

2014 Annual Report

When someone is questioning their sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression they reach out to us, and we're there to help. When members of the media, care providers, teachers, campuses, parents, corporations, faith communities or others have questions about lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer realities, we are the first place they call, and we're there to answer.

For 42 years, we've been champions of LGBTQ lives and cultures in Rochester, NY.

Mission Statement

We envision a future where all members of the greater Rochester LGBTQ communities, at all stages of their lives, are free to be fully participating citizens, celebrating lives in which they are safe, stable and fully respected.

2014 Year in Review

January 2014	February Red Ball
March Dines Out	April First Out & Equal collaboration, 2 nd Thursdays
May Big Gay Prom	June Pride Member Appeal Ride4Pride 5 "Just Gender" Film Screening
July Pride Weekend Our Fabulous Future Youth Sumer Series	August Community Survey David Bohnett Cyber Center Re-Opening
September Adult Families of Trans Youth support group launched	October InQueery (Being Trans*, Being Healthy) Lick Events Day Party Series first event
November SafeZone Train-the-Trainer Program LGBTQ Older Adults Workshop Families of Trans* Adults support group launched #PrideInRoc Campaign	December #PrideInRoc Campaign

Programs

- **Education:** The goal of the Gay Alliance Education Program is to encourage all of our social systems to become inclusive and welcoming to LGBTQ and allied individuals. We provide education and training that touches the heart as well as the mind to help our program participants understand the people behind the identities that make up the LGBTQ communities

- **SafeZone Certification** Our SafeZone program was created to develop, enhance and maintain environments in workplaces, schools and other social settings that are culturally competent and supportive to LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer) individuals, as well as straight, cisgender people who care about diversity, equality and inclusion.
 - **Over the past year, we've led 135 SafeZone presentations, and have reached roughly 5,500 people.**
- **SafeZone Train-the-Trainer Certification Program** The Gay Alliance SafeZone Train-the-Trainer Certification Program was launched in 2013, and is a full day program created to develop confident, knowledgeable and effective SafeZone trainers, who can establish sustainable SafeZone Programs on their college campuses and in their workplaces.
 - **Thus far, we've led 10 Train-the-Trainer Certification programs in four different states: NY (4), CA (3), PA (2), and NC (1).**

"A breath of fresh air. I left feeling like a better member of the LGBT community and most importantly a better person. It was perfect! The presenter was phenomenal! She was informed, relatable, funny and interested in the audience."

- SafeZone Train-the-Trainer participant

- **Training for providers of services to LGBTQ older adults** This full day cultural competency training focuses on understanding the unique barriers to care faced by LGBTQ older adults, how to create an environment at senior service agencies that is inclusive and welcoming of diversity, and how to ensure that LGBTQ older adults are able to acknowledge their life experiences and age with dignity and respect.
 - **The spring 2014 training included 37 participants**
- **Speakers Bureau & Speak Out trainings** The Gay Alliance Speakers Bureau is active all year long in the greater Rochester area, providing presentations, literature and resources on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and ally (LGBTQA) issues.
 - **Speak Out has trained over 250 individuals since its beginning in 2008.**

"Do I have enough adjectives in my vocabulary? What a wonderful learning (and feeling) experience for me. I feel ready to take on the world...I am so very glad to have been part of this experience. It offered me so much more than I ever expected."

- SpeakOUT participant

- **Library & Archives** The Library is a circulating and reference collection of over **6,000 fiction and non-fiction books, and 800 magazine and journal titles**, as well as video and audio recordings related to gay and lesbian, bi-sexual, trans-gendered and queer issues. The Archives house a historic collection of copies of The Empty Closet newspaper, as well as vital paper records and ephemera of the events, organizations, and people important to the Rochester LGBTQ community.
- **Rainbow SAGE** Rainbow SAGE is an affiliate of SAGE (Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders), the world's oldest and largest non-profit agency addressing the needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender elders and has affiliates nationwide. The group meets weekly and activities include lunches, chair yoga, and other programming.
- **Red Ball** An annual all-ages dance and Valentine celebration for community members.
 - **The 2014 steampunk-themed Red Ball fundraised over \$8,700 for the Gay Alliance.**
- **Ride for Pride** A day-long bike marathon to raise funds for Rochester Pride.
 - **Ride4Pride 5 included nearly 50 riders and fundraised over \$20k in support of Rochester Pride.**
- **Rochester Pride** An annual collection of events and programs during the month of July to celebrate the Rochester LGBTQ community. The theme for 2014 was “Unmask Your True Colors” and featured a “carnival” motif.
 - Fast facts about Rochester Pride 2014:
 - **Events included: Flag Raising, Parade, Festival, Picnic, RocPride Games, and a Transgender History Exhibit at the Rochester City Hall.**
 - **Speakers included Mayor Warren, Councilmember Haag, and Assemblyperson Bronson**
 - **2014 Headliner: Betty Who**
 - **The Parade featured 85 marching units, with 18 floats**
 - New this year:
 - **#RocPride2014 Instagram Raffle**
- **Shoulders to Stand On** An original documentary that premiered in September of 2013, “Shoulders to Stand On” reveals a largely unknown and undocumented history of Rochester's LGBT community and its influences across the nation.
 - **A captioned version of the film was completed in May 2014**
 - **Over 125 DVDs have been sold to individuals to date**
 - **The film was shown on WXXI and has been screened at venues throughout western NY.**
 - **A \$1,000 grant was awarded to the Shoulders to Stand On project by the LGBT Giving Circle for screening events at area libraries.**
 - **Documentarian Evelyn Bailey was honored by the Empire State Pride Agenda for her work on the project**

- **Youth Program:** The Gay Alliance Youth Program is dedicated to empowering LGBTQ youths, ages 13-20, to reach their fullest potential by providing a safe environment in which to explore their identity, learn important life skills and to develop and practice leadership skills.
 - Youth Events:
 - **Big Gay Prom, Our Fabulous Future summer program**
 - Ongoing Youth programs:
 - **Fabulous Fridays, Trans* Youth**
 - Youth Program by the numbers:
 - **The Fabulous Fridays group includes an average of 7 participants weekly, with participation ranging from 3 to 16**
 - **The 80's Zombie themed Big Gay Prom welcomed over 40 young people from the greater Rochester area**

Services

- **David Bohnett Cyber Center** The DBCC consists of six computers provided by the David Bohnett Foundation for community members to access high-speed internet, use basic computing and office software, and low-cost printing services.
- **Notary** We are pleased to have volunteer notary available weekly for free, non-judgmental notarizing services.
- **Gay Alliance Resource Directory (GARD)** The GARD is a community-generated online listing of over 2,000 LGBTQ friendly and LGBTQ related services, service providers, companies, websites, and other resources in the greater Rochester area and nationwide.
- **Counseling and legal referrals** The Gay Alliance maintains relationships with a collection of providers who LGBTQ and related referrals directly from the agency.

Empty Closet News

The Empty Closet is New York's longest continually published LGBTQ & ally newspaper. It continues to be a free publication that includes LGBTQ news, entertainment, columns, community calendars, and more. This year saw the introduction of a new section of the paper, LGBTQ Living, featuring the lives and passions of various community members, and the "My Private Rochester" series, a collection of one-on-one interviews with LGBTQ Rochesterians. This year also marked Susan Jordan's 25th anniversary as editor of the Empty Closet.

- **The Empty Closet has 89 total distribution sites spanning four NYS counties in five different urban centers: Rochester (76), Buffalo (5), Syracuse (4), Canandaigua (3), and Batavia (1).**
- **The Empty Closet News website averages 250 visitors each day.**

What's next?

- **Adult Families of Trans* Youth (AFTY)** AFTY is a support group, launched in in September 2014 to provide the families of trans* adolescents with a safe forum for self-expression, a shared network of support, and to be a central hub of knowledge and resources.
- **Advocacy Services for Abused Deaf Victims Collaboration** We are embarking on a collaboration with ASADV to develop materials and resources for Deaf and hard of hearing LGBTQ survivors of domestic violence. This project is supported by a \$447,000 grant through the Department of Justice Office of Violence Against Women.
- **"Families & Friends of Trans* Adults" group** "Families and Friends of Trans Adults", or F2TA, is a new facilitated discussion group to meet the needs of a long-unserved set of individuals seeking support, camaraderie, and information with other friends and family members of transgender adults.
- **InQueery** InQueery is a way for LGBT and allied community members to learn about a wide variety of things together. Part social, part educational, and LGBT inclusive to the core, we're thrilled to be able to bring back the InQueery series.
- **Legacy Society** The Legacy Society will be a new way for community members to ensure that the progress made over their lifetimes can continue after they pass away by entrusting their estate to the Gay Alliance.
- **Lick Events** Our "Day Party Sundays" are new series of Sunday afternoon community "tea dances" for the 21+ LGBTQ & ally crowd in Rochester.
- **"SafeZone for Sign Language Interpreters"** The Gay Alliance has begun a collaboration with the Rochester Institute of Technology Department of Access Services, the RIT American Sign Language Interpreter Education Department, and the RIT Q Center to develop a community SafeZone program for hearing ASL interpreters who work with d/Deaf and hard-of-hearing LGBTQ people.
- **Out at Geva** Geva and the Gay Alliance have paired up to offer a free pre-show reception before one performance of each production in their six-show 2014-2015 season, a new way for community members to socialize and enjoy one of the area's best theatres.

The Gay Alliance Online

The Gay Alliance has been working hard to establish a more visible online presence through our website, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram accounts. Our Facebook page has been developed into a curated collection of information content, while our Twitter connections are helping us reach new communities. Twitter has also been used to establish a forum for real-time participation in events like the “Visioning Our Future” Community Forum on September 13th which was “Live-tweeted” by a volunteer. We are currently looking at upgrading our website to something more modern, and are excited at the possibility for more direct interactions with community members.

- **The Gay Alliance Facebook page is seen by an average of 24 people daily, and our Twitter following has grown by some 150 followers this year.**
- **Our website is visited an average of 300 times daily.**

2014 Board Members

Name	Position
David Zona	President
Jessica Muratore	Vice President, Chair Governance Committee
Jason Barnecut	Finance & Audit Committee Chair
Bruce Gorman	Secretary
Chris Hilderbrant	Board Member
Emily Jones	Chair Development Committee
Jeff Lambert	Board Member
Peter Mohr	Treasurer
Bill Schaefer	Co-Chair Pride Parade

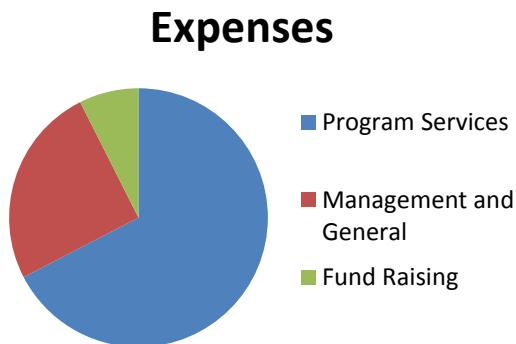
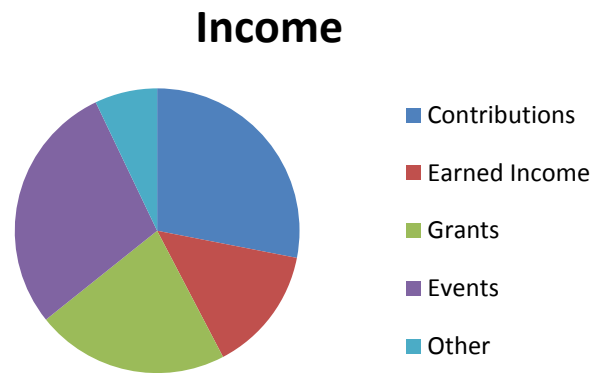
2014 Staff Members

Name	Position
Scott Fearing	Executive Director
Jim Anderson	Graphic Designer
Jeanne Gainsburg	Education Director
Susan Jordan	Empty Closet Editor
Kat Wiggall	Database Administrator
Tristan Wright	Office Administrator

Statement of Financial Position

Income and Expenses 2013	
Total Income	\$551,483
Total Expenses	\$459,534
Net Income	\$91,949

Sources of Income	
Contributions	167,676
Earned Income	85,362
Grants	131,038
Events	171,112
Other	42,433
TOTAL	\$551,483



Sources of Expenses	
Program Services	309,668
Management & General	115,655
Fund Raising	34,211
TOTAL	\$459,534

Become a member of the Gay Alliance

We rely on the support of people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions. What all of our donors have in common is a commitment and a passion for the full inclusion of LGBTQ people.

Volunteer with us

Share your time, expertise, talents and resources to help us meet the complex and ever-changing needs of the Rochester LGBTQ communities.

