



INCREASINGLY OUT AND PROUD

Pushing outdated societal norms to advance with the times

Individuals in our country are becoming increasingly more and more liberated, open and honest about who they are and no longer willing to live in the closet regarding their gender and/or sexuality. As more and more people live their truth service providers must evolve with them. The issue of this newsletter demonstrates that with new insightful survey and poll findings. Friendship Place has been striving to evolve with the times and that is evident when local LGBTQ+ community groups reach out to us for participation in their events. Such as February's "Swap for Your Life" which is featured on page two of the newsletter. This work group is committed to keeping Friendship Place continuously expanding in its awareness, competency, and sensitivity through action and advocacy throughout our sites and offices and the community at-large.

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THE POWER OF ALLIES

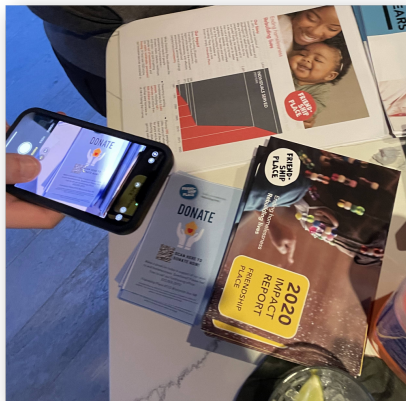
Don't shop. Swap!

On Sunday February 27th Mark Haver and Global Fashion Exchange presented Swap for Your Life at Number 9 on P Street NW. The Theme for Swap for Your Life is "Sustainable Glam", encouraging swappers to contribute clothing items, including footwear, that are fun, festive, and fabulous. How does it work? Bring 5 items (for example) to the swap, shop for 5 items from the swap to take home. It's an inclusive event that welcomes everyone who is interested in making a positive impact through the act of exchanging clothes.



The organizer of the event, Mark Haver, contacted Friendship Place to be a part of the event and to be featured as the charity of choice for financial donations. LGBTQ+ Work Group Co-Chair Chris Cannedy represented Friendship Place at the event and spoke about our mission to ensure everyone has a place to call home. Chris also mentioned how it would be wonderful to have a large walk team from the LGBTQ+ community in DC at our upcoming annual walk to end homelessness to stand up for and represent the 40% of homeless youth that identify as LGBTQ+.

The event raised over \$400 for Friendship Place.



Donors at the event used a QR code pamphlet provided by Friendship Place to easily and immediately donate via their cellphones. Over \$400 in donations were received.



NEW TREVOR PROJECT SURVEY PROVIDES NEW INSIGHT INTO LGBTQ+ YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

Results from a survey conducted in 2021

A wealth of important information was collected by the Trevor Project in its "National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health 2021." The Los Angeles Blade recently featured results regarding LGBTQ+ youth homelessness from the survey. It's far too much information to be included in this newsletter but here are some key findings:



Specific attention should be paid to preventing housing instability among LGBTQ youth in foster care. Previous scholarship has established that youth exiting the foster care system are at elevated risk of homelessness in part due to lack of a social and economic support network after they leave the child welfare system. LGBTQ youth are disproportionately more likely to be in foster care and therefore at greater risk of experiencing housing instability after exiting care.

Nearly half (44%) of Native/Indigenous LGBTQ youth have experienced homelessness or housing instability at some point in their life, compared to 16% of Asian American/Pacific Islander youth, 27% of White LGBTQ youth, 27% of Latinx LGBTQ youth, 26% of Black LGBTQ youth, and 36% of multiracial LGBTQ youth.

Shelter and housing facilities should provide LGBTQ cultural competency training to all staff to ensure that LGBTQ clients are treated with dignity and respect. Several advocates and organizations have argued that in order for LGBTQ people to truly be safe, the entire concept of congregate care settings (e.g., dorms that house multiple clients, usually divided by gender) needs to be reimaged or eliminated.

Please view the complete Los Angeles Blade report at:
losangelesblade.com/2022/02/04/new-report-homelessness-housing-instability-among-lgbtq-youth

The complete Trevor Project "National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health 2021" can be found at:
thetrevorproject.org/survey-2021

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The pain associated with the social stigma of being LGBTQ, of living in a culture that, for the most part, is homophobic and heterosexist, is traumatic.”

- Craig Sloane
 psychotherapist and clinical social worker



NUMBER OF ADULTS WHO IDENTIFY AS LGBT HAS DOUBLED IN PAST DECADE, STUDY FINDS

The research also shows more than half of LGBT Americans say they are bisexual.

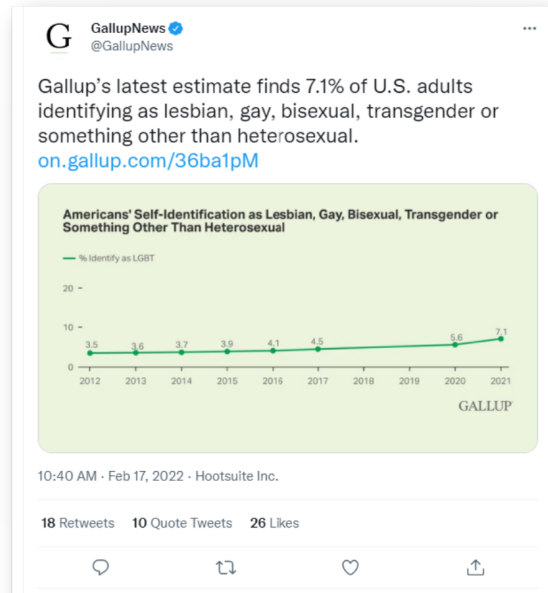
By Tony Morrison | ABC News
February 17, 2022, 6:37 PM

A new Gallup poll has found that the number of Americans who identify as something other than heterosexual has doubled in the last decade.

Currently, 7.1% of Americans consider themselves to have an LGBT identity, according to the study, which was based on aggregated 2021 data and included interviews with more than 12,000 U.S. adults. That figure is more than double from 3.5% in 2012.

Of the adults surveyed, 86.3% said they are straight or heterosexual, and 6.6% offered no opinion.

The study also revealed that while LGBT identification has been stable in older generations, it has risen significantly in younger generations. Over 20% of Gen Z adults -- those born between 1997 and 1999 -- identify as LGBT, followed by 10.5% of millennials, 4.5% of Generation X and 2.6% of baby boomers.



"The percentage of Gen Z who are LGBT has nearly doubled since 2017, when only the leading edge of that generation had reached adulthood. At that time, 10.5% of the small slice of the generation who were adults identified as LGBT," Gallup said.

Finally, the research estimated that of all LGBT Americans, nearly 57% identified as bisexual. That percentage translates to 4% of all U.S. adults.

According to the research, bisexual is the most common LGBT status among Gen Z, millennials, and Gen X, while older Americans are about as likely to say they are gay or lesbian as to say they are bisexual.

Overall, 15% of Gen Z adults say they are bisexual, as do 6% of millennials and slightly less than 2% of Gen X.

Meanwhile, 21% of LGBT Americans say they are gay, 14% lesbian, 10% transgender and 4% something else. Each of these accounts for less than 2% of U.S. adults.

"Jen Grosshandler, co-founder of The Gender Cool Project, a youth-led organization surfacing positive trans stories, told ABC News, "This is a moment in time to rally around. Every day I witness transgender and non-binary youth thriving in communities everywhere. Yes, there is work to be done, but this community is growing and will continue to grow."

Sarah Kate Ellis, the president & CEO of GLAAD added, "Thanks to increases in visibility, representation and equality, more and more LGBTQ Americans are able to come out and live as our authentic selves. But the new data shows that we also have a lot of catching up to do before LGBTQ representation meets the needs of Gen Z, which is now 21% LGBTQ."

"The facts are clear," Ellis said. "Our community is growing, and we will take our seat at the table."



CAPITAL PRIDE ANNOUNCES DC PRIDE 2022 - THE PARADE IS BACK!



Presented by
Marriott
INTERNATIONAL



Capital Pride Alliance has announced that for the first time in two years the annual pride parade is back in DC! The parade will take place on Saturday June 11 and festival on Sunday June 12.

Capital Pride Alliance announced the theme for this year is Reunited:

"Pride 2022 is an important celebration for our LGBTQ+ community as we are #reUNITED to build connections that can be then used to create positive change in our region, our country, and our world. We will once again return to the streets and meet each other as we renew the bonds and relationships that have empowered us forward to this point. The issues that are critical to our community did not disappear over the last few years, but instead grew and changed and now present us with new challenges. From further anti-LGBTQ+ legislation in this country to the perils faced by members of our international community in places like Turkey, Syria, Afghanistan, Central America, Ukraine, and many others, we must unify as we work on solutions that will move us towards a better world."

Visit the official website capitalpride.org for more details.



THE EQUALITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE DC METRO AREA - MONTHLY EVENTS

Friendship Place is a member of The Equality Chamber of Commerce DC Metro Area which has monthly happy hours free for members. The event, called Chamber Connect, features free food, drinks and swag. It's a great opportunity to network and get our organization name and mission into the community. If you're interested in attending a ECCDC Chamber Connect event please let Chris Cannedy know as prior registration is required.



The Equality Chamber of Commerce DC Metro Area ("the Chamber") is the nonprofit organization of hundreds of LGBTQ+ and ally members, with a network of several thousand LGBT professionals, allies, and business leaders in Washington, DC and the surrounding region. Website: eccdc.biz



Ending homelessness
Rebuilding lives

friendshipplace.org/lgbtq

THE LGBTQ+ WORK GROUP AT FRIENDSHIP PLACE

Co Chairs

Christopher Cannedy
(he, his, him)
Newsletter Editor
Community Engagement Manager

Orelia Lesh, LICSW
(she/her/hers)
Social Worker - The Brooks

OUR MISSION

The LGBTQ+ Workgroup of Friendship Place is a collective of Staff, Participants, Board, and Volunteers committed to ensuring that all programs, services, and expressions of Friendship Place are considered welcoming, affirming, inclusive, and safer for LGBTQ+ community members and allies.

We seek to continuously expand our awareness, competency, and sensitivity through action and advocacy throughout the broader Friendship Place community and community at-large.