights.

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



**S**pring PFLAG-Olympia meetings and programs: PFLAG-Olympia meetings are held the **2nd Sunday of each month, 2-4 p.m.** at the United Methodist Church, 1224 Legion Way SE, Olympia, WA.

The first hour generally includes a welcome, introductions, support circle, and snacks. The last hour is our program. **Our upcoming programs are:**

**MARCH 9, Health Care Equality:** The challenges of health care and insurance in our country can be exponential if you are LGBTQ. **Group Health** is currently the only local provider who is listed as a Leader in Health Care Equality by the Human Rights Campaign. Meet local health care providers to discuss how the face of health care is changing for the LGBTQ community, where inequities still exist and what we can do to help!

**APRIL 13, Meet Polkadot:** Chat with local author and counselor **Talcott Broadhead** about gender fluidity, parenthood and redefining gender identity.



Their *Polkadot* series invites you to think beyond the binary and to join Polkadot, a child who does not experience their gender identity as either female or male.

**MAY 11, Drag Artists 101:** Olympia is blessed to have a strong Drag community. These generous and talented folks have held several fundraisers to support PFLAG and queer youth. There are drag artists of all genders and sexualities who do drag for various reasons or purposes. Sit down with several of them for an honest conversation -- and maybe a performance or two!

**\*Note programs are subject to change. Check our website or FACEBOOK for updates!**



**THANK YOU!** Special thanks to **Pizza Klatch, The Righteous Mothers, Steven Schalchlin, Olympia Federal Savings, Traditions** and others who helped make our January concert such a success! It raised over \$3,000 for PK and PFLAG-Olympia!

Thanks also to **Jake Powell**, Mr. Gay Olympia 2013-14 for producing the "Gods and Goddesses" benefit show.

**Have you paid dues or donated lately?**

Contact our treasurer, Larry Kronquist at [treasurer@pflag-olympia.org](mailto:treasurer@pflag-olympia.org) and he can check on your dues status. Or leave a message at our phone line at **360-207-1608**. **Donations are also always welcome!**

**Thinking of Going Paperless???**

If you would like to help save us postage and paper, please email [newsletter@pflag-olympia.org](mailto:newsletter@pflag-olympia.org) and ask to be put on our email only Newsletter and our Alert email list. Thanks!

 **LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!**  
<http://www.facebook.com/PFLAG.Olympia>

**HeartBeat** is a free publication of the PFLAG chapter in Olympia, Washington, now published quarterly. The editors are Alec & Gabi Clayton.

Unsolicited articles are welcome. The editors reserve the right to reject or edit material.

**The deadline for the next issue is May 15**

Mail submissions to:  
**HeartBeat**  
**P.O. Box 12732**  
**Olympia, WA 98508-2732**

Or email to: [newsletter@pflag-olympia.org](mailto:newsletter@pflag-olympia.org)



**Subscribe to the PFLAG-Olympia Alert List!**

The PFLAG-Olympia Alert is a one-way announcement email listserv designed to inform our members and friends of upcoming events. To subscribe, go online to: <http://lists.pflag-olympia.org/listinfo.cgi/alert-pflag-olympia.org>

**NEW or RENEWAL PFLAG MEMBERSHIP**  
*Please check the membership types you prefer:*

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$35	<input type="checkbox"/> Supporter \$100
<input type="checkbox"/> Household \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> Educator \$250
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior/Student/Low Income \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> Advocate \$500


New     Renewal

Membership \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Add this amount as my tax-exempt gift \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**TOTAL MEMBERSHIP AND GIFT \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
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PRINT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
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I want Olympia's quarterly newsletter *HeartBeat* **print version only.**  
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**PFLAG Olympia, P O Box 12732; Olympia, WA 98508-2732**  
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 **PFLAG**  
**Olympia, Washington**

**Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays**  
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**MEETS** at 2PM on the second Sunday of each month at First United Methodist Church, 1224 Legion Way SE, Olympia. It is handicap-accessible. In August we meet at 1pm for a potluck picnic in a local park.

**DIRECTIONS:** From Sylvester Park on Capitol Way and Legion Way, go 12 blocks east on Legion Way to Boundary Street. Turn left around the church. Park in the lot at 5th Avenue and Boundary and enter through the glass doors.

Mailing address:  
**PO Box 12732; Olympia, WA 98508-2732**

For more information:  
email: [info@pflag-olympia.org](mailto:info@pflag-olympia.org)

Or go to our website:  
<http://www.pflag-olympia.org>