



Out & About

News and notes for LGBT-parented families



Ride the PFP Trolley in the Philly Pride Parade

Meet PFP families at 11:30am on Sunday, June 9 at 13th and Locust and board the PFP trolley in the Philly Pride Parade. (The 2012 trolley is pictured.)

Thanks to trolley sponsor Children's Hospital of Philadelphia's Office of Diversity and Inclusion for helping us defray the cost.

The parade goes from the Gayborhood in Center City to Penn's Landing, arriving between 1-1:30pm. We are normally near the front of the parade, so families can get out and watch the rest of it, go to the festival (\$10/person for 12 and over) or catch a ride on the trolley back to Center City.



At the Penn's Landing Pride Festival, Philly Family Pride will again be sponsoring the Family Zone as a place for LGBT parents to stop by with their kids. This year's activities will include the popular Spin Art machines (use just a little paint!) and duct tape crafts.

PFP families got a head start on Pride this year in New Hope (pictured) on May 18th in a cool, damp weather parade from the high school down the main drag.

The crowd was supportive as always and the kids enjoyed the rest of the parade at the end.

Thanks to PFP board members Robin Matthews and Bryan Berchok for leading the PFP crew and Robin for painting faces, too!



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2013 Equality Forum

PFP sponsored two panels and a happy hour on Saturday, May 4 at the recent [Equality Forum](#). First up was a panel about surrogacy with RMA of Philadelphia's Dr. Jackie Gutmann, TJ Henderson from Surrogate Services International and attorney Tiffany Palmer. The group also heard from a soon-to-be dad whose surrogate is pregnant with twins.

Following that session, PFP held a more general panel, LGBT Parenthood, for new and prospective LGBT parents. Attendees asked the current parents on the panel a wide range of questions (pictured below). Topics included using a known sperm donor, trans families and parenting as well as legal issues and adoption.

Here are panelists and PFP board members from the LGBT Parenthood workshop - Deidre Ashton, Bryan Berchok, Robin Matthews and Wendy Forbes.



A happy hour was held in the [William Way Center](#) lobby afterwards as a chance for the panelists and participants to chat informally -- while enjoying free snacks and drinks provided by Philly Family Pride.

On Sunday May 5, PFP had a table at SundayOUT to reach out to potential new members and prospective parents at the Piazza in Northern Liberties. Thanks to everyone who stopped by to say hello!

Singles Get Together in South Philly

The first singles event of the 2013 PFP calendar took place at the home of PFP member Greg Seaney (pictured) in South Philly on May 19.

The weather didn't cooperate for the group to meet in Hawthorne Park across the street, but everyone was flexible and had a good time at Greg's.

A half dozen singles, some parents, some prospectives, mixed and mingled while the kids in attendance got along "swimmingly." Watch for other singles events on the



calendar, including the upcoming [Dads and Singles Mixer](#) on June 29th.

Check out the [profile of Greg](#) in a recent issue of the Philly Gay News. (Photo from the PGN.)

Member Milestone

♥ Kali Becker Derderian turns 16 on June 1st! Kal is a second degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do, and an accomplished competitor and instructor at DeStolfos Premier Martial Arts school.

She's shown here with proud mom Pam Derderian.

Congratulations and happy birthday!



If you'd like a family milestone included in an upcoming newsletter, please e-mail Stephanie Haynes at stephanie@phillyfamilypride.org.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, June 8: PFP members Jodi and Adrienne are hosting a PFP [Moms Potluck](#) at their home near Levittown, Bucks County from 11am-2pm.



Sunday, June 9: Ride the PFP trolley in the Philly Pride parade (sponsored again by the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia) and visit the Family Zone at Penn's Landing. [More info.](#)

June 13-15: Volunteer at PFP's table at the annual [Philadelphia Trans-Health Conference](#) at the convention center. E-mail Community Coordinator [Stephanie Haynes](#) if you can help out.

Saturday, June 22: PFP is cosponsoring a bus to help get people from Philly to a [rally for marriage equality](#) in Harrisburg. Vice-Chair Wendy Forbes is one of the organizers. [Read more about the organizers in this PGN article.](#) [RSVP on Facebook.](#)

Saturday, June 29: For a twist on the Dads Potlucks, we're having a Dads and Singles Mixer Pool Party in South Philly. [More info.](#)



Saturday, July 13: Philly Family Pride's annual [Summer Picnic](#) will be held again this year at the Elmwood Park Zoo in Norristown, PA from 11am – 2pm. (Pictured above, kids at last year's picnic.) Thanks to [Jerner & Palmer](#) for sponsoring this year's picnic.

Saturday, July 27: Meetup with other PFP families at the [Smith Playground](#) in Philadelphia's Fairmount Park at 10am.

Sunday, August 4: For those PFP families visiting Provincetown for the annual Family Week, Marc and David Berman will be hosting an [ice cream social](#) from 1-3pm.

Save the date! PFP's Fourth Annual [Family Matters Conference](#) will take place on Saturday, October 19th at the William Way Center. Stay tuned for more details.

Keep an eye on our [Facebook](#) page and [Twitter](#) feed for more upcoming events.



Crossroads Project Discovery Program Looking for Foster Parents for LGBTQ Youth

written by PFP Vice Chair Wendy Forbes

Crossroads Project Discovery Program in New Jersey is looking for six foster families for Homeless LGBTQ Youth. I had the amazing opportunity to meet Clinical Admissions and Marketing Manager, Jane Lee, of Crossroads at Philadelphia Family Pride's *LGBT Parenthood Seminar* during Equality Forum. After a few minutes of talking to Jane, I knew that we could work together to find foster homes for these homeless youth.

Project Discovery was created in 2005 to provide lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and/or questioning (LGBTQ) homeless youth ages 12-21 years-old a community-based home environment with support and sensitivity to their unique needs.

Ms. Lee is currently looking for six LGBTQ foster families for this therapeutic program. A supportive foster family environment allows youth to experience a "normalized"

Supportive foster family environments allow youth to experience a normalized treatment setting in the community, feel a sense of belonging, and reduce feelings of hopelessness, despair, or self loathing. The program is also designed to help youth accept and celebrate the adolescent development process of sexual orientation, especially as they question their identity.

Thirty-five percent of homeless youth identify as LGBTQ and 26% of gay males and lesbians have reported leaving home due to family conflicts about their sexual orientation. More than 50% of transgender youth will have one suicide attempt by their 20th birthday. Many of these kids are thrown away by their birth families and/or leave due to family bullying.

Project Discovery is a therapeutic program that provides treatment parents with pre-service training and continual support and coaching to help them care for the youth, including weekly in-home visits from a case manager. The youth are provided with weekly therapy, monthly psychiatric services and 24 hour crisis intervention. Crossroads also provides family nights out, group activities and respite time. The placement is a 12-18 month Medicaid funded program and a daily stipend is provided for caring for the youth. The goal of the program is create a loving supportive environment for the youth until they can be reunited with their birth family and/ or live independently.

Kaleidoscope is another youth program that Crossroads provides in conjunction with PFLAG of Collingswood. It is a place to go for LGBTQ youth in South Jersey. The group meets at "The Spot" the third Saturday of every month from 1pm-3pm at the Voorhees Town Center Mall.

For information about Project Discovery or Kaleidoscope please contact Jane Lee at (609)880-0210 ext. 27 or visit their web site at www.crossroadsprograms.org.



Suggestions for what else we should include in our newsletter? Want to sponsor our next issue?

Contact Stephanie Haynes, PFP Community Coordinator at stephanie@phillyfamilypride.org.

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