



September 2025

*Hello, Incredible
Volunteers!*



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.



Please join us!

SPENCER PRIDE Annual Meeting

Sunday, September 28 at 4 PM

Attend in-person at the Spencer Pride commUnity center or via Zoom.

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

Annual Meeting Update

Our Mission

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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!



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!



It's that time of year to reflect and plan. We'll also discuss and vote on several items of importance.



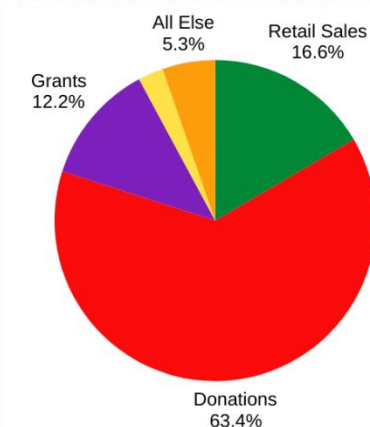
OUR PREVIOUS Strategic Goals

- 1 Improve accessibility
- 2 Cultivate partnerships
- 3 Diversify and increase revenue
- 4 Invest in tomorrow's leadership

*How do you think we did?
Attend the meeting to hear our take
and to learn about our new goals.*

FY25 FINANCIAL RESOURCES

REVENUE SOURCES



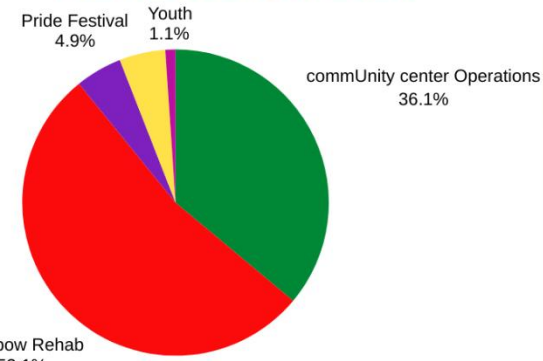
Here's a quick summary of where our revenue came from this past year. Attend the annual meeting to learn more.



REVENUE BY AREA



Charts include both operational and capital revenue





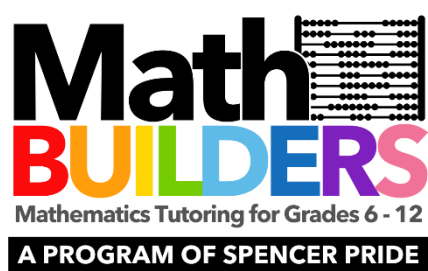
An inclusive Dungeons & Dragons RGP group
 Meets on the 1st & 3rd Sunday
 Contact Phillip@SpencerPride.org for more info
 Join our Facebook Group!



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
 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.

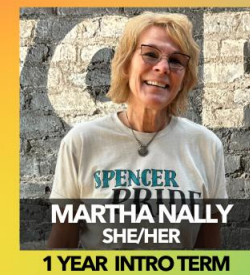
OTHER BUSINESS

- **Bylaws vote**, with the changes primarily focused on the following:
 - Establishment of Director and Officer term lengths and term limits
 - Revisions to prepare for an Executive Director
 - Modification to the annual meeting timing
 - Clarifications to ensure the use of gender-inclusive language throughout the bylaws
- **FY26 Operating Budget vote** to ensure we can accomplish our goals and further long-term mission
- **Election of our Directors and Officers** who can continue working to make our organization successful and sustainable



Vote on these items during the annual meeting!

Leadership PROPOSED SLATE DIRECTORS



★
DENOTES
ABBREVIATED TERM

Vote on these directors during the annual meeting!

Leadership PROPOSED SLATE OFFICERS

PRESIDENT



VICE PRESIDENT



SECRETARY



TREASURER



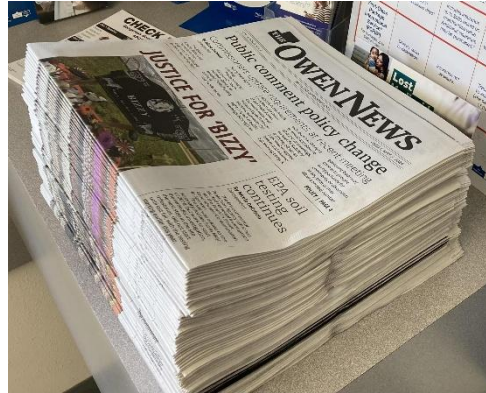
Vote on these officers during the annual meeting!

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 to the Caribbean



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.johnheathttravel.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.

We look forward to seeing you for this important annual event!



The Power of Math



SPENCER PRIDE
ESTABLISHED 2007

Unleash your inner math diva every Thursday in September from 4:30-5:30p Eastern!

The Exponential Power of Math series with Kyne Santos

Click through to register for the free Zoom meeting series.

Unleash your inner diva and dazzle your way to math mastery! Join Kyne Santos, @onlinekyne, the drag queen with an honorary PhD in fabulous, for a virtual webinar series that proves math isn't just for textbooks—it's for the runway. ✨

We're thrilled to announce The Exponential Power of Math, a weekly virtual series in September with the one and only math drag queen.

Kyne will be bringing her unique flair at 4:30pm Eastern to the following fascinating topics:

- * Sept 4: Why math?
- * Sept 11: Computers, communication, and data
- * Sept 18: Artificial intelligence
- * Sept 25: The part, present, and future of math

Get ready to see math in a whole new (spot)light.

Mark your calendars and get ready to join these fun and engaging sessions! Register for this free Zoom series here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/ftPvCmBtShuQQV4CaUIqDw>

Mural Ribbon Cutting



Ribbon Cutting and Panel Discussion
SEPTEMBER 14 AT 1:30P

SPENCER PRIDE

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.







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!).

Celebrate rural queer life on Sunday, September 14!

Join us at 2:30 p.m. in our commUnity center's Golden Discovery ballroom for a special panel discussion celebrating queer life in rural places as we lead into our ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the completion of the beautiful mural that KODA created at Spencer Pride to empower the next generation of LGBTQ+ individuals to live openly and proudly in rural Indiana.

Please note that our ballroom is not wheelchair accessible. This is an in-person only event.

This is the Moment!



Spencer Pride Festival

#ThisIsTheMoment

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4
12 - 7 PM
DOWNTOWN SPENCER



SATURDAY OCTOBER 4
12-7 PM
DOWNTOWN SPENCER

FEATURING

FREE ADMISSION & PARKING

ALL-DAY LIVE ENTERTAINMENT & SPECIAL EVENTS

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

FREE HEALTH & WELLNESS SERVICES

LARGE MARKETPLACE

RAFFLES & 50/50 DRAWING





ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE

12:30 PM	KENNY & MARISSA
1:00 PM	AFTERNOON DRAG SHOW <small>HOSTED BY PAT YO WEAWE</small>
1:30 PM	BUBBA WIGGLES
2:30 PM	KYNE: THE POWER OF MATH
3:30 PM	DRAG QUEEN STORYTIME
4:30 PM	QUARRYLAND MEN'S CHORUS
5:15 PM	TIPSY TEASEDALE & FRIENDS
6:00 PM	PRIMETIME DRAG SHOW <small>HOSTED BY PAT YO WEAWE</small>



Rainbow Birders - Summer Events



SUMMER EVENTS

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

There are a handful of volunteers who have not responded to the background check emails. An email was set out to all who have not responded to the three emails sent out. Jacob will reach out to you and follow up. We must be in compliance with this policy. If you have issues with the background check, please email info@spencerpride.org.

Preserve Queer History

SPENCER CHAPTER ARCHIVE

JUNE 1, 1PM - 4PM
JULY 6, 1PM - 4PM
AUG. 3, 1PM - 4PM
SEP. 7, 1PM - 4PM



COME HAVE CONVERSATION, COFFEE, AND PARTICIPATE IN ARCHIVING OUR OWN QUEER HISTORY

SPENCER PRIDE COMMUNITY CENTER
17 E FRANKLIN ST, SPENCER, IN 47460

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

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



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?



**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 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.



**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
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
she/her
Vice President
Development Director



Rex Hinkle
he/him
Outreach Director



John Angeline
he/him
Communications Director



Wendy Wonderley
she/her
Director



Jacob Balash
he/him
commUnity center Director



Katie Zuber
she/her
Director

OUR MISSION

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- fostering allyship and understanding through education and advocacy,
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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

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 Shiffriss

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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