



April 2025

Hello,
Incredible
Volunteers!



VOLUNTEER CONNECTION



Spencer Pride commUnity center
17 E. Franklin Street, Spencer

**You are
special.**

**Please join us for our
volunteer meeting
this Sunday at 4 PM**



- Learn about the latest Spencer Pride events and programs.
- Connect with others.
- Help inform our work.
- Have fun while making a difference in our community!

How you can participate: 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

Rainbow Birders - Spring 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. 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 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 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 for more info
 Join our Facebook Group!

The Roles of POA, Guardians, and Executors

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 info@SpencerPride.org with questions or to request the Zoom link.

Giving a Boost to Health and Safety at Spencer Pride

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 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 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 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 for more info
Join our Facebook Group!



Spencer Pride volunteers shown participating in CPR and AED training/certification in March.



In the past year, Spencer Pride has acquired two automated external defibrillators, also known as AEDs, for use at the Spencer Pride community center and key programming activities. AEDs are critical life-saving devices utilized during CPR to treat a person experiencing sudden cardiac arrest. Regardless of their value, many businesses and organizations do not have AEDs on-hand. Given Spencer Pride's work and the organization's central location in downtown Spencer, having access to AEDs was an important part of their health & wellness strategy.

While getting these devices has been a long-term goal of the organization, purchasing them wasn't always a budgetary possibility. AED devices cost \$1,500 and up, depending on the exact model and specifications. For example, Spencer Pride wanted to ensure that devices could be used for all ages, and pediatric accessories are an additional cost. Spencer Pride purchased both AEDs (with pediatric accessories and an alarmed storage case for the center) thanks to a generous grant provided by the Owen County Community Foundation.

"Support from the Owen County Community Foundation was critical in ensuring that we could add these important devices to our health & wellness efforts at Spencer Pride," says **Elisabeth Solchik**, the organization's vice president and development director. Elisabeth and her volunteer team were responsible for submitting the grant request.

"We love OCCF and all that they do for the Spencer and Owen County community. We are grateful that they recognized the value of Spencer Pride acquiring AEDs to improve our capability to save lives."

Purchasing the AEDs and installing them at the community center were the first step. Next, the organization had to ensure that there were enough people trained to utilize the devices. Not every volunteer is comfortable performing CPR or operating an AED device, so Spencer Pride's leaders devised a strategy to identify key volunteers and other program leaders that would ensure maximum capacity to utilize these devices.

Meanwhile, Spencer Pride community center director **Jacob Balash** has been in ongoing discussions with the Owen County Health Department to support one another in addressing community health needs. Thanks to that collaboration, the health department offered to coordinate and cover the cost for this two-hour training and certification on CPR and AED.

On Saturday March 19, 2025, twenty-five individuals took part in the training exercise, which entailed practicing CPR and AED utilization on adults and infants. With approximately ten other Spencer Pride volunteers already certified, the organization is now well-prepared to utilize these life-saving devices. "Working with the health department has been easy and the outcome speaks for itself," says Balash, who personally participated in the training and certification.

Kate Gehringer, Spencer Pride's festival director, is relieved that the organization now has the capability to leverage the AEDs, something she knows is needed particularly on the day of the Spencer Pride Festival. More than 7,000 people come to downtown Spencer to experience Spencer Pride's hospitality for the festival. "We are grateful to have not needed an AED yet during one of our festivals, especially since we would have had to wait for EMS support to access one in the past," Gehringer shared.

"When someone is experiencing sudden cardiac arrest, every single minute makes a big difference in their survival chances. Now, in the unfortunate event that we might need it, we are very fortunate to have them."

This effort serves as a great example of how Spencer Pride works with community partners to develop its capacity and capabilities to better support the thousands of people who rely on Spencer Pride's programming and services each year. Spencer Pride could not have done this effort without the financial support of the Owen County Community Foundation and the Owen County Health Department, and together the three organizations can be proud of what has been accomplished for our community.

Rainbow SUNDAY CIRCLE

A PROGRAM OF SPENCER PRIDE

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 for more info

Queer Social Support Group Space

A PROGRAM OF SPENCER PRIDE

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

Math BUILDERS

Mathematics Tutoring for Grades 6 - 12
 A PROGRAM OF SPENCER PRIDE

A tutoring group for grades 6-12
 Meets at 10 AM on Saturdays - visit our website for schedule
 Contact Andrew@SpencerPride.org for more information.

Craft Nights

A PROGRAM OF SPENCER PRIDE

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.



Training generously provided by Owen County Health Department. AEDs purchased with support from Owen County Community Foundation.



Thank You! OCCF Match Grant Program



Thank you

Spencer Pride supporters
 and Owen County
 Community Foundation!

Thanks to the generosity of our amazing supporters and the generosity of the Owen County Community Foundation with their 31st Anniversary match campaign, Spencer Pride was able to contribute over \$20,000 to our endowment fund to support our future operations, and we received over \$6,000 for the rehabilitation work we are currently undergoing on the east side of our community center building.

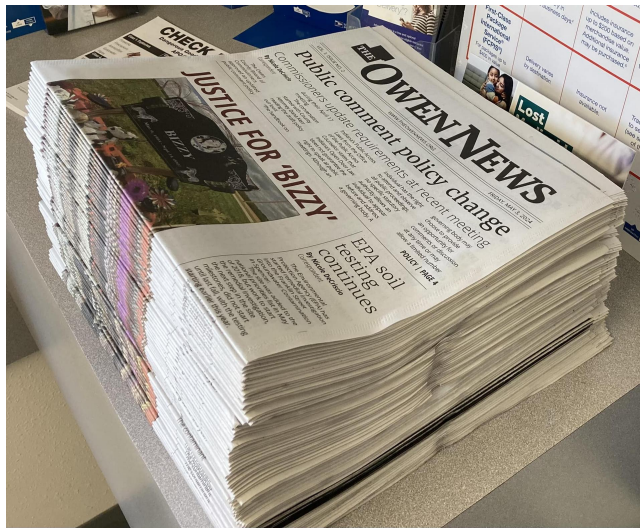
Discussing Community, Yoga, and COMMUNITY Yoga with Julie Madewell

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.

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!



“It’s incredibly fulfilling to see people feel empowered, rejuvenated, and connected – not only to themselves but also to a supportive community.”
Julie Madewell (she/her)



Julie Madewell, leader of Spencer Pride’s newest program, COMMUNITY Yoga, recently sat down (virtually) for an interview with Jonathan Balash, Spencer Pride’s Director of Programming. They discussed the program, Julie’s history with yoga, and what people can expect if they attend a COMMUNITY Yoga session. To read their conversation, please visit our [website](#).

Spencer Pride loves our schools!

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



Spencer Pride and
OUR SCHOOLS

Right: McCormick's Creek Elementary - Nick Bilotta (6th), Angie Bault (6th), Madeline Mobley (4th)

Right Bottom: Spencer Elementary - Shelby Segó (6th)

Below: Gosport Elementary - Sadie Burkett (4th) and Shelly Roofe (6th)

We are so incredibly proud to be able to support our amazing teachers at Gosport, McCormick’s Creek, & Spencer elementary schools with their classroom wishlists by contributing over \$1100 to uplift their work.

In addition to providing much needed supplies and wonderful additions to their classrooms to encourage childhood learning, we also provided a sweet treat to our teachers as a thank you for everything that they do to support and strengthen our community through childhood education.

You can learn more about Spencer Pride's local community partnerships and our youth programming by following our social media channels, visiting our website, and reaching out to our volunteers to learn more.



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



SPENCER PRIDE
for the LGBTQ+ community & allies



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>

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/>

Thank You 2025 Sustainers

John* Angeline	Kim Fidler*	Berta Medicus-Moore	Nicole Vasconi
Jonathan* Balash	Jim Frohlinger	Debbie Messer	Karla Vedder
Jacob* Balash	David Friedel	Debra Mitchell	Erica Whichello
Kathy Balash	Cathy C. Gebhard	Martha Nally	Karen Williams
Fred Balash	Kate* Gehringer	Donna Nicholas	Don Wooldridge
Connie Barton	John Grisham	Amanda Nixon	Wendy Wonderley*
Glenda Breeden	Jackie Hall	Mark Parmenter	Clay Wright
Bill Breeden	Mary Heldt	Julie Parmenter	Cathy Wyatt
Pam Browning	Joy* Hellman	Phillip O'Neil	Dan Wyatt
George Brinson	David Henk	Jameson O'Neil	Karen Zuber
Jessica Brinson	Ann Henk	Janet Rummel	Tom Zuber
Dean Bruce	Rex* Hinkle	Dorcilla Schoolman	Katie* Zuber
Marcia Bruce	Cindy Houston	John Settle-Corbin	
Linda Bucklin	Marlin Howard	Lynne Shiffriss	
Alex Butrum-Griffith	Rob Kaarto	Casey Shively	
Linda Campbell	Christy Kelley	Kathryn Shumate	
Nathaniel* Clawson	Kathy Kessler	Kathy Sidel	
Beth Clawson	Matt Kirk	Jenny Smith	
Eric Crown	Ann Mahrtdt	Elisabeth* Solchik	
Dave Debikey	Marissa Mallo	Cat Spratt	
Kelli Debikey	Bob Marshall	Anna Spears	
Tyler DeFord	Lucie Mathieu	Marcia Steele	
Judi Epp*	Jody May	Brayton Thompson	
Chad Eppelheimer	Felix McBeath	Terese Urban	



SPENCER PRIDE
for the LGBTQ+ community & allies
*Board of Directors

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
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 ✨



SPENCER PRIDE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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he/him
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Programming Director



Nathaniel Clawson
he/him
Transgender
Advocacy Director



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he/him
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Wendy Wonderley
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Director



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she/her
Director

For more information about our Board, 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

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>

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