

LGBTQ+ WORK GROUP NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2022



Ending homelessness
Rebuilding lives



A Proclamation on LGBTQ+ Pride Month, 2022 President Joe Biden

During Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Intersex (LGBTQI+) Pride Month, we reflect on the progress we have made as a Nation in the fight for justice, inclusion, and equality while reaffirming our commitment to do more to support LGBTQI+ rights at home and abroad. I often say that America can be defined by one word: possibilities. This month, we celebrate generations of LGBTQI+ people who have fought to make the possibilities of our Nation real for every American.

Today, the rights of LGBTQI+ Americans are under relentless attack. Members of the LGBTQI+ community — especially people of color and trans people — continue to face discrimination and cruel, persistent efforts to undermine their human rights. An onslaught of dangerous anti-LGBTQI+ legislation has been introduced and passed in States across the country, targeting transgender children and their parents and interfering with their access to health care.

These unconscionable attacks have left countless LGBTQI+ families in fear and pain. All of this compounded has been especially difficult on LGBTQI+ youth, 45 percent of whom seriously considered attempting suicide in the last year — a devastating reality that our Nation must work urgently to address.

This month, we remind the LGBTQI+ community that they are loved and cherished. My Administration sees you for who you are — deserving of dignity, respect, and support.



Former LGBTQ participant speaks

Samantha Newman, Corporate Citizenship Manager at Kilpatrick Townsend, messaged me via my LinkedIn profile.

I followed up with Samantha and she wrote:

"In June we are conducting a Diversity & Inclusion Summit in D.C. for our attorneys and we would like to add in a volunteer component and partner with a local D.C. organization. We'd love to lead a project that directly impacts LGBTQ youth that you serve, we are thinking of putting together hygiene kits and would like to donate them to your organization. In addition, we'd love to have someone from your org speak about the LGBTQ+ community you work with."



Samantha actually works at the Atlanta office of Kilpatrick Townsend. She handed me off to Amanda Marsh, Diversity & Inclusion Coordinator for Kilpatrick Townsend. Amanda met Indigo and me at the JW Marriott. After Indigo spoke Amanda and I had a chance to talk more and I mentioned I'm the co-chair of our LGBTQ+ Work Group. Amanda was very much interested in collaborating again with FP for future events and advocacy for LGBTQ+ issues.



KILPATRICK TOWNSEND

ATTORNEYS AT LAW



I reached out to Indigo Diggs our former FP participant and asked if she'd be willing to share her story and experience with FP. She did this so well at our annual breakfast fundraiser I thought she'd be the perfect fit. She agreed and on Friday June 10th Indigo spoke to the group and she was amazing.





Pride Month Outreach

Adam Shreeve, Community Schools Coordinator - Cardozo Education Campus, sent an email in late May inviting Friendship Place to participate in the schools June Pride event for Middle and High School students. He explained this would be a great opportunity for Friendship Place to engage students on all the wonderful programming we offer.



FP was on the scene on June 15th and educated students about our programming and its in-kind donation needs.

This event gave FP Community Engagement an opportunity to rebrand its In Kind Donation Guide brochure for an LGBTQ+ audience.



Community Engagement's In Kind Donation Guide brochure



LGBTQ+ Youth Homelessness – What You Need To Know

Research has shown that those who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning (LGBTQ+) have a 120% higher risk of experiencing some form of homelessness.

Youth who identify as LGBTQ+ disproportionately experience homelessness. They are at high risk for family rejection, physical assaults, and sexual exploitation in shelters and on the streets. Providing safe, supportive, and welcoming environments for LGBTQ youth is essential for reaching this vulnerable population.

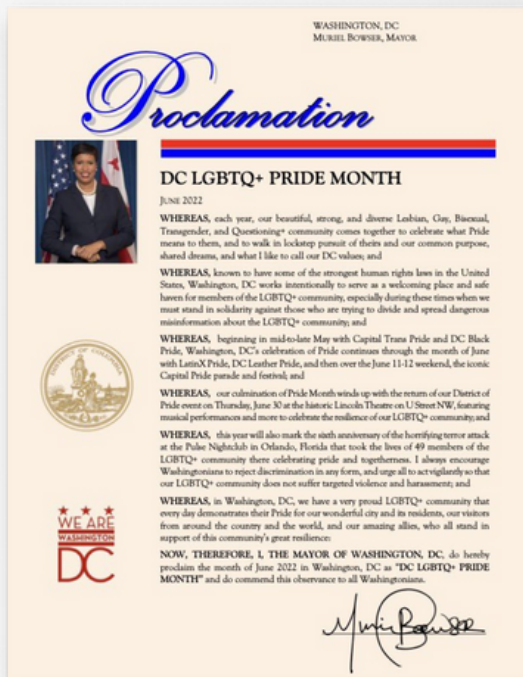
Research from cities has shown that a high proportion of their chronically homeless adult population first experienced homelessness as a young person under 25. For example, the City of Seattle found 43% of their unsheltered homeless population first experienced homelessness as a minor (18%) or as a young adult between the ages of 18 and 24 (25%). Therefore, we will not effectively address homelessness in America unless we boldly focus resources and investments on young people and intervening early.

Some LGBTQ+ homeless youth have reported discriminatory practices and policies when trying to access homeless youth services. Others have been assaulted by peers based on their sexual orientation or gender identity while participating in programs designed to help homeless youth stabilize their lives.



Information courtesy National Network for Youth. Read the full report at:
<https://nn4youth.org/lgbtq-homeless-youth/>





Capital Pride 2022 – #reUNITED at last!
DC Pride Parade was back for the first time since 2019!





THE LGBTQ+ WORK GROUP AT FRIENDSHIP PLACE

friendshipplace.org/lgbtq

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.