

Maine Organizations Working with LGBTQ Youth

Out! As I Want to Be (Rockland and mid-coast area)

Out! As I Want to Be supports and empowers LGBTQ youth age 22 and under in their journey from adolescent to adulthood. Out's twice-weekly drop-in programs in Rockland provide support, socialization and personal and professional programs that help these at-risk youth find their voices and step into leadership in their own lives, their schools and their communities. Out! also conducts community education events and hosts movie events to build community and educate the general public about LGBTQ issues. For more information, check out maine.org or email outmidcoast@gmail.com.

Outright Lewiston-Auburn

Mission is to create safe and affirming environments for youth under age 22 in Androscoggin County. Friday drop-in from 6-8:30 at the First Universalist Church of Auburn. Provides educational outreach as well as resources for LGBTQ youth and their families, friends and adults who work with them. Info@outrightla.org.

Portland Outright

Portland Outright is a youth-driven program that offers support and services to LGBTQ and allied people, ages 14-22, in the greater Portland area. Portland Outright works to create safe, accountable spaces where young people can find support, make friends and get engaged with the LGBTQ community. Drop in every Wednesday from 6-8 pm at 175 Lancaster Street. Facebook.com/portlandoutright. portlandoutright@gmail.com.

Waterville Inclusive Community Project

The mission is to create safe and welcoming communities for LGBTQ youth. Through the Out & Allied Youth Theatre, LGBTQ youth and their allies use theatre as a means to provide education to the community. Markfair56@gmail.com.

GLSEN (Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network)

The mission statement of GLSEN is "Safe Schools for All." GLSEN strives to assure that each member of every school community is valued and respected, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity/expression. GLSEN supports Gay-Straight-Trans Alliances (GSTAs), which are student clubs in high schools and middle schools that work to reduce hate language and harassment inside their schools, provide a supportive space for LGBT youth and their allies, and develop youth leadership. Maine GLSEN chapters currently support 70 Gay-Straight-Trans Alliances working in over

40% of the state's high schools in all but one Maine counties. We also support GSTAs in two middle schools and are hoping to expand into many more.

GLSEN sponsors periodic regional meetings for members of our GSTA clubs. During these GSTA Regional Nights students share their ideas for anti-bias and anti-harassment projects in their schools, promote youth training and leadership, and build a sense of community for students working toward the common goal of safe schools.

GLSEN-Southern Maine's youth leadership program, called Jump-Start, consists of student leaders from area high schools who receive training and then serve as designers of programs and lead presentations on LGBTQ issues in middle schools and high schools and universities, at conferences, for various community organizations, and sometimes in front of legislative committees.

There are two GLSEN chapters in Maine: Downeast GLSEN located in Ellsworth and GLSEN-Southern Maine in Portland. Contacts: glsensomaine@gmail.com or <http://glsen.org/chapters/southernme> and GLSEN Downeast, Secretary Peter Rees, 667-2358, downeastme@chapters.glsen.org or <http://www.glsen.org/chapters/downeastme>.

The 100% Society

Advocates awareness and acceptance of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, and other groups' issues. The 100% Society is similar to Gay Straight Alliances (GSA's) found in high schools, where everyone is accepted regardless of sexual orientation and meetings are kept confidential. <http://machias.edu/100percent.html>

Rainbow Ball Community Training

Saturday, April 12th, 8:30am - 4:00pm, Performing Arts Center at UMM.

The Psychology & Community Studies Program at the University of Maine at Machias is hosting a day-long series of free trainings for adults that work with LGBTQIAA youth or/and adults who want to better support youth. Contact hours (6 hours) are available for teachers. CEUs are available for counselors and social workers.

Sessions include: "Recognizing Courage: Learning From Transgender Children" by keynote speaker Dr. Wayne Maines; "Safe Space Training"; "In the Moment: Strategies for Identifying & Stopping LGBT Bullying in Schools"; "Working with Families to Support LGBT Youth"; "Anti-Bullying: Working with Colleagues & Administrators"; and "Strategies for Creating Safe, All-Inclusive Environments." Family members and educators/mental health providers in training are welcome. Registration deadline is Monday March 31. For more information contact Lois-Ann Kuntz lkuntz@maine.edu. To register go to:

<https://docs.google.com/a/maine.edu/forms/d/1WkJylGIguUoCvIqRZwzdcDxf9WSYjv136MkSHADW1o/viewform>

7th Annual Rainbow Ball Weekend

At the University of Maine at Machias and hosted by the 100% Society on Friday, April

11- Sunday April 13. This is a weekend of events for LGBT youth and allies. Food, housing, and transportation are provided free for youth, assistants, and chaperones. This year's theme is 'Action Heroes' and keynote speaker is Dr. Wayne Maines, "Recognizing Courage – Learning From Transgender Children", and Q&A with his daughter Nicole Maines & Chase Philbrook, UMA men's soccer player. Youth registration and RBW assistant applications (college youth and former attendees who wish to help) are open <http://machias.edu/100percent.html> . There will be a talent show, educational workshops, crafts, poetry workshop with nationally recognized poet Chris Crittenden, a photography exhibition at the Book Arts Studio by Linda Eastman, games, and the Rainbow Ball dance on Saturday is the culminating event. Please contact Lois-Ann Kuntz for more information at lkuntz@maine.edu with "Rainbow Ball 2014" in the subject line.

Maine Transgender Network, Inc.

Provides support and resources for the transgender community, families, and significant others and raises awareness about the varied forms of gender identify and expression by providing training and consultation for mental health and social service professionals. We offer ongoing support groups in both Portland and Bangor. www.maintransnet.org.

Maine TransYouth Equality Foundation

Provides education, advocacy and support for transgender and gender non-conforming children and youth and their families. The mission is to share information about the unique needs of this community, partnering with families, educators and service providers to help foster a healthy, caring and safe environment for all transgender children. Contact@transyouthequality.org.

The Trevor Project

Founded in 1998 by the creators of the Academy Award®-winning short film TREVOR, The Trevor Project is the leading national organization providing crisis intervention and suicide prevention services to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) young people ages 13-24. 1.866.488.7386. www.thetrevorproject.org.

Equality Maine

Mission: EqualityMaine works to secure full equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people in Maine through political action, community organizing, education, and collaboration. Currently piloting a youth leadership development project in mid-coast called New Leaders Project. Equalitymaine.org.

March 13, 2014