



July 2025

*Hello, Incredible
Volunteers!*





July Volunteer Meeting

Sunday, July 6
from 4 - 6 PM

Join us in person at the
commUnity center's
ballroom, 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
 - 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

Rainbow Birders - Summer Events



Rainbow BIRDERS
A PROGRAM OF SPENCER PRIDE

SUMMER EVENTS

SAT 7/12	SAT 7/19	SAT 8/16	SAT 9/20
YET TO BE ANNOUNCED FREE EVENT!	MY PATH RIVERFRONT TRAIL	SWEET OWEN COUNTY RESIDENCE	FLATWOODS PARK
BIG TIME BIRDING SERIES	FREE MONTHLY EVENT	FREE MONTHLY EVENT	FREE MONTHLY EVENT

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 with specific questions.

 Denotes events that are wheelchair-accessible

Background Checks

It's that time again. In our effort to maintain compliance with our governing documents, we will be sending out background checks to those who are due this year. You will receive an email from Sterling Volunteers with a link in the body. Please be sure to respond to those email requests within 48 hours, as the link expires.

Annual Meeting Update



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!



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!



Please join us on Sunday, September 14 at 4 PM for our Annual Meeting. We hope you'll join us to reflect on the past year, look ahead to the next year, participate in our elections, and more. This year's Annual Meeting will be *extra special* as it'll be the first in our newly wheelchair-accessible Golden Discovery Ballroom (thanks to the August installation of our brand-new elevator). Our agenda is filled with important updates and other business that is relevant to all of our volunteers, donors, supporters, and other community stakeholders.

Due to the elevator installation and timing of our Annual Meeting, we will not have a volunteer meeting in August. **Please join us for our July volunteer meeting this Sunday, July 6 at 4:00 PM.**



Thoughts from WorldPride



Written by Jonathan Balash, Spencer Pride's President and Programming Director

This past weekend, I represented Spencer Pride in Washington, D.C. at WorldPride along with my husband Jacob and five other volunteers. This year's WorldPride was hosted by Capital Pride Alliance, which celebrated the 50th anniversary of LGBTQ+ Pride in our nation's capital. WorldPride brought together millions of people in 300+ events over the past month.

To continue reading, please see the full post with more photos on our website: <https://spencerpride.org/worldpride/>

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!



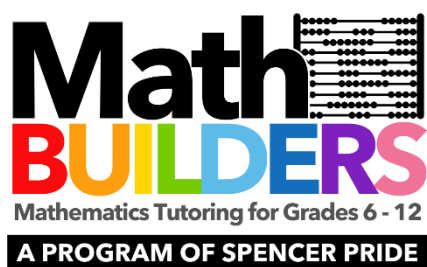
An inclusive Dungeons & Dragons RGP group
Meets on the 1st & 3rd Sunday
Contact Phillip@SpencerPride.org for more info
Join our Facebook Group!



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



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



Preserve Queer History



Join Charlie Renee, Purple Rhino Studio, to collaborate and preserve queer history from Spencer, Indiana. The event aims to create a 12' x 40' archive quilt with your fabrics, photos and stories - adding a new chapter to the one made in 2022 from stories collected from other Midwestern queers. Sessions will be at the Community Center

July 6: Individual story telling with two recording slots (1:00 PM - 2:15 PM and 2:30 PM - 3:45 PM).

August 3: Queer Quilting Bee, where groups of 4-6 will be recorded while sewing the archive quilt.

September 7: Individual story telling with two recording slots (1:00 PM - 2:15 PM and 2:30 PM - 3:45 PM).

Share Stories: Participate in an intergenerational group[s] of Spencer queers to ensure stories are preserved for the future, with consideration for those with multiple marginalized identities. Storytelling can involve recording, painting, and printmaking.

Donate Clothing: Contribute clean and affirming clothing that has brought the wearer joy and affirmed their gender. These will be utilized in the quilt.

Be Photographed: Interviewees may be photographed, and these photographs will be used to create paintings incorporated into the final archive quilt.

Please RSVP your desired session date/time to Charlie: MidwestQueerArchive@gmail.com

Rainbow Cruisers to the Caribbean

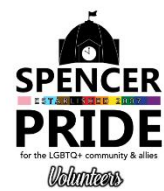
Meets on the 2nd and 4th Friday from 5 PM to 7 PM
Individuals bring their own supplies to work on a project while others do the same.
For more information, contact Cat@SpencerPride.org.

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 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!



Rainbow CRUISERS

A SPENCER PRIDE FUNDRAISER

**Sailing on the Celebrity Beyond
June 14 - 21, 2026**

Rainbow CRUISERS

A SPENCER PRIDE FUNDRAISER

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.

Rainbow CRUISERS

A SPENCER PRIDE FUNDRAISER

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.




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



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.

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/>



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/li/community/community-rewards>

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.



SPENCER
PRIDE
BOARD OF
DIRECTORS

For more information
about our Board,
please scan here:





Jonathan
Balash
he/him
President
Programming Director



Nathaniel
Clauson
he/him
Transgender
Advocacy Director



Judi Epp
she/her
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Wendy
Wonderley
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Jacob
Balash
he/him
commUnity center
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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



SPENCER PRIDE
commUnity
center

Official Sustainer

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

Jennifer Brown

Pam Browning

George Brinson

Jessica Brinson

Dean Bruce

Marcia Bruce

Linda Bucklin

Alex Butrum-Griffith

Linda Campbell

Nathaniel* Clawson

Beth Clawson

Christy Crandall

Eric Crown

Dave Debikey

Kelli Debikey

Tyler DeFord

Carl Deitchman

Judi Epp*

Chad Eppelheimer

Kim Fidler*

Shea Finnegan

Jim Frohliger

David Friedel

Cathy C. Gebhard

Kate* Gehringer

John Grisham

Jackie Hall

Nicholas Heck

Mary Heldt

Joy* Hellman

David Henk

Ann Henk

Rex* Hinkle

Rebecca Holloway

Cindy Houston

Marlin Howard

Melanie Keller

Christy Kelley

Kathy Kessler

Matt Kirk

Donna Lowe

Ann Mahrtd

Marissa Mallo

Bob Marshall

Lucie Mathieu

Jody May

Felix McBeath

Cathy McFarland

David McFarland

Berta Medicus-Moore

Debbie Messer

Martha Nally

Donna Nicholas

Amanda Nixon

Mark Parmenter

Julie Parmenter

Ed O'Brien

Phillip O'Neil

Jameson O'Neil

Janet Rummel

Eric Sader

Dorcilla Schoolman

John Settle-Corbin

Lynne Shifriss

Casey Shively

Kathryn Shumate

Kathy Sideli

RJ Sliva

Jenny Smith

Elisabeth* Solchik

Cat Spratt

Anna Spears

Marcia Steele

Mitch Teplitsky

Brayton Thompson

Terese Urban

Nicole Vasconi

Karla Vedder

Erica Whichello

Karen Williams

Don Wooldridge

Wendy Wonderley*

Clay Wright

Cathy Wyatt

Dan Wyatt

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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