



HeartBeat



PFLAG Olympia, Washington

Issue 131~ Fall 2016

100 Days Later: How You Can Still Help Orlando Victims

by Kathryn Coffman

It's been a rough three months since the shooting in Orlando, Florida at the gay nightclub Pulse that took 49 innocent lives and wounded many others, but people are still donating to help the victims and their families.

The GoFundMe.com account that was set up by the Equality Florida Institute, Inc. as the "Pulse Victim Fund" has since reached nearly eight million dollars donated by over 119,000 individuals around the world. The National Compassion Fund and the One Orlando Fund are two of the other larger scale funds accepting donations.



Perhaps the most touching of all available funds is one called "Muslims United for Victims of Pulse Shooting." This fund has since raised over \$102,000 and although it is Muslim-led, all faiths are encouraged to donate. The bridging together of different groups of faith shows us how collaborative our country can (and should) be.

However, many of the so-called "funds" circulating around the Internet have been deemed fake and illegitimate. In an investigation by The Associated Press of 30 funds posted on GoFundMe.com, only nine of the 30 fund organizers agreed to speak in interviews and most of these 30 campaigns lacked vital information, including who was asking for the donations and what the donations would be used for.

Luckily, many of the larger funds have come together to form an official centralized campaign that has now raised more than \$24 million dollars, including the eight

million from Equality Florida. Since the shooting, we learned the many names and the many stories of the victims who were either injured or lost their lives that night in Orlando, but we've also learned of the glimmer of hope that has been found for some after this tragic event.

Just one month ago, shooting survivor Angel Colon, who was once told he may never walk again after being shot six times in the leg, took his first steps on his own exactly two months after the shooting. Another survivor, Tony Marrero

went on The Ellen DeGeneres Show and met singer Katy Perry, sharing with her just how much her new hit song, "Rise" meant to him during his recovery. Marrero was shot four times in the back, but the bullets missed all of his major organs. These miracles give us something to strive for as we hear the stories of more survivors.

It may come as a surprise to some Americans that over 200 people were killed by guns in America in the first week following the Orlando shooting, and over 500 total were shot. This violence has become commonplace in our society, and with each passing day we become further desensitized to the idea of gun violence in our country, our state and inevitably our city. This should beg us to pose the following question: "What can I do to help solve this national epidemic?"

To donate to the victims of Orlando, you can visit the Equality Florida GoFundMe page by typing this URL into your web browser: www.gofundme.com/PulseVictimsFund.



PFLAG-Olympia meetings are held the 2nd Sunday of each month, 2-4:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 1224 Legion Way SE, Olympia. The first hour includes a welcome, introductions, and our program, followed by snacks and support circles.

What is happening at upcoming meetings?

October 9 – Annual Candidates Forum – presentations by candidates for elected offices in Olympia, Lacey, Tumwater and Thurston County

November 13 – Behavioral Health suicide, self-harm prevention – what leads to suicide and what are its impacts

December 11 – Annual Holiday Party

Each time a person stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, these ripples build a current that can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.

— Bobby Kennedy

Our Mission — PFLAG promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender 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.

**CHECK OUT
OUR NEWLY
DESIGNED
WEBSITE!**

<http://pflag-olympia.org/>



It is currently "under construction." Much more to be added soon. Take a look and check back soon for updates.

Juliette Knight receives Steve Mast Advocacy Award at 2016 PFLAG-Olympia picnic

Steve Mast was a wonderful father, husband, friend, veteran, PFLAG board member and activist in the LGBTQ community who passed away in August 2014.



In his memory, PFLAG Olympia presents an annual Steve Mast Advocacy Award to a parent or parent-like figure that has fought on behalf of and/or greatly supported someone who identifies as LGBTQ.

Juliette Knight was presented with the Steve Mast Award at the annual PFLAG-Olympia picnic at Priest Point Park in August. The previous award recipient was Donna Doyle in 2015.

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

Have you paid dues or donated to PFLAG-Olympia lately? Contact our treasurer, Larry Kronquist at treasurer@pflag-olympia.org and he can check dues status. Donations are welcome!

Join or donate:
<http://www.pflag-olympia.org/membership.html>



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, send your request to be added to newsletter@pflag-olympia.org or subscribe online with the form at <http://pflag-olympia.org/newsletter.html>

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 |
|
 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New | <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal |

Membership \$ _____

Add this amount as my tax-exempt gift \$ _____

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP AND GIFT \$ _____

DATE: _____ PHONE: _____

Signed: _____

PRINT NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

- I want Olympia's quarterly newsletter *HeartBeat* print version only.
- I want Olympia's quarterly newsletter *HeartBeat* sent as email only.
- I want Olympia's quarterly newsletter *HeartBeat* both print and email.
- I want to be added to the PFLAG-Olympia email alert list.

PFLAG Olympia, P O Box 12732; Olympia, WA 98508-2732
 PFLAG is a tax-exempt non-profit 501(c)(3) organization not affiliated with any political or religious institution.



PFLAG
 Olympia, Washington

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

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