



November 2025

*Hello, Incredible
Volunteers!*



Spencer Pride General Meeting

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.



Spencer Pride commUnity center
17 E. Franklin Street, Spencer

You are included.

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 

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

Queer Quilting Bee

Fall MQA (Spencer Chapter) Schedule:



Share stories with each other while sewing the top of our community quilt.

No sewing knowledge required.

Groups of 2-4 are ideal. We will be recording our stories while sewing the archive quilt. Please email which dates you'd like to participate at midwestqueerarchive@gmail.com

October 5, 1pm - 4pm
November 7, 1pm - 4pm
December 7, 1pm-4pm



IU Cinema: Queer in the Heartland



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!

Ready to look beyond the stereotypes of the Midwest?

Join Spencer Pride, @IU Center for Rural Engagement and @IUCinema for their "Queer in the Heartland" film series, celebrating the vibrant, resilient lives of LGBTQ+ individuals thriving in the heart of America!

This series shines a spotlight on resilience, community, and the power of being authentically yourself. Join us for two must-see films (FREE but Ticketed!).

* Tues, Nov 4 at 7 PM: IN PLAIN SIGHT
Discover the surprising reality of LGBTQ+ women finding safety, support, and happiness in the rural Upper Midwest, challenging notions about life outside of urban centers.

* Tues, Nov 11 at 7 PM: THE PROM
See the glitzy musical comedy starring Meryl Streep and Nicole Kidman about an Indiana high schooler fighting for her right to bring her girlfriend to prom. A heartwarming celebration of love and acceptance!
PLUS: A virtual Q&A follows the film with Broadway co-writer/lyricist Chad Beguelin and Spencer Pride President Jonathan Balash!

Secure your FREE tickets now and connect with your Hoosier community. Get Tickets Here:
<https://am.ticketmaster.com/iucinema/buy/IUCinemaNovember-December25?hl=en-US>

Let's celebrate the power of being yourself, right here in south central Indiana and beyond in the Midwest Heartland! Curated by @SpencerPride.



Constellation Playhouse

Join our friends at Off Night Productions for the final installment in their 2025 Season, Off Night Stories: Immigrants, Refugees, and Asylum Seekers.

This live storytelling event features a series of true stories about the experiences of immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers. From choosing to pursue your dreams in a new country, to fleeing violence in a home you never thought you'd leave, the stories in this production showcase the diverse experiences of Bloomington's immigrant community. Join us for this celebration of tenacity, resilience, and joy.

Get your tickets at offnight.ludus.com
English shows: November 9 at 2:00 P.M., November 10 & 11 at 7:00 P.M.

Spanish show: November 9 at 7:00 P.M.

Spanish show free with advance sign-up via El Centro Comunal Latino. Call 812-355-7513 or email elcentrocomunal@gmail.com.

Learn more at www.offnightproductions.org/stories2025



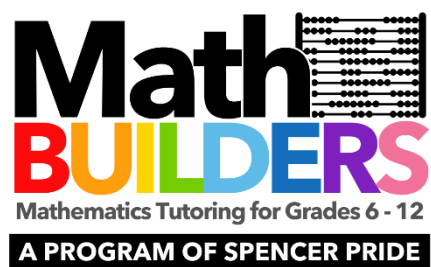
An inclusive Dungeons & Dragons RGP ang gaming group
 RPG meets as scheduled
 Open Game Night 3rd Saturday @ 4pm
 Contact Phillip@SpencerPride.org for more info
 Join our Facebook Group!



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



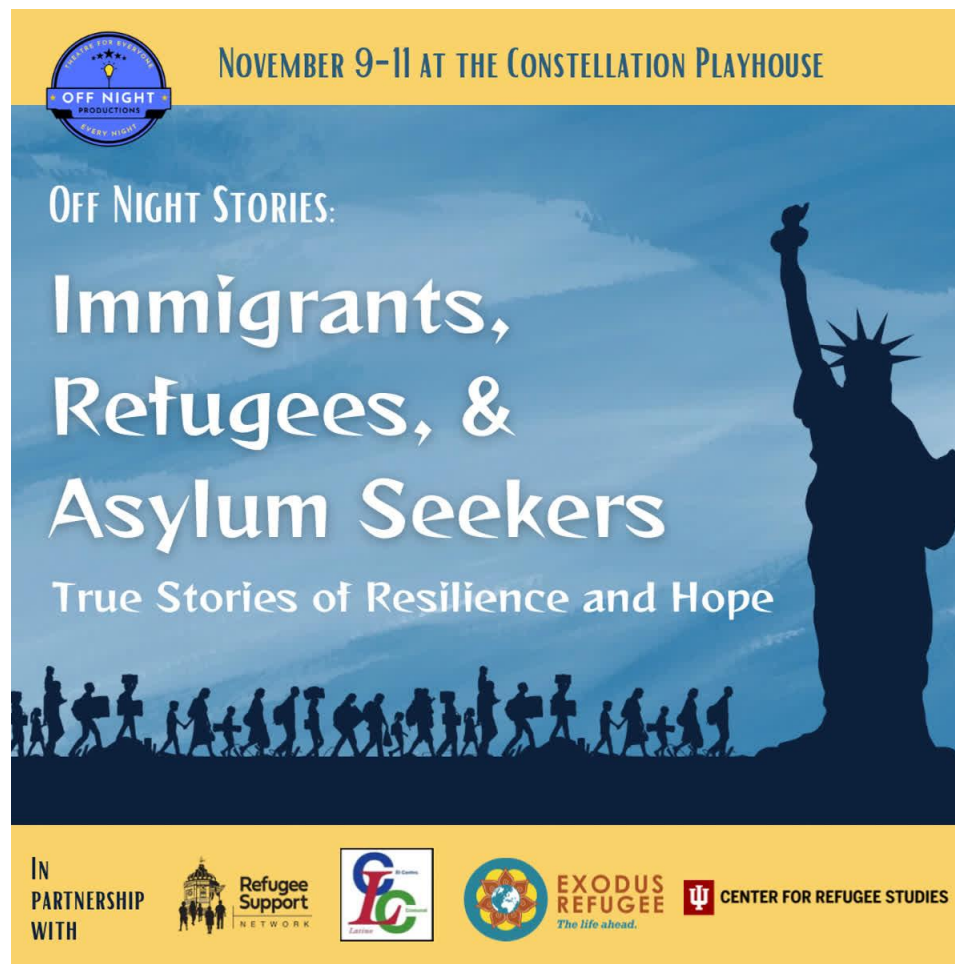
A group for people who wish to live a more peaceful, joyful, and loving life
 Meets at 4 PM on the third Sunday
 Contact Karen@SpencerPride.org for more info



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.



Volunteer Spotlight: Supporting Our NATCA Partners

We're excited to highlight a great example of Spencer Pride making a real difference and building strong connections!

Spencer Pride is thrilled to be selected again as one of the National Air Traffic Controllers Association (NATCA)'s official charities during their Pride fundraising efforts. We were surprised to be selected a few years ago for this national recognition and have continued to support NATCA since then. To nurture this important relationship and show our support during the recent federal government shutdown, we put together and delivered lunch to the 125+ hard-working NATCA members at the Indianapolis facilities—the Air Route Traffic Control Center (ZID) and the Indianapolis International Airport (IND) Tower.

In the midst of the uncertainty of a shutdown, this small, thoughtful gesture showed our allies that Spencer Pride stands with them. These kinds of outreach efforts are essential for strengthening our ties with community partners like NATCA. Thank you for your commitment to action and for showing the power of community in a tangible way!



Volunteers of the Year

Celebrating Our 2025 Volunteers of the Year!

Each year, we honor volunteers who go above and beyond to make Spencer Pride stronger, kinder, and more vibrant.

IDEA Award: Rex Hinkle — for years of dedicated leadership and generosity that continue to help Spencer Pride grow and thrive. This year he helped elevate us all (literally) by making a major donation to fund the installation of our elevator.

Leader Award: Karen Williams — for heart-led leadership, generosity, and creating the Rainbow Sunday Circle program.

Festival Award: Joy Hellman — for stepping up wherever needed and bringing joy to every part of our work.

commUnity Center Awards: Our amazing Wednesday Crew — Jim



Meets on the 2nd Wednesday at 6:15 PM
Individuals bring their own mat, all abilities and level welcome.
For more information, contact Julie.M@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 to the Caribbean



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.

Frohliger, Shea Finnegan, John Settle-Corbin, Patti Cowin, and Jacob Balash — for their creativity, teamwork, and time keeping our center thriving (and helping make our elevator a reality!).

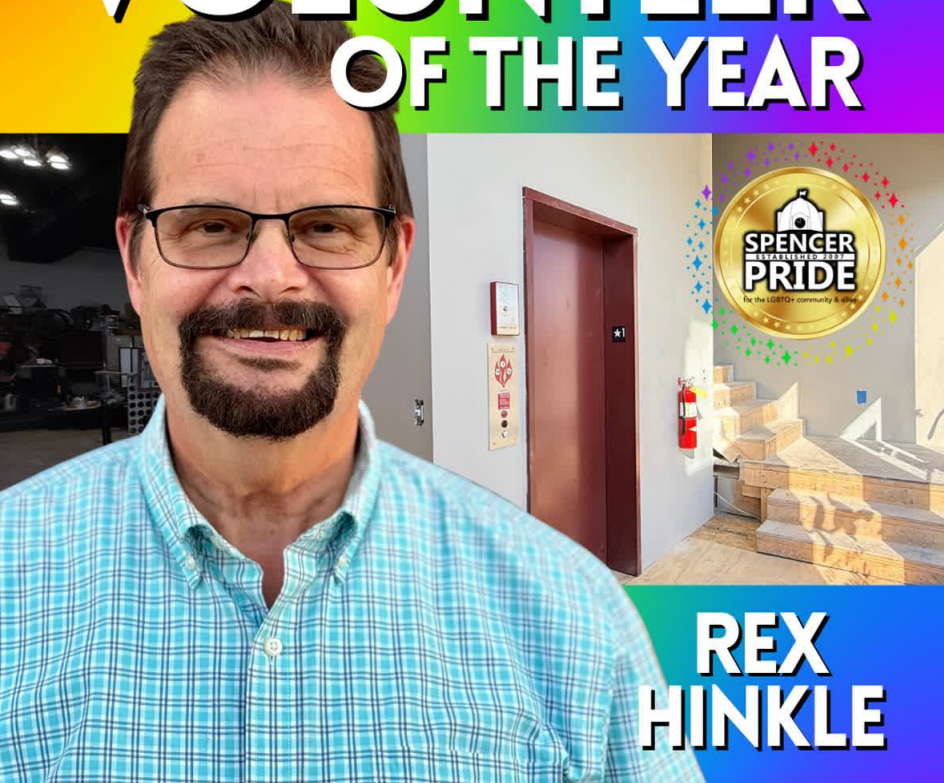
Thank you to all our volunteers who make Spencer Pride a welcoming, inclusive space for everyone.

2025 SPENCER PRIDE VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR



CONGRATULATIONS!

2025 INCLUSION, DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & ACCESSIBILITY VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR



REX HINKLE

2025 LEADER VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR



KAREN WILLIAMS

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.

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.

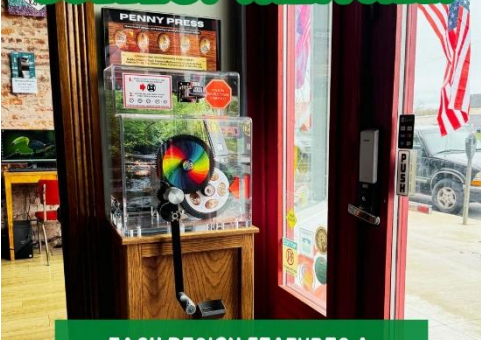
Final payment due March 14, 2026.



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



COLLECT THEM ALL!



EACH DESIGN FEATURES A SPECIAL PLACE WITHIN SPENCER.

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!).

2025 SPENCER PRIDE FESTIVAL

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR



JOY HELLMAN

2025 COMMUNITY CENTER

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR



JIM FROHLIGER

PART OF THE "WEDNESDAY CREW"

2025 COMMUNITY CENTER

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR



SHEA FINNEGAN

PART OF THE "WEDNESDAY CREW"





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 Q3 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.



36 households



\$61 donated

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



**BECOME A SPENCER PRIDE
*Sustainer***

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. www.spencerpride.org/donate

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he/him
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COMMITTEE LEGEND: D = Development, E = Executive, F = Finance, P = Programming S = ED Selection

For more information about our Board, please scan here:



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

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Become a Sustainer:



2025
SPENCER PRIDE
FESTIVAL

This is the Moment

OCTOBER 4
SPENCER, IN

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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