



The Pride Center of the Capital Region Announces Campaign

In the wake of COVID-19 restrictions, local LGBTQ Center uses new initiatives to keep mental health services open.

[ALBANY, NY - 03/08/2021] - The Pride Center of the Capital Region, a non-profit organization dedicated to advocating the upstate New York LGBTQ+ community, announces new initiatives to keep long-term mental health services and support groups open. The campaign, titled "All Together Now" will usher in structural changes to the Pride Center Board, employee roster, and volunteer and program management.

In 2020, the Pride Center was set to celebrate its 50th anniversary as the oldest continuously operating lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) community center in the country. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Pride Center could not host the annual Capital PRIDE Parade and Festival, and other crucial programming events. These event cancellations left the Pride Center with financial constraints and forced the organization to furlough employees and pause select community programs.

In addition, former Chief Executive Officer Martha Harvey stepped down from her position to mitigate the financial stress. Changes in employment took effect within the new year, with responsibilities given to remaining staff, dedicated volunteers, and a new executive Board.

The Pride Center will focus its attention on restoring lost programs and expanding its services to the community. With the new All Together Now campaign, the Pride Center hopes to move forward with these and other initial initiatives in the year 2021:

- The organization will revamp communication methods on various digital platforms and mailing lists to better understand the community's voice and express the Pride Center's operations.
- The Pride Center hopes to connect to local community organizations that serve groups such as transgender people, people of color, disabled people, youth, and many others and learn from them through collaborative projects and an exchange of resources.
- The Pride Center will develop strategic partnerships to better serve the community with the least overhead.
- Due to the hardships and strife of the past year, the Pride Center will expand mental health counseling, resource guides, and educational training throughout the Capital Region.
- The Pride Center will secure funding to keep its primary services and support groups open to the community for many years but, most importantly, to get past the hardships of COVID-19.

The All Together Now campaign has brought on new executive Board appointments from long-term Pride Center members.



Newly appointed board President, John Daniels, Board member for 7 years, said, “the past years’ challenges, at the federal level of government and the pandemic, may have put a damper on our objectives for 2020. We view 2021 as a year to re-envision, rebuild and re-energize the Pride Center.” all in an effort to create the Pride Center needed for and requested by our community in 2021 and beyond.

“As soon as the pandemic restrictions permit we plan to restart the previous community forums, to gather community needs, and commit to the planning and rebuilding process.”

Additional new executive Board members include Co-Vice President Ulysses deArmas; Co-Vice President Scott Levine; Treasurer Stephanie Slominski CIA; and Secretary Meghan Baxter. More information about the Board of Directors will be forthcoming in the March issue of Pride Center's magazine, CommUNITY.

The Pride Center, which strives to meet the health and human service needs of the LGBTQ+ community, will operate under the leadership of its Board of Directors. Part-time employees and hardworking volunteers will spearhead day-to-day operations.

To complete the All Together Now Campaign and remain open for 2021 and beyond, the Pride Center has identified a goal of \$110,000 to be raised in 2021 of which \$40,000 has been secured. The Pride Center relies heavily on continued volunteer and donor support. To learn more and to get involved, please visit www.CapitalPrideCenter.org.

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About the Pride Center of the Capital Region

Established in 1970, the Pride Center of the Capital Region is the oldest continuously operating lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) community center in the country. Working to support LGBTQ people of all ages, the Pride Center works in ten upstate New York counties to advance acceptance and improve quality of life for our entire community. For more information about the Pride Center, visit www.capitalpridecenter.org

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