



January  
2025

*Hello,  
Incredible  
Volunteers!*

SPENCER PRIDE  
**commUnity  
center**

# VOLUNTEER CONNECTION



#### Volunteer Meeting

Spencer Pride commUnity center  
17 E. Franklin Street, Spencer

**WE'D LOVE  
TO SEE YOU!**

**Volunteer Meeting  
this Sunday, 4 PM**



In-Person or  
Via Zoom



January 1 Grief Haven

Just a friendly reminder that Grief Haven will NOT meet on January 1 due to the New Year's Day holiday! If you need support during this time, please contact [Judi@SpencerPride.org](mailto:Judi@SpencerPride.org).

# Grief Haven



## Spousal Grief Support

**A PROGRAM OF SPENCER PRIDE**

Rainbow Birders - Winter Events



**Rainbow BIRDERS**  
A PROGRAM OF SPENCER PRIDE

### WINTER EVENTS

<b>SAT 1/11</b> ♿ IT'S A BIRD! IT'S A RAPTOR! NOW WHAT?  <b>FREE SPECIAL EVENT</b>	<b>2 EVENING OPPORTUNITIES!</b> <b>FRI 1/17</b> ♿ <b>SAT 1/18</b> <b>BEAR RUN MINE</b>  <b>FREE MONTHLY EVENT</b>	<b>SAT 2/15</b> <b>GOOSE POND</b>  <b>FREE MONTHLY EVENT</b>	<b>SAT 3/15</b> <b>LAKE MONROE FAIRFAX SRA</b>  <b>FREE MONTHLY EVENT</b>
<b>SAT 3/22- SUN 3/23</b>		<b>OVERNIGHT EVENT!</b>	<b>BIG TIME BIRDING SERIES</b>
<b>GOOSE POND</b> 			

All events subject to change. Join the Rainbow Birders Facebook group and follow Spencer Pride on social media to stay updated on the latest event information. Contact [Wendy@SpencerPride.org](mailto:Wendy@SpencerPride.org) with specific questions.  
♿ Denotes events that are wheelchair-accessible

Rainbow Birders Bear Run Mine - 2 opportunities

Our first bird outing of 2025 will be to nearby Sullivan County in search of the seasonal Short-eared Owls! To minimize potential disturbance to these magnificent birds, we are limiting the number of participants so you must register to attend. To offset the limited number, we are offering an outing on

both Friday and Saturday evening. Please contact [wendy@spencerpride.org](mailto:wendy@spencerpride.org) to register and/or for more information.



# BEAR RUN MINE



FREE EVENT!

**2 EVENING OPPORTUNITIES!**  
SPACE IS LIMITED - REGISTRATION REQUIRED TO REGISTER, CONTACT WENDY@SPENCERPRIDE.ORG

OPTION 1

FRIDAY 1/17

Meet at commUnity center at 3:30 PM *OR* Meet at Goose Pond Visitor Center at 4:30 PM

We will focus on Short-eared Owls.

Bring a packed dinner or snack!

OPTION 2

SATURDAY 1/18

Meet at commUnity center at 1:00 PM *OR* Meet at Goose Pond Visitor Center at 2:00 PM

In this longer session, we will do general birding in addition to observing Short-eared Owls.

Bring a packed dinner!

Event subject to change. Join the Rainbow Birders Facebook group and follow Spencer Pride on social media to stay updated on the latest event information. Contact Wendy@SpencerPride.org with specific questions.  
 Denotes events that are wheelchair-accessible

## PREPARING FOR BEAR RUN MINE

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- We will caravan in vehicles; exiting vehicle is not required to see owls
- Wheelchair-accessible restrooms are available at Goose Pond Visitors Center
- Dirt/gravel trails

WHAT TO BRING:

- Packed dinner or snack
- Sturdy walking shoes or boots (on Saturday: waterproof is better!)
- Warm clothing
- Binoculars (if you have!)\*


Rainbow Birders' leaders will provide a safe and inclusive experience where you can learn about birds, connect with others, and enjoy our world!



\*Rainbow Birders has a limited number of binoculars available for use on a first-come, first-serve basis.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT WENDY@SPENCERPRIDE.ORG

Iris Youth January Events



A PROGRAM OF SPENCER PRIDE  
LGBTQ+ Youth & Allies ages 10-19

Join us for  
**Cookies & Canvas**  
Wednesday,  
January 8th at 5 pm  
Spencer Pride  
commUnity center



A PROGRAM OF SPENCER PRIDE  
LGBTQ+ Youth & Allies ages 10-19

Join us for snacks and  
board games  
Wednesday, January  
22nd at 5 pm  
Spencer Pride  
commUnity center



We will have plenty of games but you can bring your favorite!

Raptors Reprise

Have you ever driven by a perched raptor and wondered what it was? This free presentation is for you!

# It's a Bird! It's a Raptor! Now What?



AN EDUCATIONAL  
PRESENTATION ON  
IDENTIFYING COMMON  
RAPTORS

- Free event
- In-person only
- Wheelchair - accessible
- Contact us for further accessibility information

**Saturday  
1/11, at 1 PM**  
at Spencer Pride commUnity center



Handmade bespoke "Stand Together" quilt by Julie Parmenter



Purchase tickets in-person or online through Jan 27th



Stand Together  
Quilt Sweepstakes

\$5/ticket or 6/\$25

Handmade, bespoke quilt  
by Julie Parmenter



Purchase your tickets for a chance to win before January 27th:

1. Visit the commUnity center
2. Text "spencerpride" to 33100
3. Use the QR code
4. Go to: <https://go.rallyup.com/standtogetherquilt>

You can receive free entries for sharing your customized sweepstakes link on Facebook/Instagram and for each donation you bring in.

This quilt is based on a log cabin block. A traditional log cabin block's center square is red or yellow, denoting the fire or light in the home. There is a story that during slavery days, quilters made black center blocks and when hung outside, the quilt indicated that this home was a stop on the Underground Railroad. Using that as inspiration, Julie's quilt will have black, rainbow, brown and pink center blocks indicating support for Black lives, the LGBTQ+ community, immigrants and women. A picture of the first block is attached.

NO PURCHASE, DONATION OR PAYMENT OF ANY KIND NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN. Receive a free entry form: <https://go.rallyup.com/8527c2/mailentryrequest>

#### Iris Youth February Events

**Iris Youth Group**  
A PROGRAM OF SPENCER PRIDE  
LGBTQ+ Youth & Allies ages 10-19

Join us to dip and decorate pretzels!  
Wednesday, February 12th @ 5:00 pm  
Spencer Pride community center

**Iris Youth Group**  
A PROGRAM OF SPENCER PRIDE  
LGBTQ+ Youth & Allies ages 10-19

Bring a backpack or other item and join us to sew on patches  
Wednesday, February, 26th  
At 5:00 pm  
Spencer Pride community center

Patches below will be provided.  
Just bring something to sew them on!

#### A note from your Communications Director

Happy New Year! Welcome to 2025!

I wanted to take this moment to share some tips with you that can help Spencer Pride boost participation in our programs.

Our Social Media presence is on Facebook and Instagram. We removed our Twitter/X account when the terms and conditions no longer aligned with our mission. I know there are other social media accounts out there (Blue Sky and Threads as well as others), and they will be assessed accordingly.

Social Media functions on algorithms. In order for Spencer Pride to thrive online, we need everyone's support.

How can you do this? Here are some simple ways you can boost Spencer Pride on Social Media, without leaving the comfort of your chair.

1. If you go to the commUnity center, **check in**.
2. If you see a Facebook event that interests you, click the **interested** button.
3. If you know you will attend a Facebook event, click the **going** button.
4. If you think something might interest your friends on Facebook or Instagram, **share** the post.
5. **Like** and **Comment** on Social Media posts.
6. If you happen to take a picture at one of our events, **tag** Spencer Pride in your personal post.

Believe it or not, the above actions will do more to boost Spencer Pride online than if I were to create posts on our page.

Finally, let's remember that Spencer Pride has a website. You can always check our website out for information, as well as tell



others to visit our website. It's real easy to remember: [www.SpencerPride.org](http://www.SpencerPride.org)

---

#### Owen County Community Foundation Match Program

**As our nation navigates a politically charged landscape, the stability of Spencer Pride has never been more important to south central Indiana.**

Your gift will safeguard our mission to make Indiana a more welcoming place for all. By supporting Spencer Pride, you're not only securing our future, but also investing in our community today. A portion of Owen County Community Foundation's match to your endowment gift will help us renovate the east side of our building.

**Donate now at**  
**[www.spencerpride.org/donate](http://www.spencerpride.org/donate)**  
(Select OCCF Match in the drop-down menu.)



As our nation navigates a politically charged landscape, the stability of Spencer Pride has never been more important to south central Indiana. A donation to our endowment at the Owen County Community Foundation ensures our vital programs continue, regardless of shifting political winds. Your gift will safeguard our mission to make Indiana a more welcoming place for all, empowering us to weather any storm and emerge stronger than ever. Join us in securing a future where Spencer Pride thrives, no matter the political climate.

Your generous donation will be doubled thanks to OCCF's matching gift campaign! This means your impact will be twice as powerful. By supporting Spencer Pride, you're not only securing our future but also investing in our community today. A portion of OCCF's match to your endowment gift will help us renovate the east side of our building, creating a more accessible and welcoming space for all. Let's work together to build a brighter future, one floorboard at a time.

Please visit the commUnity center to donate to our match campaign, or go to [www.spencerpride.org/donate](http://www.spencerpride.org/donate) and select "OCCF Match" in the drop-down menu

---

#### 02/08/25: Disruptive Empathy

Please join us on Saturday, February 8th at 1pm Eastern, in-person at the commUnity center or virtually via Zoom, to hear Amy Makice, @Bloomington Center for Connection, discuss disruptive empathy.

In a world of growing tension, how can we stay connected to those who see the world differently, while still advocating for care? Relational-Cultural Theory (RCT) offers a framework for fostering relationships through growth and possibility.

Join us for an engaging presentation exploring Maureen Walker's concept of Disruptive Empathy, a powerful tool for creating understanding and connection across deep divides.

We'll cover:

\*A brief history of Relational-Cultural Theory: How it redefines growth through connection.

\*Disruptive Empathy: What it is and how it challenges disconnection.

\*Tools for engaging with reluctant support among family and community members

This event is designed for queer individuals and allies seeking compassionate, practical ways to navigate difficult conversations with loved ones or community members.

Please reach out to @Judi Epp at [judi@spencerpride.org](mailto:judi@spencerpride.org) for more information or to get the Zoom login information.

# Disruptive Empathy: Bridging Divides with Relational-Cultural Theory

Amy Makice, Bloomington Center for Connection



Join us to explore the concept of Disruptive Empathy, a powerful tool for creating understanding and connection across deep divides.

-  Free event
-  In-person / Virtual
-  Wheelchair-accessible
-  Contact us for further accessibility information

## February 8 at 1 pm

For more information and virtual access, contact [judi@spencerpride.org](mailto:judi@spencerpride.org)



### Coming 03/22/25: Reproductive Health Access in Our Times

During this 60-minute workshop, participants will receive tools and information regarding the current access landscape, specifically for abortion and birth control. This will be an organic, audience led discussion. We can be expansive and talk about gender affirming care, pregnancy care, and healthcare in general - but our presenter is cisgender, and not an expert on hormone therapy or many other aspects of gender affirming care. Our presenter has decades of experience in reproductive rights, health, and justice, and is an adaptive and engaging facilitator. Come as you are! Let's talk and learn together. Email [Clay@SpencerPride.org](mailto:Clay@SpencerPride.org) with questions or to request Zoom information.

A poster for the workshop "Reproductive Health Access in Our Times". The title is written in a pink banner at the top. Below it is a stylized illustration of a female reproductive system (uterus and ovaries) with various flowers and leaves. At the bottom, the date and time "MARCH 22 @ 12PM" and location "Spencer Pride Meeting Room" are listed. Below that, it says "Presented by Meg Sasse Stern". In the bottom left corner is the "SPENCER PRIDE Health &amp; Wellness" logo, and in the bottom right corner is a small illustration of a person on a unicycle holding various items.

### Coming 05/10/25: The Roles of POA, Guardians, and Executors

# YOU WANT ME TO DO WHAT? THE ROLES OF POA, GUARDIANS, & EXECUTORS.

May 10th @ 11AM  
Spencer Pride Meeting Room



You know you need to plan for your future when you aren't able to take care of yourself. But it's easy to push that off because it's hard to imagine what that means. Who do you trust to pay your bills when you can't? Who will make your health care decisions? Who will be your Trustee? Who will be in charge of your will? What if they aren't the same person? When do they get access? Have you ever wondered what happens when someone dies in possession of a vehicle that was never transferred to them? What about 200? Learn what you can do now to make things easy on those helping you and less costly. Reach out to [Clay@SpencerPride.org](mailto:Clay@SpencerPride.org) with questions or to request the Zoom link.

How you can participate: In-Person & Online    Accessibility Info:    Wheelchair & Motorized Scooter-Friendly

# MONTHLY PROGRAMMING



A PROGRAM OF SPENCER PRIDE

A group for lovers of books - including those "banned" for controversial content.  
Meets at 5:30 PM on the 4th Thursday (also virtually)  
Contact [Julie@SpencerPride.org](mailto:Julie@SpencerPride.org) for more info  
Join our Facebook Group!



A PROGRAM OF SPENCER PRIDE

A group for people who love birds and want to explore our natural world  
Meets for outings on the 3rd Saturday  
Contact [Wendy@SpencerPride.org](mailto:Wendy@SpencerPride.org) for more info  
Join our Facebook Group!



A PROGRAM OF SPENCER PRIDE

A group for people who love dancing and want to learn it and do it whenever they can  
Meets at 6:15 PM on Thursdays  
Contact [Jacob@SpencerPride.org](mailto:Jacob@SpencerPride.org) for more info  
Join our Facebook Group!



A spousal grief support group for members of the LGBTQ+ community & allies  
Meets at 5:30 PM on the 1st Wednesday  
Contact [Judi@SpencerPride.org](mailto:Judi@SpencerPride.org) for more info  
Join our Facebook Group!



A group for LGBTQ+ teens and allies (10-19) to connect, support each other, and have fun  
Meets at 5 PM on the 2nd & 4th Wednesday  
Contact [Joy@SpencerPride.org](mailto:Joy@SpencerPride.org) for more info



An inclusive Dungeons & Dragons group  
Meets at 2 PM on the 1st & 3rd Sunday  
Contact [Phillip@SpencerPride.org](mailto:Phillip@SpencerPride.org) for more info  
Join our Facebook Group!



Follow us in Instagram!



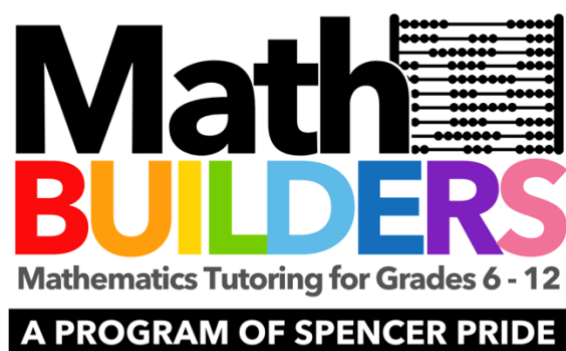
A social group for families with LGBTQ+ members  
Meets regularly  
Contact [Ben@SpencerPride.org](mailto:Ben@SpencerPride.org) for more info  
Join our Facebook Group!



A group for people who wish to live a more peaceful, joyful, and loving life  
Meets at 4 PM on the third Sunday  
Contact [Karen@SpencerPride.org](mailto:Karen@SpencerPride.org) for more info



A social support group for LGBTQ+ adults  
Meets at 3 PM on the fourth Saturday  
Contact [Erica@SpencerPride.org](mailto:Erica@SpencerPride.org) for more info



A tutoring group for grades 6-12  
Meets at 11 AM on Saturdays - visit our website for schedule  
Contact [Andrew@SpencerPride.org](mailto:Andrew@SpencerPride.org) for more information.



A group for people who quilt, scrapbook, paint, decoupage, or anything of the like  
Meets on the 2nd and 4th Friday from 5 PM to 7 PM  
Individuals bring their own supplies to work on a project while others do the same.  
For more information, contact [Cat@SpencerPride.org](mailto:Cat@SpencerPride.org).

All monthly programs are free to participate and require no advanced registration.

We also host routine health & wellness services and monthly educational programming, in addition to annual events like the Spencer Pride Festival. For more information, ask a Spencer Pride volunteer or contact us at [info@SpencerPride.org](mailto:info@SpencerPride.org)



#### Support Lines

- **The Trevor Project**
  - [thetrevorproject.org](http://thetrevorproject.org)
  - Text **Start** to 678678
  - 1-866-488-7386
- **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline**
  - [988lifeline.org](http://988lifeline.org)
  - Call or text 988
- **SAGE LGBT Elder Hotline**
  - [sageusa.org](http://sageusa.org)
  - 1-877-360-5428
- **Substance Abuse & Addiction Hotline**
  - [drughelpline.org](http://drughelpline.org)
  - 1-844-289-0879
- **Trans Lifeline**
  - [translifeline.org](http://translifeline.org)
  - 1-877-565-8860
- **LGBT National Hotlines**
  - [lgbthotline.org](http://lgbthotline.org)
  - National: 1-888-843-4564
  - Youth: 1-800-246-7743
  - Coming Out: 1-888-688-5428
  - Seniors: 1-888-234-7243
- **Middle Way House**
  - [middlewayhouse.org](http://middlewayhouse.org)
  - 1-812-336-0846

If you know of other support hotlines that should be included, please email [info@SpencerPride.org](mailto:info@SpencerPride.org).  
As always, if you are in immediate danger, 911 should be your first option.



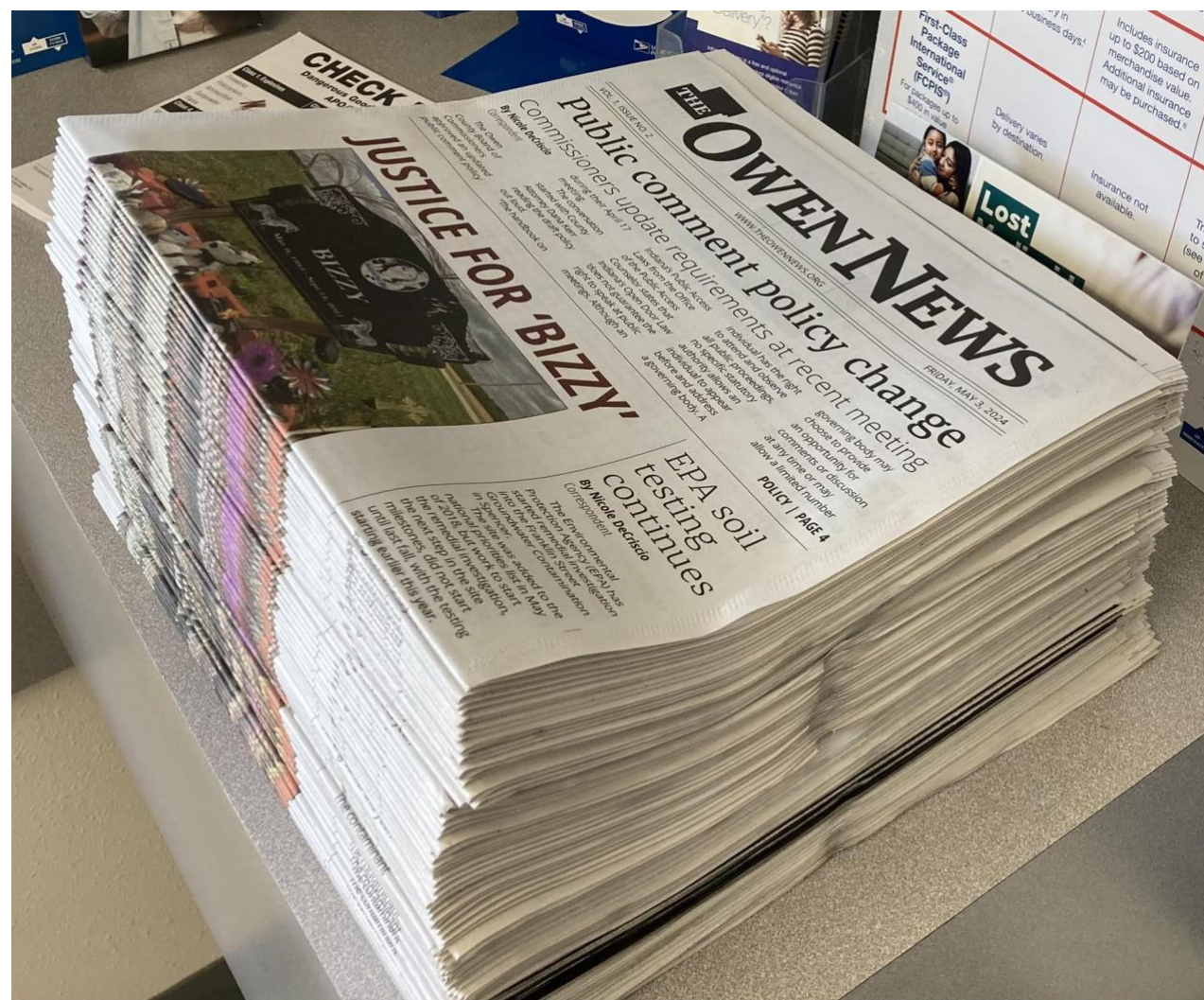
Did you know that the first penny press (a.k.a. a penny smashing machine) debuted at the Chicago's World Fair in 1893? Since that time these unique machines have popped up around the world and are highly sought by tourists and collectors alike. What does a penny smashing machine do? Well, it should come as no surprise that it smashes pennies. It does so while also imprinting a special design into the coin. Children of all ages love to crank the handle and feel the pressure build as the penny is compressed and imprinted.

Spencer Pride is proud to host Owen County's only penny smashing machine, which has arrived just in time for the eclipse! The Spencer Pride machine features 5 designs, each featuring a special place in Spencer. The penny smashing machine was sponsored in part by Babbs, the Historic Tivoli Theatre, McCormick's Creek State Park, and Sweet Owen Convention & Visitors Bureau. Each coin takes 4 quarters and one penny (just \$1.01 for an awesome souvenir!).

Come get the latest copy of [The Owen News](#) at the commUnity center!

We are open Wednesday through Sunday 10 am until 7 pm.

Support your brand new local news organization!



Did you know you could help support Spencer Pride while you are shopping?



## COMMUNITY REWARDS UPDATE FOR Q3 2024

### YOU CAN HELP!

1. Register your existing Kroger Plus card, or create a new digital card at: <https://www.kroger.com/signin>
2. Under your Kroger Profile > go to Community Rewards > Enroll:
3. Search **EU230** to find Spencer Pride.



30 households



\$69 donated

To learn more about linking your Kroger Rewards Card to Spencer Pride:  
<https://www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards>

## ROUND UP WITH WALMART

If you shop Walmart online or use the mobile app, you can round up for Spencer Pride.

1. Go to [www.walmart.com](http://www.walmart.com)
2. Sign into your Walmart account
3. In your Account profile, go to the Manage Account section and go to Giving & impact
4. Select Local Charity (or Change Charity) and search for Spencer Pride, and finish confirming your charity.
5. In the next section, double-check the Round Up toggle is switched on.





We are incredibly thankful for our sustainers! These amazing supporters give at a regular interval to cover 50% of the community center's monthly operation costs.

Our goal for 2024 is to grow our Sustainer program to cover 100% of our center's operating costs.

To become a Sustainer, reach out to our Fundraising Director, Elisabeth Solchik, or you can start the process on our website: <https://spencerpride.org/donate/>



John\* Angeline  
Jonathan\* & Jacob\* Balash  
Kathy & Fred Balash  
Connie Barton  
Glenda & Bill Breeden  
Pam Browning  
George & Jessica Brinson  
Dean & Marcia Bruce  
Linda Bucklin  
Alex Butrum-Griffith  
Linda Campbell & Mary Heldt  
Nathaniel\* & Beth Clawson  
Eric Crown  
Dave & Kelli Debikey  
Judi Epp\* & Lucie Mathieu  
Kim\* Fidler  
Jim Frohlinger  
John Grisham  
Jackie Hall  
Joy\* Hellman  
David & Ann Henk  
Rex\* Hinkle  
Cindy Houston  
Marlin Howard

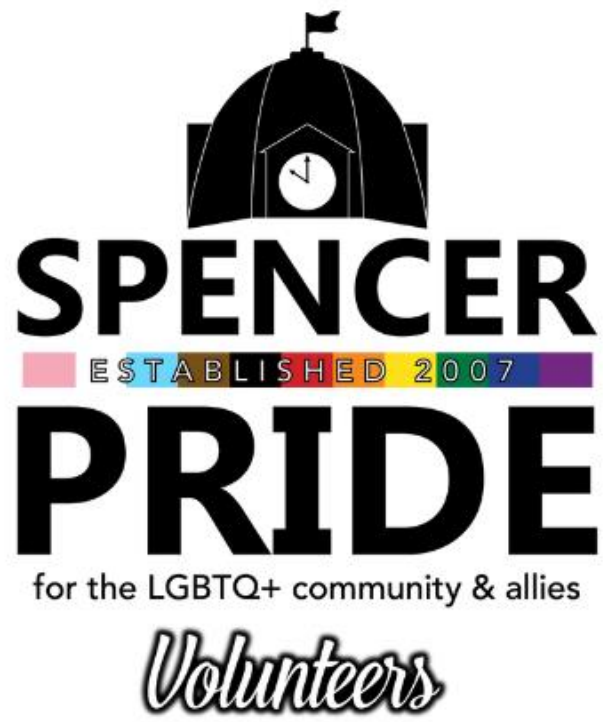
Christy Kelley  
Kathy Kessler & Chad Eppelheimer  
Ann Mahrtdt  
Marissa Mallo  
Bob Marshall  
Jody May  
Felix McBeath  
Berta Medicus-Moore  
Debbie Messer & Amanda Nixon  
Martha Nally  
Donna Nicholas  
Mark & Julie Parmenter  
Phillip & Jameson O'Neil  
Janet Rummel  
Dorcilla Schoolman  
Casey Shively  
Kathryn Shumate  
Kathy Sideli  
Jenny Smith  
Elisabeth\* Solchik  
Cat Spratt & Brayton Thompson  
Anna Spears  
Marcia Steele  
Terese Urban  
Karla Vedder  
Erica Whichello  
Don Wooldridge  
Wendy Wonderley & Karen Williams  
Clay\* Wright  
Cathy & Dan Wyatt  
Karen & Tom Zuber  
Katie\* Zuber & Matt Kirk

Thank You

2024

SUSTAINERS

\*Board of Directors



# Open Shifts

Text or call Jacob  
at 812-821-1442,  
or watch our Facebook  
Volunteer group for  
posts announcing  
opportunities!



## OFFICERS



*Jonathan Balash*  
he/him  
**President**  
Programming Director



*Judi Epp*  
she/her  
**Treasurer**  
Director



*Kim Fidler*  
she/her  
**Secretary**  
Advocacy Director



*Elisabeth Solchik*  
she/her  
**Vice President**  
Development Director

## DIRECTORS



*John Angeline*  
he/him  
Communications  
Director



*Jacob Balash*  
he/him  
commUnity center  
Director



*Nathaniel Clawson*  
he/him  
Transgender  
Advocacy Director



*Kate Behringer*  
she/her  
Pride Festival Director



*Joy Hellman*  
she/her  
Youth Empowerment  
Director



*Rex Hinkle*  
he/him  
Outreach Director



*Clay Wright*  
he/him  
Health & Wellness  
Director



*Katie Zuber*  
she/her  
Director

# SPENCER PRIDE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

For more information  
about our Board of  
Directors, please scan  
here:



## our mission

At Spencer Pride, our mission is to improve the quality of life for rural LGBTQ+ people in South Central Indiana by:

- fostering allyship and understanding through education and advocacy,
- creating safe spaces that support both physical and mental well-being, and
- addressing social inequities that stem from the unique intersectionality of queer and rural identities



## our vision

At Spencer Pride, our vision is to leverage our diversity and privilege in order to cultivate an inclusive community of compassion and celebration for rural LGBTQ+ people.



---

**A HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!**

A commUnity center Sponsor provides much needed support to assist with our current programming as well as with our future building expansion and programming that supports the LGBTQ+ community.

If you or someone you know would like to be a Sponsor, click [here](#) for more details!

---

**Thanks again for your support!**

**Our Contact Information**

Spencer Pride, Inc.  
PO Box 585  
Spencer, IN 47460  
812-652-5000  
<http://www.SpencerPride.org>

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Manage email preferences](#)

