



August 2025

*Hello, Incredible
Volunteers!*



VOLUNTEER CONNECTION



SPENCER PRIDE Annual Meeting

Sunday, September 14 at 4 PM

Join us in person at the
Spencer Pride Golden
Discovery Ballroom

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

SAT 7/12	SAT 7/19	SAT 8/16	SAT 9/20
YET TO BE ANNOUNCED FREE EVENT!	MYPATH 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

Background checks went out on July 22nd and a second request on July 27th. A message was also posted in the Volunteers Group. We will follow up individually with everyone on the list this year so that we are in compliance.

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.



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

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.

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!



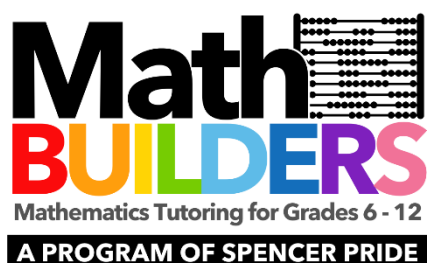
An inclusive Dungeons & Dragons RGP group
Meets on the 1st & 3rd Sunday
Contact Phillip@SpencerPride.org for more info
Join our Facebook Group!



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

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



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.



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!



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/>

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



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



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.



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

SPENCER
PRIDE
BOARD OF
DIRECTORS

For more information about our Board, please scan here:





Jonathan Balash
he/him
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Programming Director



Nathaniel Clauson
he/him
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Judi Epp
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commUnity center
Director



Katie Zuber
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Director

OUR MISSION

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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

Jennifer Brown

Pam Browning

George Brinson

Jessica Brinson

Dean Bruce

Marcia Bruce

Linda Bucklin

Alex Butrum-Griffith

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Nathaniel* Clawson

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Eric Crown

Dave Debikey

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Berta Medicus-Moore

Debbie Messer

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Amanda Nixon

Mark Parmenter

Julie Parmenter

Ed O'Brien

Phillip O'Neil

Jameson O'Neil

Janet Rummel

Eric Sader

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John Settle-Corbin

Lynne Shifriss

Casey Shively

Kathryn Shumate

Kathy Sideli

RJ Sliva

Jenny Smith

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Cat Spratt

Anna Spears

Marcia Steele

Mitch Teplitsky

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Clay Wright

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Dan Wyatt

Karen Zuber

Tom Zuber

Katie* Zuber

*Board of Directors

Become a Sustainer:



Thanks again for your support!

Our Contact Information

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{{Organization Website}}

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