



June 2025

Hello,
Incredible
Volunteers!



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

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

Pride Month Fundraisers

Feeling lucky this #PrideMonth?

You could win a gorgeous handmade quilt by Julie Parmenter AND help Spencer Pride continue our mission of making south central Indiana a welcoming place for all!

Our "Beyond the Rainbow: A Quilt for Trans & Queer Joy" Sweepstakes is now live! Every entry directly supports our commUnity center and the free programs we offer like Rainbow Dancers, Rainbow Rollers, and Rainbow Family Connection.

Don't just celebrate Pride, support it! Tickets are \$5 each or 6 for \$25, and you can buy them online or in-person at our community center in downtown Spencer, Indiana.

Get your tickets today and help us create more safe spaces and vital resources.

Enter Here: <https://go.rallyup.com/pridequilt2025>

Winner Announced: July 3rd at 12p Eastern.
Sweepstakes open to continental US residents only.

No purchase necessary to win: <https://go.rallyup.com/35b8ae/mailentryrequest#SpencerPride#Pride#Fundraiser#Sweepstakes#RainbowQuilt>

The Sweetest Way to Show Your Pride in June!

Visit the Spencer Pride commUnity center at 17 E Franklin Street, Wednesday through Sunday from 10a to 7p, throughout Pride Month and indulge in delicious, homemade baked goods to support Spencer Pride!

Every sweet treat donation helps fund our community center operations and our free programming.



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!



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!



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



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

Enjoy a variety of dessert bars and specialty cookies for a suggested donation of \$20/dozen and chocolate chip cookies for \$20 for two dozen.

Let's make this Pride Month extra sweet in south central Indiana!
[#SpencerPride](#) [#PrideMonth](#) [#Pride](#) [#LGBTQ](#)



Spotlight: Dancers

Did you know that Spencer Pride offers FREE dance classes every Thursday at 6:15 PM? There is no registration to participate, and no need to bring a partner. Everyone is welcome to join, whether to build dance skills, burn some calories, or connect with fabulous people.

Jacob, the program's volunteer leader, looks forward to class each week: "There's a kind of magic in moving together with people who care – it lifts the weight off of my shoulders and reminds me what a wonderful community we have here at Spencer Pride."

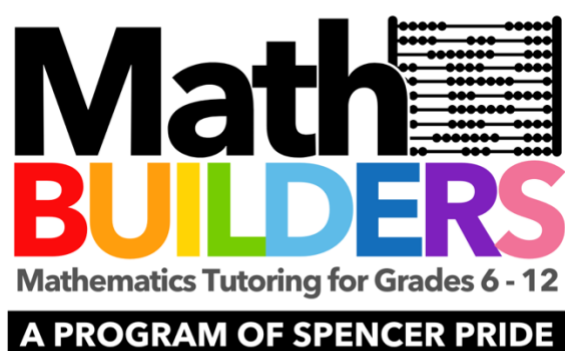
We invite you to join us this Thursday at 6:15 to learn more and get your body moving!



Dine with Pride: Red Robin Yum!



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



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.



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.

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



DINE WITH PRIDE

dine-in or carry-out
20% of every purchase will support Spencer Pride by showing our flyer in-person, or include the Fundraiser in your mobile order
RedRobin.com | spencerpride.org

11A - 9P
W 6/11/25

Celebrate Pride Month with us at Red Robin - College Mall (2846 E 3rd Street Bloomington, IN) on Wednesday, June 11th, any time from 11a to 9p to help raise funding for Spencer Pride's free commUnity programming.

Spencer Pride, Inc will receive 20% of fundraiser sales* during our 6/11 fundraiser from 11a-9p by showing the image (attached to this post) to your server at this location, or by ordering online at redrobin.com or on the Red Robin mobile app.

For online and mobile app orders you must add the fundraiser to your cart before you check out for the sales to count towards the fundraiser.

Can't make it?

You can still support our free programming by donating directly to the community center fund in-person or online at www.spencerpride.org/donate

* 20% of eligible dine-in and to-go sales (excludes sales from catering, 3rd party ordering and delivery sites, alcohol, gift cards, retail, tax and gratuity)



Red Robin® will give

20% OF FOOD SALES* BACK TO

SPENCER PRIDE, INC

Show this flyer or simply mention the fundraiser to your server to have your sales counted.

FUNDRAISER DETAILS

2846 E 3rd Street, Bloomington, IN 47401
June 11, 2025*

If ordering online, please follow these instructions:

- 1 Start your order at redrobin.com/order and select the restaurant above.
- 2 In the menu, go to the category labeled "Fundraisers (To-Go Only)" and click on that item.
- 3 Click the "add" button, and then "add to bag."
- 4 Add your meal items and check out.
- 5 Arrive at Red Robin, come in, say hi, grab your food and be on your way! If your location has curbside pick-up, we can bring it to your car too!

*Fundraiser during restaurant operating hours. Visit redrobin.com and find this location to view hours. Donation based on all eligible net dine-in and to-go food sales only. Excludes sales from catering (at select locations), 3rd party ordering and delivery sites, alcohol, gift cards, retail, tax and gratuity. Offer void if flyer is distributed in or near the restaurant during fundraiser day & hours.



Rainbow Cruisers to the Caribbean

until 7 pm. Support your brand new local news organization!



Open Shifts

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





Sailing on the Celebrity Beyond June 14 - 21, 2026





We're heading to the Caribbean in June 2026!

We invite you to join us for this week-long adventure featuring stops in Mexico, the Cayman Islands, and the Bahamas.

We are excited to announce Spencer Pride's next cruise! We will be sailing to the Caribbean on the Celebrity Beyond from June 14-21, 2026. The cruise is open to anyone who wants to support our work and experience Pride Month with us on the ocean! It is a family-friendly experience that is sure to offer something for everyone.

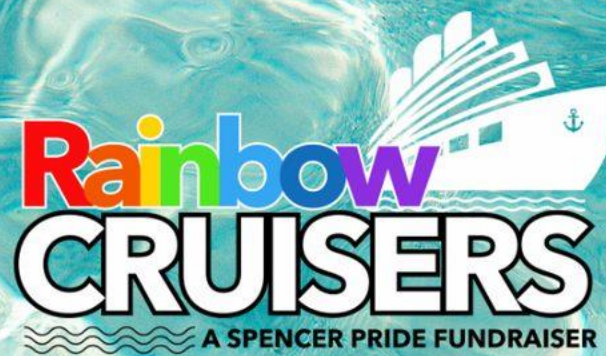
To register or get more details, scan the QR code or visit <https://spencerpride.johnheathtravel.com/>. For each stateroom reserved, Spencer Pride will receive a donation. Our 2024 cruise to Alaska helped us raise \$4,000, and we hope to exceed that amount in 2026.

Register today.

Cruise fee includes unlimited basic Wi-Fi, classic beverage package (with beverage tips), assigned stateroom, and all taxes and port fees.

Only a \$500 deposit required to register.

Final payment due March 14, 2026.



After registering, participants will receive routine updates from Spencer Pride and are encouraged to join the Spencer Pride Rainbow Cruisers Facebook Group.



H&W: New time for Screenings

Did you know that Spencer Pride offers free HIV and Hepatitis C screenings every month? Thanks to IU Health Positive Link, we are proud to offer this service on the first Thursday of every month at our new (later) time from 5-7 pm. [#KnowYourStatus](#)

Free HIV and Hep C screenings



When: Every
1st Thursday
of the month
from 5-7pm



Where: Spencer Pride
CommUnity Center
Health and Wellness
office upstairs
17 E Franklin st, Spencer,
IN 47460

- Just a quick finger stick
- Rapid results
- Takes about 20 minutes

Free case management if test comes back reactive

Walk ins welcome or call for an appointment: 812-325-9943

Positive Link

Rainbow Family Connection Outing

Join us for our summer event!

Rainbow Family CONNECTION

Festival in the Park



at Switchyard Park in Bloomington

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

Thursday, June 12 5-7pm

For more information, contact Ben@SpencerPride.org

Fifty Years of Pride

2025 marks the 50th anniversary of Pride celebrations in Washington, D.C. Starting May 17, Capital Pride Alliance will be hosting WorldPride 2025 and is excited to share this momentous and exciting milestone with the international community.

Events begin in mid-May and last through June 8. WorldPride 2025 includes a Human Rights Conference, Parade, Street Festivals, and an International March on Washington.

Spencer Pride will be participating in WorldPride 2025 by joining our Pride peers in the WorldPride 2025 Parade on Saturday, June 7th, and by standing together in protest during the WorldPride 2025 International March on Sunday, June 8th. We will be joining the millions of people convening in D.C. to celebrate queerness and demonstrate the power of our community.

Now more than ever, it is important for LGBTQ+ people and their allies to link arm-in-arm

in allyship to defend our rights. Millions of people are expected to convene in D.C. to celebrate queerness and to firmly demonstrate the power of our community.

This is the moment to demand LGBTQ+ equality. We proudly stand with our Pride peers and with all LGBTQ+ people and our allies. Together, we can realize our dreams for full equality.



A note from our Comms Director

Social Media is constantly changing. Sometimes there are new features that we get excited about. Sometimes there are platforms that we must remove because they do not align with our mission and vision as an organization.

While I am willing to try anything once, social media is one of those areas that requires a staff of full time people.

Currently, we have a large Facebook/Instagram presence and a toe in the Bluesky waters. We also have a robust website and newsletter.

In an effort to reach more people and to allow multiple options to access Spencer Pride, there is now a **Calendar of Events** on our website. It is similar to the Facebook Events (it even has a link to those posts).

When you visit www.spencerpride.org, you can access the Calendar in the menu bar. You will see all of our events in date order. You can even change the view to month or day as well as search the event listings. Some of the events have a graphic attached that has also been posted on social media. When you click on the event, you will find more details about the event.

Spencer Pride is always evolving and adapting to meet the needs of all our stakeholders.

I hope this new way of viewing our events is a useful way to stay in the know about Spencer Pride.



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




**support
spencer pride
through corporate
MATCHING**

EIN: 26-2197732
ASK YOUR HR/BENEFITS REP FOR
MORE INFORMATION!

Matching gift programs are just one of the many types of corporate philanthropy initiatives that companies have, but \$4 – \$7 BILLION in matching gift funds are unclaimed each year!

PHILANTHROPY 101: When an employee makes a donation, they'll request the matching gift from their employer, who then makes their own donation. Companies usually match donations at a 1:1 ratio.



These philanthropy programs allow us to maximize the impact of our donations - ask your employer today to help make an impact in the Spencer community.

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

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 2025 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/>



BECOME A SPENCER PRIDE

Sustainer

www.spencerpride.org/donate

Sign up today to join a special group of donors who are committed to making a difference in the lives of rural LGBTQ+ individuals in Indiana with recurring donations.






COMMUNITY REWARDS UPDATE FOR Q1 2025

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.



34 households



\$66 donated

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

SPENCER
PRIDE
BOARD OF
DIRECTORS

For more information about our Board, please scan here:





Jonathan Balash
he/him
President
Programming Director



Nathaniel Clawson
he/him
Transgender Advocacy Director



Judi Epp
she/her
Treasurer
Director



Kate Gehringer
she/her
Pride Festival Director



Kim Fidler
she/her
Secretary
Advocacy Director



Joy Hellman
she/her
Youth Empowerment Director



Elisabeth Solchik
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Development Director



Rex Hinkle
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John Angeline
he/him
Communications Director



Wendy Wondenley
she/her
Director



Jacob Balash
he/him
commUnity center Director



Katie Zuber
she/her
Director

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!



Thank You 2025 Sustainers



Ben Ale-Ebrahim
John* Angeline
Jonathan* Balash
Jacob* Balash
Truman Balash
Kathy Balash
Fred Balash
Marion Banzhaf
Connie Barton
Vic Bequeret
Glenda Breeden
Bill Breeden
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Pam Browning
George Brinson
Jessica Brinson
Dean Bruce
Marcia Bruce
Linda Bucklin
Alex Butrum-Griffith
Linda Campbell
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Karen Zuber
Tom Zuber
Katie* Zuber

*Board of Directors

Become a Sustainer:



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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