



September 2026



Spencer Pride Annual Meeting and Reception - Sunday, September 13th



Also...

Join us to welcome

Jake Taylor

in a special reception
right after the Annual Meeting



Reception treats will be provided by Kathy Balash!

Greetings, Spencer Pride supporters!

This is a special time of year for Spencer Pride as we get ready to **engage with thousands of people** between our Annual Meeting, Spencer Pride Festival, and end-of-year programming.

On behalf of the entire Board of Directors, I invite you to join us for the first of those events - our **Annual Meeting** - on **Sunday, September 13 from 4 - 6 PM** at the commUnity center.

Our agenda:

4:00 PM | **10th Birthday Celebration** recognizing ten years since the opening of the Spencer Pride commUnity center (hosted in our new Learning Center).

4:30 PM | **Annual Meeting** (hosted in the Golden Discovery Ballroom)

5:30 PM | **Welcome Reception for Jake Taylor** (hosted in the Rex G. Hinkle LGBTQ+ Library). Meet Jake (our new executive director), introduce yourself, and help them understand why Spencer Pride is important to you.

Our commUnity center is entirely wheelchair-accessible and we welcome folks of all ages to this gathering. Whether it's your first time at the center or your fifth time that week, we hope you'll come for this special event. Feel free to bring friends and family along for the fun!

Thank you!
Jonathan



Our Annual Meeting is a time to...

Reflect on the past year

Look ahead to the coming year

Elect our officers and directors

Celebrate our work and community



Up for re-election to our board of directors (for 3-year terms) is:

John Angeline
Jonathan Balash
Joy Hellman
Kim Fidler
Martha Nally
Rex Hinkle
Shea Finnegan

Our leadership slate of officers up for election is:

President: **Jonathan Balash**
Vice President: **Elisabeth Solchik**
Treasurer: **Wendy Wonderley**
Secretary: **John Angeline**

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
- addressing social inequities that stem from the unique intersectionality of queer and rural identities



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.

Spencer Pride Festival



This year is extra special—Spencer Pride Festival is turning 20, and we're throwing the biggest celebration yet! For two decades, this incredible festival has brought people together in downtown Spencer to honor love, diversity, and community spirit.

On the day of the festival, you can expect all the things you love—live entertainment, a huge outdoor marketplace, delicious food, family-friendly fun—and a few exciting surprises to mark this milestone year.

We'd be thrilled to have YOU join us as a volunteer for this historic celebration! [Sign up today](#) to help us welcome thousands of guests, keep the festivities running smoothly, and immerse yourself in the heart of the action. Whether you've been part of Spencer Pride from the start or are lending your time for the first time, your enthusiasm and kindness will make our 20th anniversary truly unforgettable—so don't wait, register now and be changed for good.

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](#)!



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.



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!



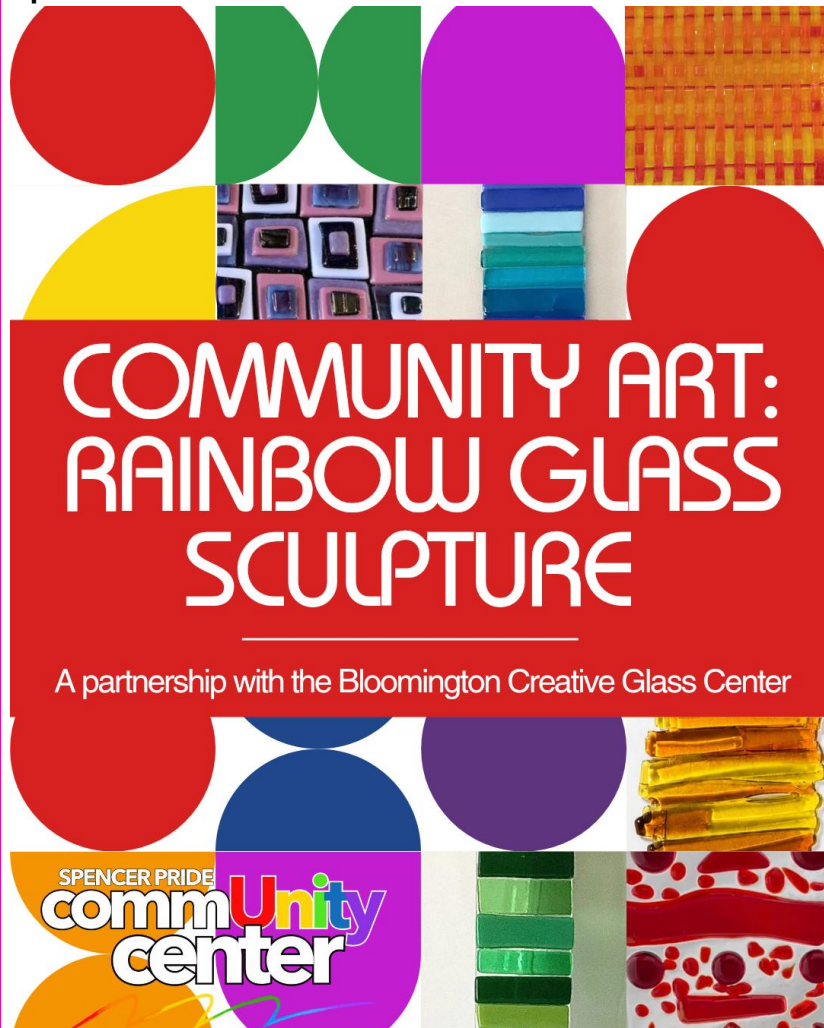
Pride Festivals

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](#).

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



Spencer Pride Festival



Create & Connect: Community Rainbow Glass Art Sculpture!

We are excited to welcome you to our commUnity center in downtown Spencer for a special, hands-on art-making session! Come on by and help us build something truly dazzling for our new space.

With the amazingly talented Bloomington Creative Arts Center, we are crafting a stunning rainbow glass sculpture that will find its permanent home hanging in the skylight of the Rex G. Hinkle Library at the Spencer Pride commUnity center—and we want your creative touch to be a part of it!

How You Can Create:

The Community Rainbow Sculpture: For a suggested \$5 donation, you can craft your very own monochromatic fused glass piece. All of our individual colored creations will be combined to form a vibrant masterpiece that will brighten our library for years to come!

Custom Fused Glass Art: For \$20, you can create your own custom piece of fused glass art. Once it is finished and ready, you can pick it up at a later date to keep and display at home.

No prior experience is necessary—just bring your creativity and community spirit! Stop by, support our community center, and leave your colorful mark on a piece of shared local art. We can't wait to see what we create together!

Saturday, September 19th: 11a-2p
Wednesday, October 14th: 10a-6p



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](#)! Visit our [webpage](#)!



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



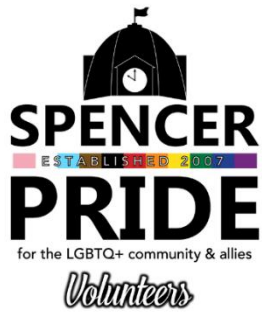
An inclusive Dungeons & Dragons RGP ang gaming group. RPG meets as scheduled. Open Game Night 3rd Saturday @ 4 pm. Contact Rainbow.Rollers@SpencerPride.org for more info. Join our [Facebook Group](#)! Visit our [webpage](#)!



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



Open Shifts

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



Fundraising News

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 Q2 2026

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.



39 households



\$64 donated

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

SPENCER PRIDE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Jonathan Balash

he/him
President
Programming Director
Committee(s): E, P, S



John Angeline

he/him
Communications Director
Committee(s): D



Kim Fidler

she/her
Secretary
Advocacy Director
Committee(s): E, P, S



Jacob Balash

he/him
commUnity center Director
Committee(s): P



Shea Finnegan

he/him
Director
Committee(s): P



Elisabeth Solchik

she/her
Vice President
Development Director
Committee(s): E, D, S



Joy Kellman

she/her
Youth Empowerment Director
Committee(s): P



Wendy Wonderley

she/her
Treasurer
Committee(s): E, F, P



Rex Kinkle

he/him
Outreach Director
Committee(s): D



Martha Nally

she/her
Relationship Development
Director
Committee(s): D

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.

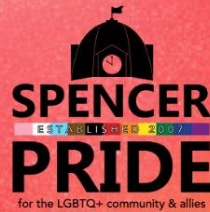
If you or someone you know would like to be a Sponsor, click [here](#) for more details!

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
John* Angeline	Carl Deitchman	Lucie Mathieu	Damon Spivey
Jonathan* Balash	Elizabeth DeVoe	Jody May	Marcia Steele
Jacob* Balash	Chad Eppelheimer	Felix McBeath	Michael Stevenson
Truman Balash	Kim* Fidler	Cathy McFarland	Ryan Stringer
Kathy Balash	Shea Finnegan*	David McFarland	Kayla Tackett
Fred Balash	Eric Flynn-McCormick	Berta Medicus-Moore	Kate Tavernier
Marion Banzhaf	Jim Frohlinger	Debbie Messer	Mitch Teplitsky
Connie Barton	David Friedel	Jennifer Morris	Therry The
Robene R. Bates	Darrell Frye	Martha* Nally	Brayton Thompson
Sienna J. Bates	Patrick Gallagher	Joe Newman	Marci Tillison
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
Jennifer Brown	Cari Hale	Mark Parmenter	Wendy* Wonderley
Stephen Brown	Jackie Hall	Julie Parmenter	Don Wooldridge
Wren Brown	Nicholas Heck	Carri Ranard	Cathy Wyatt
Pam Browning	Mary Heldt	Mia Ranard	Dan Wyatt
Dean Bruce	Joy* Hellman	Lucy Ransdell	Karen Zuber
Marcia Bruce	David Henk	Alan Rice	Tom Zuber
Linda Bucklin	Ann Henk	Janet Rummel	Katie Zuber
Alex Butrum-Griffith	Rex* Hinkle	Eric Sader	
Linda Campbell	Cindy Houston	Bethany Satrom	*Board of Directors
John Cash	Jennifer Hurtubise	Dorcilla Schoolman	
Nathaniel Clawson	Melanie Keller	John Settle-Corbin	
Beth Clawson	Christy Kelley	Lynne Shiffriss	
Allie Cogan McHaley	Kathy Kessler	Casey Shively	
Claire Cogan McHaley	Matt Kirk	Kathryn Shumate	
Patti Cowin	Donna Lowe	Kathy Sideli	
Christy Crandall	Ann Mahrdt	RJ Sliva	
Eric Crown	Marissa Mallo	Jenny Smith	
Dave Debikey		Elisabeth* Solchik	
Kelli Debikey		Cat Spratt	



Become a Sustainer

PURPLE SPONSOR



**OCTOBER 4
SPENCER, IN**

Thanks again for your support!

Our Contact Information
{{Organization Name}}
{{Organization Address}}
{{Organization Phone}}
{{Organization Website}}

{{Unsubscribe}}

