



February  
2025

*Hello,  
Incredible  
Volunteers!*



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 

**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.



**Support Lines**

- [The Trevor Project](#)
  - Text **Start** to 678678
  - 1-866-488-7386
- [National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#)
  - Call or text 988
- [SAGE LGBT Elder Hotline](#)
  - 1-877-360-5428
- [Substance Abuse & Addiction Hotline](#)
  - 1-844-289-0879
- [Trans Lifeline](#)
  - 1-877-565-8860
- [LGBT National Hotlines](#)
  - National: 1-888-843-4564
  - Youth: 1-800-246-7743

**Iris Youth February Events**

- o Coming Out: 1-888-688-5428
- o Seniors: 1-888-234-7243
- [Middle Way House](#)
  - o 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.

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



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!

**Rainbow Birders - Winter Events**

# Grief Haven

Spousal Grief Support  
A PROGRAM OF SPENCER PRIDE

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!

# Iris Youth Group

A PROGRAM OF SPENCER PRIDE

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  
Follow us in Instagram!

# Rainbow Rollers

A PROGRAM OF SPENCER PRIDE

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

# Rainbow Family Connection

A PROGRAM OF SPENCER PRIDE

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!



**Rainbow BIRDERS**  
A PROGRAM OF SPENCER PRIDE

## WINTER EVENTS

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

### 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

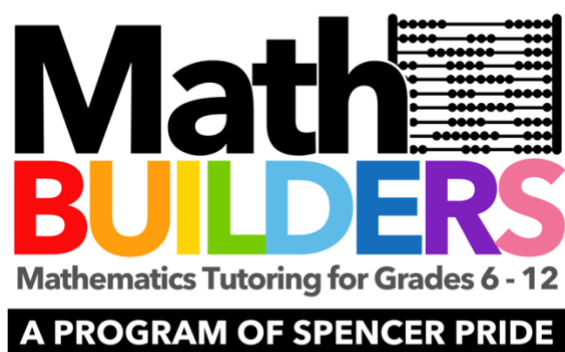
### Disruptive Empathy



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 10 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).

## 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)



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.

### Reproductive Health Access in Our Times

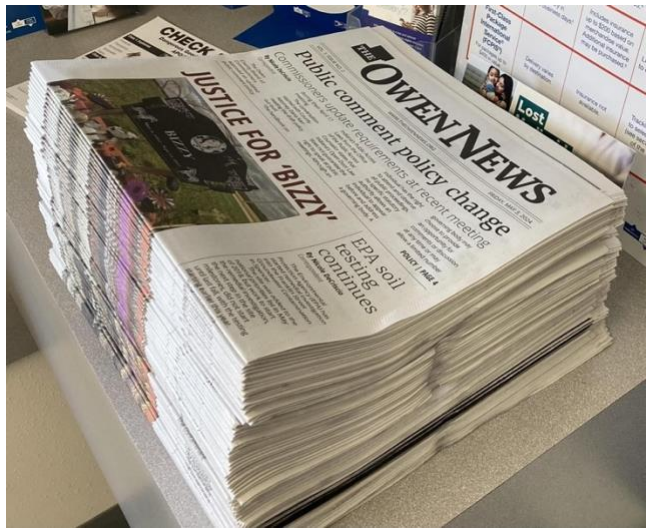
During this 60-minute workshop, participants will receive tools and information regarding the current access landscape, specifically for abortion and birth control. This will be an organic, audience led discussion. We can be expansive and talk about gender affirming care, pregnancy care, and healthcare in general - but our presenter is cisgender, and not

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).

**The Owen News**

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!



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.

**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



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



**Open Shifts**

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



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.



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!).

Fundraising News



**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.

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

30 households  
\$69 donated

Become A Sustainer

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 Mahrdt
- 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

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

**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.

**WALMART.COM**



Thank You 2024 SUSTAINERS  
\*Board of Directors

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he/him  
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Programming Director



*Judi Epp*  
she/her  
**Treasurer**  
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*Kim Fidler*  
she/her  
**Secretary**  
Advocacy Director



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Development Director

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*Jacob Balash*  
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commUnity center  
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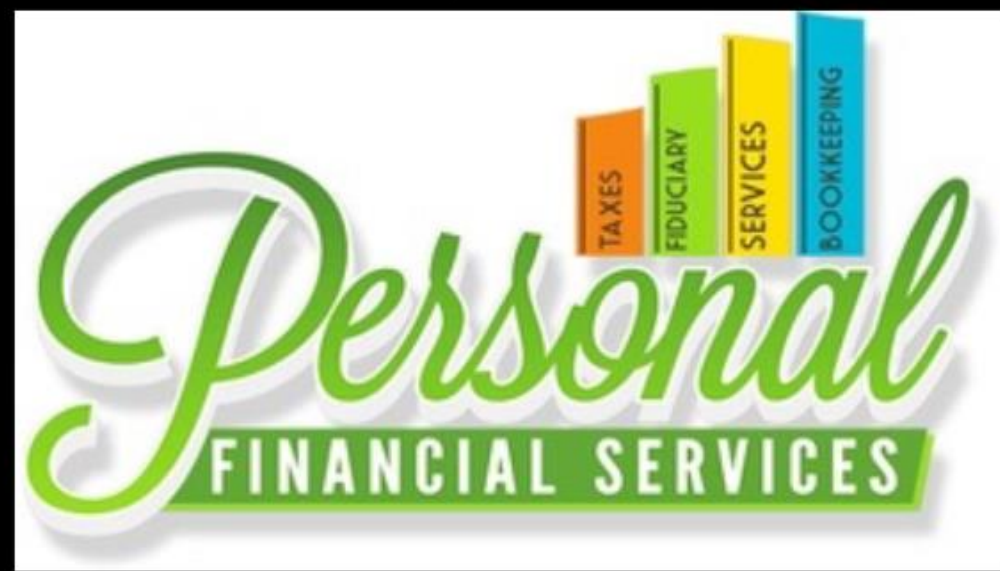
For more information  
about our Board of  
Directors, please scan  
here:



## 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!



*Official Sustainer*

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Thanks again for your support!

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