



PFLAG's Mission Statement

Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays promote the health and well being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered (GLBT) 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 an opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation and gender identity and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity.

PFLAG Support

A support meeting is held on the first Wednesday of each month. These meetings provide each person, no matter the stage of their journey to understand the nature of sexual orientation, the opportunity to share their experiences with others who have gone through similar processes.

Those who attend PFLAG meetings are pleased to learn that each of us go through similar steps as we reach a better understanding of homosexuality.

Many gay and lesbian individuals also attend PFLAG meetings to better understand what their family members are going through. Their participation is very helpful to the parents and families of recently out gays or lesbians.

PFLAG Advocacy

PFLAG advocates for equal rights for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered individuals. Locally PFLAG activists work to ensure that all GLBT individuals are granted their civil rights and are treated fairly. Nationally, PFLAG staff and volunteer leaders lobby for constitutional equality and against unfair prejudicial treatment.

If a son, daughter, niece, nephew or other family member has come out to you, or if you would like help in coming out to your family or friends, perhaps PFLAG can help.

Join us for a PFLAG support meeting. You will find a safe, accepting, encouraging environment where you are surrounded by friends. Meetings are confidential and there is no need for fear at being "outed" by attending.



PFLAG Education

Most of us have homosexual friends or acquaintances. Often we are unaware of this and when we do find out we may not know how to respond. It is particularly hard if the gay or lesbian person is a member of our family or a very close friend. PFLAG works to educate families and friends through the distribution of educational material and the maintenance of a library of GLBT books and videos relating to sexual orientation, gender identity and GLBT issues. A speaker's bureau taken from our membership is available to go into schools, medical facilities, corporations, or wherever needed or requested to speak about personal experiences or to address specific problems.

PFLAG Tucson

In addition to support meetings, PFLAG is involved in a number of activities during the year. Listed below are just a few of these.

PFLAG volunteers:

- Staff a booth at the annual Desert Pride ("OUT"oberfest) celebration
- March in the Gay Pride Parade
- Participate in the AIDS Walk
- Fund a scholarship program
- Host an LGBT Couples Celebration in February
- Host a Thanksgiving dinner for LGBT youth
- Host a Christmas dinner for LGBT seniors
- Decorate a Christmas tree at the annual Reid Park "Festival of Lights"
- Staff a booth at the UofA and Pima on "Coming Out Day"
- Publish a quarterly newsletter
- Maintain a website and helpline

There are many more activities that take place through out the year and many opportunities to be of service to the GLBT community.

PFLAG also works closely with other GLBT groups in the city, building bridges and creating a network of helping organizations that support the GLBT family.

Contact

You can contact PFLAG Tucson at:

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P. O. Box 36264
Tucson, AZ 85740

Phone: (520) 360-3795

E-mail: pflagtuc@pflagtucson.org

Website: <http://www.pflagtucson.org>

PFLAG's national headquarters:

PFLAG
1726 M Street NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20036

Phone: (202) 467-8180

Fax: (202) 467-8194

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Website: <http://www.pflag.org>

The History Behind PFLAG

Jeanne and Jules Manford were watching a gay rights protest demonstration on a local TV newscast in 1972 in New York. They were horrified as they saw their son, Morton, physically attacked. They were further outraged as they witnessed the police's failure to intervene. This was typical reaction from the police force in the 1970's. Their outrage turned them into activists.

Later in 1972 as Jeanne Manford marched with her gay son in New York's Pride Day parade, the idea for PFLAG began to formulate in her head. Many gay and lesbian people ran up to Jeanne during the parade and begged her to talk to their parents. She decided to begin a support group for these parents. The first formal meeting took place in March 1973 at a local church. Approximately 20 people attended. Today there are over 500 chapters worldwide with 250,000 members.

During the next few years, through word of mouth and in response to community need, similar groups sprang up around the country, offering "safe havens" and mutual support for parents with gay and lesbian children. We must never underestimate the power of a mother when it becomes necessary to protect her child. Learn more about PFLAG's history on the national website.



Join Us!

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Tucson Ward VI City Council offices at 3202 E 1st Street, one block east of Country Club Road and one block south of Speedway Boulevard.

Visit <http://www.pflagtucson.org> for a detailed map and upcoming speakers.