



August 2026



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



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!

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.



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

Welcome Our New Executive Director

Monthly Programs



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](#)!

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.



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!).

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 local news organization!



Pride Festivals

Our friends at Greenwood Pride are using their website to manage and host a festival page for all of the pride organizations in the [Indiana Pride Network](#).



We know that many of you have been patiently waiting to hear the outcome of our recent executive director recruitment efforts, and we are excited to bring GOOD NEWS to you! The Executive Director Selection Committee, after a few months of reviewing applications, screening, and then interviewing candidates, made a recommendation to the board of directors last week to hire a candidate. The board approved the motion and authorized us to extend an offer.

We are happy to share that [Jake Taylor](#) (they/them) has accepted the position!

Jake is a native of rural Michigan, Missouri, and Indiana, and brings a background in community development, nonprofit work, education, and equity-centered practice. Jake holds an MA in Intercultural Encounters from the University of Helsinki and a BA in Journalism from Indiana University.

Before joining Spencer Pride, Jake served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Togo, partnering with local communities on education, health, and agricultural initiatives, managing grant-funded projects, working with local organizations, and helping launch a village library. They also served as a Team Leader with AmeriCorps NCCC, leading a team through disaster relief, public health, and community service projects across the United States.

Jake's experience includes advocacy and nonprofit work through roles with the Human Rights Campaign and the Center of Excellence for Women & Technology, where they supported equity programming, community engagement, and board relations.

We are excited about the diverse experiences that Jake brings to Spencer Pride, and in particular, their thoughtful and inclusive approach. They are passionate about creating welcoming spaces, strengthening communities, and building systems that help people feel seen, supported, and connected. We believe that Jake will be an excellent representative for Spencer Pride and a powerful advocate for our mission.

As for Jake's passions outside of work, they enjoy reading, language learning, and spending time outdoors.

Jake just wrapped up their MA program in Helsinki, Finland this month and is excited to return to Indiana and work alongside our volunteers and board members in support of our work. Due to Jake's relocation, some much earned time-off, and their sister's wedding, Jake will officially join Spencer Pride on **August 19**.

We will be sharing additional details about Jake's onboarding over the next couple of months. Please join us in welcoming Jake to the Spencer Pride family!

Save the Date: Our 20th Festival!



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



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 Terry@SpencerPride.org.



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 Grief.Haven@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 4:30-6:30 pm on the 2nd & 4th Wednesday. Contact Joy@SpencerPride.org for more info. Follow us in Instagram!



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 Rainbow.Birders@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](#)!



An inclusive Dungeons & Dragons RGP ang gaming group. RPG meets as scheduled. Open Game Night 3rd Saturday @ 4 pm. Contact Rainbow.Rollers@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.

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

Be sure to click the link and check out other festivals throughout Indiana.

information, ask a Spencer Pride volunteer or contact us at info@SpencerPride.org.



What is the Spencer Pride Festival?

It's more than a festival. It's a celebration of community, belonging, and the belief that everyone deserves to feel welcome.

For 20 years, the Spencer Pride Festival has brought people together in the heart of rural Indiana to celebrate the LGBTQ+ community while creating a space where everyone can feel seen, valued, and supported.

Whether you're LGBTQ+, an ally, or simply looking for a fun day filled with music, entertainment, local vendors, food, family activities, and community, there's a place for you here.

This year's festival celebrates two decades of building community with our theme, "Changed for Good." Together, we've helped make our community stronger, more welcoming, and more connected than ever before.

Join us on Saturday, October 3, in downtown Spencer as we celebrate 20 years of Pride in rural Indiana. We can't wait to welcome you!

Everyone is welcome.
Everyone belongs.

#SpencerPride #ChangedForGood #RuralPride #LGBTQ
#Community

Festival Theme and Logo



Congratulations to our 2026 Spencer Pride Festival Logo Contest winner, Trevor Bridgewater!

We were blown away by the creativity and talent of everyone who submitted designs for this year's festival. After careful consideration, we're excited to announce that Trevor's beautiful butterfly design has been selected as the official logo for our 20th Spencer Pride Festival!

Trevor shared the inspiration behind the design: "My design is of a geometric butterfly that symbolizes transformation, growth, and unity, with one wing evolving from darker tones into vibrant Pride colors to reflect the theme 'Changed for Good.'"

That message perfectly captures this year's theme. Over the past 20 years, our community has grown, transformed, and become stronger because of the people who have shown up, spoken out, and supported one another. We have truly been Changed for Good.

Please join us in congratulating Trevor on his winning design!

And don't forget to save the date. The 20th Spencer Pride Festival takes place on Saturday, October 3, in downtown Spencer. We can't wait to celebrate with all of you!

#SpencerPride #ChangedForGood
#SpencerPrideFestival #Pride2026



Annual Background Checks



Thank you to all the volunteers who completed their background checks in July. We appreciate you!

Blood Drive



Be someone's hero this August.

Just one blood donation can help save up to three lives. Join Spencer Pride and Versiti as we come together to give hope to patients who need it most.

Saturday, August 8
11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Spencer Pride CommUnity Center
17 E. Franklin St., Spencer

Appointments are preferred, but walk-ins are welcome!

Roll up your sleeve, bring a friend, and help us reach our goal of 15 donors. Together, we can make a lifesaving difference.

Give Hope. Donate Blood. Save Lives.

#GiveHope #DonateBlood #SpencerPride #SaveLives

Sleigh Bells in Sunshine



We are thrilled to begin to prepare for a new holiday season pilot initiative with support from the Owen County Community Foundation.

This winter, we will be hosting an event dedicated to bringing comfort, joy, and dignity to LGBTQ+ families and individuals during the holiday season.

But to make the magic happen, we need your help now! We are collecting evergreen, shelf-stable items during our Sleigh Bells in Sunshine campaign to stock up for our winter distribution. By donating early, we ensure we can support a wide variety of neighbors when the holiday season arrives.

Please review the linked Amazon wishlist and consider donating to support our community members this holiday season. These essential items that spread holiday cheer will make a huge difference in the lives of those we serve.

https://www.amazon.com/registries/gi/guest-view/2NV90XF11YWOM?ref=cm_sw_r_apann_ggr-subnav-share_7ZAV7ABJ0W0VZF7MB4K9_1&language=en-US

Have a similar item in mind? As long as it fits the spirit of sharing warmth and cheer this holiday season, we will gladly accept it for our Holigay event!

Please note, donated items will be shipped to our Development Director, Elisabeth Solchik, and temporarily stored off-site due to the controlled chaos that is currently happening with our east side rehab work at the community center.

Thank you for helping Spencer Pride build a stronger, more supported community this holiday season!

#SpencerPride #SleighBellsinSunshine #Holigay
#CommunityDonation #SpreadJoy #Pride
#LGBTQSupport



Open Shifts

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



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 2026 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?

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.

COMMUNITY REWARDS UPDATE FOR Q4 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.

37 households

\$55 donated

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

SPENCER PRIDE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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.

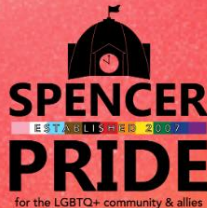
If you or someone you know would like to be a Sponsor, click [here](#) for more details!

A Spencer Pride Sustainer is a donor who gives at a regular interval – monthly, quarterly, or annually – for as little as \$5/month.

We are incredibly thankful for our 2026 sustainers. These amazing supporters give at a regular interval to cover over 75% of the commUnity center’s current monthly operation costs.

To become a Sustainer, reach out to our Vice President and Development Director, Elisabeth Solchik at Elisabeth@spencerpride.org, or you can start the process through our website: <https://spencerpride.org/donate/>

Check the box "Show my support by making this a recurring donation"
And in the blank space that is a drop-down field for "My donation is for," select "Sustainer (Recurring)"



2026 Sustainers

Ben Ale-Ebrahim	Tyler DeFord	Bob Marshall	Anna Spears
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Barbara Bauer	Cathy C. Gebhard	Donna Nicholas	Terese Urban
Vic Bequeret	Kate Gehringer	Amanda Nixon	Nicole Vasconi
Glenda Breeden	Athena Goulet	Ed O'Brien	Karla Vedder
Bill Breeden	Kathy Griffey	Phillip O'Neil	Erica Whichello
George Brinson	Lynn Griffey-Ennis	Jameson O'Neil	Peggy Whitlow
Jessica Brinson	John Grisham	Caroline Owens	Karen Williams
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Stephen Brown	Jackie Hall	Julie Parmenter	Don Wooldridge
Wren Brown	Nicholas Heck	Carri Ranard	Cathy Wyatt
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Become a Sustainer

PURPLE SPONSOR



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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