

2008 – The Year in Review

Ongoing Programs/Services – SUPPORT

- Added support groups at our monthly meeting to serve people with different needs.
- Changed the time of the monthly meeting to enable people participating in a support group to attend the program.
- Added mid-month support group meetings in response to request of attendees.
- Increased attendance at support group meetings.
- Explored gender diversity through a meeting by the Board with a mother of a transgender child and a consultant/facilitator on gender diversity issues; featured a program on gender diversity/transgender persons at a monthly meeting.
- Assisted in the formation of a new Littleton PFLAG chapter.
- Created a directory of over 60 Open and Affirming churches and invited them to join us in the Pridefest Parade.
- Increased activity of HelpLine: some months there were 25-30 calls for assistance and information.
- Increased/maintained membership (, compared to the year before).
- Developed an active and creative Program Committee for the monthly meeting, led by Sandy Wilbanks.
- Redesigned and actively maintained our website.
- Started holding Board meetings at the office.

Ongoing Programs/Services – ADVOCACY

- Adopted and disseminated a resolution opposing the Colorado Civil Rights Initiative ballot proposal to ban affirmative action.

INTERNAL/MANAGEMENT

- Enlarged the Board of Directors to ten persons.
- Developed and implemented a fundraising initiative of inviting members and friends to a non-event in their own homes to make a donation to PFLAG Denver.
- Made improvements in our accounting system and office equipment.
- Started holding Board meetings at the office.
- Hosted an ice cream social for volunteers, who throughout the year had volunteered????? hours.



Ongoing Programs/Services – EDUCATION

- Co-sponsored with Montview Presbyterian Church a "Changing Hearts about Gay Children Symposium: How We Can Strengthen Each Other."
 - Investigated the activity of the American Psychiatric Association in rewriting the DSM-V Sexual Identity Disorder.
 - Presented programs at the monthly meeting on a wide range of educational and informative topics.
 - Planned for implementation of PFLAG National's Straight for Equality initiative.
 - Staffed tables at several conferences, including Jefferson County Schools Helping Kids Thrive conference, and Anti-NARTH (National Assn. for Research and Therapy of Homosexuality) protest.
 - Organized Speakers' Bureau presentations at various conferences and businesses, including the Environmental Protection Agency, Regis, Raytheon, Frito-Lay, gay-straight alliances at George Washington High School, Peer Counselors Program at Green Mountain High School.
 - Encouraged and provided scholarships for attendance at PFLAG's Regional Conference in Boulder; ????? chapter members attended.
- and providing financial assistance to ?????? persons who could not otherwise afford to attend.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR LEADERS

If there is ever any question whether PFLAG is relevant and serves a purpose, the answer appears at the Pride Parade. As the PFLAG contingent marches down Colfax Avenue, the boisterous reaction of the crowd to our appearance clearly says that the work that we do to educate, support and advocate for LGBT persons is recognized, appreciated and serves a meaningful purpose. The experience of the parade is energizing and validates what we do.

During the year 2008, we emphasized "support." Previously, at our monthly membership meetings, a support group met at the same time as the evening's program. This forced people to decide whether to attend the support group or the program. In addition, we had only one support group, which did not recognize and respond to the different reasons and conditions for which different participants were seeking support. So, we changed the evening's schedule to enable people to attend both a support group and the program. In addition, we added more support groups in order to respond to varying interests. As a result, we have seen an increase in the interest and the number of people participating in the support groups, so much so that at times they have met mid-month as well as on the evening of the monthly meeting.

As described above in this annual report, we continued our efforts to educate and to advocate. While at times there seem to be roadblocks, change is occurring, and the hearts and minds of more and more of society are embracing the GLBT cause. It proves that "Yes, we can."

It has been gratifying working with an enlarged and energetic Board of Directors. And of course, without Judy Trompeter, we could not accomplish any of this. THANK YOU, JUDY.

*Stuart S. Gunckel, Chair, Board of Directors
Margaret Collins, President*

