# 2019 GRATITUDE REPORT OUT BOULDER COUNTY

QTPOC

TRANS
SUPPORT

OTHER
PROGRAMS

EVENTS

THANK YOU FROM

OUR DIRECTOR

BOARD STATEMENT

VOLUNTEERS

DONORS





# THANK YOU!

# 2019 has been a year to celebrate.

When I first joined Out Boulder County, I saw the seeds of what this year has proven possible. From staff development and growth to intersectional community engagement and partnership, we have reached milestones that we only dreamt of decades ago. We've diversified our outreach with the first ever Gayla under our organizational umbrella. We've brought on additional, incredible staff to preserve Juan's sanity. We've played a hand in forming Boulder County's first LGBTQ chamber of commerce. We've moved offices to something with a little more history and a lot more brick. And we've remembered loved ones lost through memorial scholarships. And, for the first time ever, we've raised over a million dollars while fighting the good fight.

# I say "we." I really mean you.

Without you as donors, volunteers, engaged community, enraged collective, and your relentless passion and vision for Out Boulder County we would be nothing but party planners. Instead, we have become a positive driver for change and force for good.

Here's to entering 2020 with absolute hope that it will prove stress-free and productive in moving the needles that make the world a better, safer, equitable place for the LGBTQ community and those who love and support us.

With love, hope, and gratitude,

Mardi Moore







# THANK YOU!

2019 was another sensational year for Out Boulder County and our continued mission to advocate, educate, and provide services and programs in support of the LGBTQ community. The best phrase I can think of to describe Out Boulder County in 2019 is, "never giving up in the face of adversity!"

With the tireless support of our staff, volunteers, and donors, we were able to grow our revenues to over \$1 Million, and that funding served us well. As the political environment created greater needs for the community, we were able to exponentially expand our outreach. We added new staff to better meet the community's needs including expanded services for LGBTQ Youth and elders. We created an LGBTQ liaison with our local police forces to provide much needed protections for our community. We

held the largest Boulder and Longmont PrideFests in our history, assisted with starting the first ever LGBTQ Chamber of Commerce, and held the first OBC Gayla. And we commemorated the Boulder County Courthouse with an official listing in the National Register of Historic Places in order to recognize its significance as the location where Clela Rorex signed the first legal gay marriage certificates in 1975.

With the community's generous donations, we were also able to move from our small (but love-filled) Pride House with staff tightly packed around folding tables to a larger space with actual offices and more room for programs and safe meeting spaces!

Thanks to the continued support of our donors, volunteers, staff, board members and community, Out Boulder County offers a diversity of programming unmatched in Colorado. Thank you for your continued support, and here's to making 2020 an even better year!

Kevin Ellis President of the Board of Directors Out Boulder County 2019



# **OUR HEROES**

FROM KY MARTENS

Volunteers are a core component of any successful non-profit organization. Volunteers help us bridge the gaps that cannot be filled by any one person. We rely on them to help us with daily tasks, community building and engagement, pridehouse upkeep, group leadership and facilitation, events, and much more. We are so thankful to have such a great group of growing volunteers who definitely help make our lives much easier.

I have only just begun my position here at Out Boulder County and I have already been amazed by the dedication of our volunteers. We have groups that meet almost every day of the week. These groups are both internal and external groups. Most of our internal groups are run by OBC volunteers. I have been taking the time to get to know these folks who provide such a necessary resource to the community.

Front desk volunteers are vital to our daily operations. From answering the phones, to helping walk-in community members, to data entry, our volunteers help keep us on track and allow us to do the important organizational work we must do in order to provide for the community.

Events volunteers provide much needed support to keep our events fun, safe, and prosperous. Without event volunteers we would, quite literally, not be able to host events. These volunteers are necessary to provide a great experience to our event guests and help us make sure we can keep these events going year after year.

In 2019 we had over 204 active volunteers helping make Out Boulder County what it truly is: a powerful community resource. With the help of all volunteers we were able to host many events, groups, and programs. We simply cannot thank them enough.

We also want to say a huge thank you to Christine Gibbons who has worked so hard for Out Boulder County since 2016. She has put in countless hours to help this organization, over 470 hours in 2019 alone. Thank you, Christine!

It is my goal in 2020 to really elevate this volunteer program. We will be doing an evaluation of our program from both a staff and volunteer perspective to help bridge any gaps that we might be encountering. I am positive that we will build strong relationships with volunteers to help improve volunteer retention.

I am dedicated to creating great communication between prospective volunteers, myself, and the staff to help grow our volunteer base.

Thank you volunteers for helping make 2019 a really great year!





**MONICA VARGAS CHIP WILEY HOLLI WEATHERINGTON TRAVIS GAHN MARY GREEN LAUREN HALVERSTADT** LEXI EVANS **BRITTANY LEE** SARAH LONG JENEVIEVE RUSSELL STUART FEINHOR JEAN NUTTALL **MEG GENEVIE NEESHA SCHNEPF DIANA FRIEDLI** ARUN JAGANNATHAN JEREMY MARKEY **ALISA WOJTASZEK CHRISTINA LUJAN NELE BECKER** KRISTA CHILCOTE **ANN C NOONAN POLLY TOBIAS CARDAMON TRAVIS MANDY LAHEY ALEX NGUYEN BRITT ENWALL MAYA SHAFFER JAMES KIRBY CAZ MARGENAU AUTY SCHERDEN** PATTY JACKSON TINA GUENTHER

SONNIE LAND MACKENZIE ELLIS **MARK MILLER NATHAN ROGERS** AJ J **MATTY FRIER REBECCA JOHNSON SAMANTHA HOSMER AIDAN SMITH-FATTOR** SUSIE HIDALGO FAHRING KIRK BOYER MATT WAYMAN **NICK CHASE ABRA ALLAN CHIP CHIP** KRISSY JENSEN JAKE UNKNOWN **RANDY NEIGHBORS** PAUL RASTRELLI **PEYTON ROTH** TYLER EKX RANDALL MAURIOCOURT **MARLO SCHIMPF MOE CLARK MARCOS TREVINO-CONROY** TREVOR KLEIN **MICHAEL MEGURA** LEE R **TAYLOR SNARDON LILY BERLIN** MICHAEL FULLER TRACY FEHR **TERESA KNOWLES MARY MEEK** 

**MADRONA ROBINSON** PETER TAIJERON LANDO SEM MICHELLE MOORE **OLIVIA UNKNOWN** SARAH GARFINKLE JUSTIN NESSELROTTE MICHELLE CHIAPPUTI **EVER HIRSCH** LORI DUMLER JENNIFER MOLDE **NIA WASSINK DARREN SMITH GREGORY ROSE ROSY JACOBSEN ERIN PETTITT** SERAPHIM DIBBLE RAY D **CAREY MASON BRYN LONG DAVID BUNTE MEAGAN GIBBONS ELLIE KAY KIPPES CATHY CHEN** IVAN MATTIE **ANNA RODRIGUEZ JOVANKA BALAC NANCY LEVY LEANN HAIT JULIE REISINGER ORLANDO RODRIGUEZ AMY BECKER** JOSH SNYDER **CANAAN MARTIN MADISON MCBURNEY** 

**CHRIS WHITNEY** 

DAVID NAZWORTH JOANNA HODDER STACY FUJIEDA **ALANA WROBLEWSKI ROSALINDA ROBERTS** D. MORITZ **SAOIRSE MALONEY GABE HERNAN** JESSE TRIMBLE **MARY TIRRELL CINDY KARL ERIC FOSTER ROBIN HOSKINS SKYLER THOMAS** KERI MACDONALD ADAM BAKKE ALEX FYE BEAU PHILLABAUM **ERIC MOORE HELEN KEARNEY ELIZABETH BAKER KEVIN MURRAY EMILY PALK SCHUYLER TROWBRIDGE** LOUISE BASKIN HAL HARPER JAMES ALLISON **DEBORAH BUTRIM BOB NORRIS OLIVIA (OLLI) LUSK CARDI GILLEY** 

**CHERYL WARNER** 

MIKI FELSENBURG **REED OIUM** AMANDA WILLOUGHBY **LEAH CASEY FIONA MARTIN ANDREW HINA** THEODORE MORELOCK RAY RODRIGUEZ SHARLA BENJAMIN JUDITH BLAIR **LAUREN LAURENTI BRAD GOODELL MELISSA CHATWELL HEATHER KURLAND BELLA RUSSELL** JAMIE WERNLEIN **ANDREW HAIT** KRISTINA LANE **SUMMER PUENTE** RACHEL DWYIER **MARIE BEATTY** TANYA FLEMING SARAH HAYS **KAYLIN GRAY BIANCA OYANEDER BLU (LISA) ROSE ALEJANDRO RODRIGUEZ CHLOE CAREY SHARON BLOOM** DAN MCALISTER **ANDREW MAHONEY ERIN LECKEY ZOE ANDERSON** 

**CAROL S. KOBEL** 

**ALEXANDRA WOLD** KELLIE MARTINDALE JAMES BOYD **SADIE ROBERTS** PETER HEISLER **NOAH HESS JULIANNE INGRAM** JOSIE NIXON **RILEY MANCUSO CURT BEERY** JORDAN JOHNSON **ASH NICHOLS** SAMI BOYLAN **CLARK WINTERS** SHERI SANDOVAL **CLELA A. ROREX** MEREDITH KEE SAMANTHA BERGEN M.K. TUCK **JUSTIN JONES TIMMY BASISTA GREG GINOCCHIO ELLIOT ROTHENBERG** LEX EULL **BRANDON MIRELES DONNIE HERRINGTON** YVONNE KRUMREY **CHRISTINE GIBBONS** 



**DEIDRE SADDORIS** 



# TRANSGENDER PROGRAM UPDATE

#### FROM MICHAL DUFFY

While trans folks are of course integrated across all of our programs, we also support specific trans programming. The fact that trans folks now fully engage across the organization is evidence of the success of our trans specific programming. This is especially true thanks to the work with our Trans Steering & Events Committee (TSEC), Boulder County Gender Support (BCGS) facilitators, volunteers, trans-identified staff and a clear, strong commitment from our Executive Director and Board of Directors. Meaningful inclusion and celebration of transgender folks is essential and inextricable aspect of OBC's culture.

We work to balance programming designed to serve the trans community directly with educational and ally focused programming and advocacy opportunities

that center trans voices and experiences. At the center of all of these initiatives are volunteer trans leaders who dedicate their time, perspective, and skills to advancing our community. Many of our programs are manifested via events, and it's important to value the transformative work that happens on a personal level that reverberates into transformative community and system wide change.

**Boulder County Gender Support** (BCGS) are peer-support groups open to anyone that has a gender expansive identity including transgender, genderqueer, gender fluid, agender, non-binary, and

intersex people. BCGS also support people who are questioning their identity and people who don't want to label themselves yet (or at all). Attending the group is free and we have trained, dedicated transgender facilitators. BCGS has weekly meetings in Longmont and Boulder. In addition, the trans facilitators meet monthly with a therapist advisor to ensure the safety and success of all involved. As participation in the group is anonymous, we do not have exact attendance data but we know that we served well over 100 people, and likely closer to 150 individuals, via BCGS in 2019. BCGS is a big part of what makes the Boulder County area more attractive to trans folks seeking community.

BCGS would not be possible without the dedicated facilitators. After years of operating on a volunteer basis, we are glad that beginning in 2019, we are able to pay facilitators a stipend for their work every month. The 2019 BCGS

facilitators include: Jennifer Molde, Meagan Gibbons, Elliot Lane, Crissy Michaels, Ellie Kippes, Ravyn Wayne, Jordan Johnson, and M.K. Tuck. Thank you!

A big success in the City of Boulder this year relating to trans folks was the update of the **Human Rights Ordinance**. When we discovered outdated, and now considered offensive, language and clauses, we worked with our Trans Steering & Events Committee to draft suggested changes. We presented these to the **Human Relations Commission and City Council**. Ultimately,

the updates were adopted. The change is not just linguistic, but also now more clearly includes and protects more of our transgender and gender-expansive community members.

Early in our calendar for the past several years has been the

TRANSforming Gender Conference at CU Boulder. This free conference draws folks from across the county. As we do every year, we hosted a social at the Pridehouse to welcome presenters and attendees from near and far to our community. This special, sober event was a comfortable atmosphere for the 60 attendees to gather and enjoy dinner together (thanks to our Volunteer Coordinator

Christine Gibbons for donating your delicious pulled pork!) Our TSEC also organized a **Trans Romance Panel** for the conference that discussed the intersections of gender identity, sexual orientation, and relationship dynamics. It was an educational and cathartic experience for the panelists and the 40 audience members present.

We held our second annual **Trans Day of Celebration potluck brunch** with 42 of trans and gender expansive community members at our Longmont office on March 31, internationally recognized as Trans Day of Visibility. The powerful impact of being in a room full up of only other trans folks cannot be underestimated. It's quite a special event.

One of the highlights of the year is the summer BBQ organized by the TSEC. For the first time, we collaborated with the new Queer and Trans People of Color Steering Committee and rebranded the event as the **Trans, QTPoC,** 

and Loved Ones BBQueer. 68 community members and families came together in Tom Watson Park to play games, eat delicious food, and participate in break-out conversations on topics such as intergenerational connection and spirituality.

Longmont and Boulder Pride are also favorite summer celebrations. We have a Trans Pride booth where our TSEC members, BCGS facilitators, and trans community members congregate and share information and inspiration with community members of all genders. As part of Boulder Pride week, we also hosted a Name Change Clinic at which 27 people learned about the process to legally change their name and gender marker; several started their process and got fingerprinted, and had their questions answered by the knowledgeable Colorado Name Change Project team.

Fall brings our annual **TransGiving celebration** in which trans and gender expansive community members congregate and enjoy a catered seasonal meal. As this event has grown every year, we outgrew hosting in our office and tried a new location at the Goodhue Farmhouse. Even though it was more of a commute, we helped organize carpools, and still gathered 65 folks together. More space fostered a more comfortable atmosphere for casual conversations and connections.

A snowy **Trans Day of Remembrance** inspired us to host more of the event indoors in the labyrinth at First United Methodist Church in Boulder. Over 90 individuals gathered to honor those lives lost from anti-trans violence, read their names, and walk the labyrinth. We featured trans and allied speakers and the trans Phoenix Community Choir performed several beautiful songs to set the tone for the evening.

Usually we have an entire week of trans-oriented events for **Trans Awareness Week** in November centering around Trans Day of Remembrance and TransGiving, but based on community input, the Trans Steering & Events Committee decided to move Trans Awareness Week to March starting in 2020 to center Trans Day of Celebration. We will continue to host TransGiving and Trans Day of Remembrance in November, but will feature additional programming for Trans Awareness Week in March going forward.

A big thank you to our **2019 Trans Steering Committee** members: Josie Nixon (Chair), Brad Goodell (Vice Chair), Clark Winters (Secretary), Elliot Lane, Meagan Gibbons, Ravyn Wayne, Meredith Kee, Matt Ponder, Saoirse Maloney, Kelli Hintch.



# ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS

FROM MICHAL DUFFY

Out Boulder County Programs encompass a lot of activity from our social and support groups, programmatic initiatives, educational opportunities, to special events and more.

Our adult Social and Support Groups are all volunteer led and span a wide variety of interests. Groups include: Supporting Trans Family & Friends ("SOFFA" for significant others, family, friends and allies, Book Club, LGBT RPG (role-playing game), Nudes with 'Tudes (figure drawing group), Queer Creative (young adult group), Queer & Nerdy Game Night, Works in Progress, and Dungeons and Dragons. Boulder County Gender Support group is discussed in our Trans Programs Report. In addition to OBC groups, we also share our spaces with unaffiliated groups that serve our community, including: Gay AA (Alcoholics Anonymous), Queer 11th Step, NA (Narcotics Anonymous), and Queer Dharma. Through our groups, we serve several hundred community members every year.

Our 2019 Group Facilitators include: Sami Boylan, Kayden Drake, Aria Davis, Barbara Rudlaff, Alana Wroblewski, Cindy Iversen, Stephanie Boulton, Radi Leonesio, KJ Whitney, Donnie Herrington, Justin Jones, and Alison Kluzek. Thank you!

One of our most important programmatic initiatives in 2019 was working with Boulder Detective Kevin Marples to create a LGBTQ liaison program with regional police forces. This program seeks to identify volunteers within regional police departments who want to be a primary point of contact for the LGBTQ community and advocate for LGBTQ cultural competence within their department's work. The program is an avenue for Out Boulder County to establish or further develop relationships with particular officers, so that we can have known supports when necessary. Community members in need

often call upon OBC first, and sometimes we need to connect folks with law enforcement, so these relationships are very important for us to be able to do our jobs well. These officers have or are able to acquire LGBTQ cultural competence; some, not all, of the LGBTQ liaisons also identify as LGBTQ themselves. We are working on developing appropriate trainings for



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LGBTQ liaisons and their departments. One of the first events of this initiative was bringing together plainclothes law enforcement leaders with LGBTQ community leaders to meet together, break into small groups, and initiate meaningful conversations to develop greater understanding of the current situation and one another. This event also discussed hate and bias-motivated crimes and incidents- how they are defined, investigated, and prosecuted. This meeting held at the Jewish Community Center included 60 attendees, evenly comprised of law enforcement and LGBTQ folks. It was both challenging and productive. Later in the year, OBC also led an initial LGBTQ competence training for LGBTQ liaisons (or officers interested in becoming LGBTQ liaisons). The LGBTQ liaison program is now meeting quarterly and gaining interest and traction from a wide geographic region. At these meetings, liaisons share information, strategies, resources, example policies, and more. In 2020, we will further develop training opportunities for LGBTQ liaisons and interested officers.

Another exciting program this year was our Civil Discourse in a Volatile Time training. With increasingly divisive rhetoric and growing hostility across the nation, we wanted to bring together folks from across our community to build and hone communication skills that are respectful and can be used to encourage civil communication even across political or philosophical divides. This program also offered a train-the-trainers component to continue the good work. We are grateful to the experienced team of the Morten Group for working with us to make this program possible for our 66 participants.

Speaking Out is our longest standing program in which trained, volunteer speakers form panels of 3-5 individuals who share their personal stories as LGBTQ folks. First-person story telling is one of the most powerful ways to inform others and generate compassion and appreciation for our diverse LGBTQ community, and this program reaches well over 1,000 individuals a year. While most of our panels are held in middle and high schools, they have also been hosted in churches and other settings. We offer at least two Speaking Out volunteer trainings per year; keep your eyes open for the next opportunity!

Another educational program is our Beyond Binary training program.

Beyond Binary is a training on sex, gender, sexual orientation, and LGBTQ concepts for businesses, non-profits, government agencies, and other organizations in Boulder County available in both English and Spanish. Additional and special topic trainings, such as Workplace Allyship and Supporting LGBTQ youth for service providers, are also available. This is our only fee-for-service program and is also a great avenue for new relationships. Attendees of trainings often participate in other ways afterward, such as workplace giving for our Youth Giving Tree. In 2019, training revenue increased 41.6% from the previous year and we reached about 1,200 individuals.

In addition to established programs, we also offer ad hoc programmatic events to support our mission. This year, some of those included a meet and greet with our Congressperson Joe Neguse at the Boulder Pridehouse, at which 16 engaged community members were able to share their experiences and priorities with Neguse, and he offered himself as a dedicated ally and resource. He has definitely made good on this and has actually referred to Out Boulder County by name in the halls of Congress in Washington D.C. In another historic event, over 150 individual including Governor Jared Polis gathered at the Boulder County Courthouse Historic Designation in January to honor its significance in LGBTQ history as the place where former County Clerk and still-active ally, Clela Rorex, signed the first legally binding gay marriage certificates in 1975.

We also hosted a Town Hall in Lafayette to learn how we can better serve and reflect the community there (47 attendees including Mayor Jamie Harkins), and a Community Survey presentation (40) that reviewed the results of our 2018 survey. Other community events included a Death Café (35 attendees), an LGBTQ Aging Resources lunch & learn with special guest Michael Chifalo of the AAA's Rainbow Elders Program (11), an Advanced Directives workshop (18), a lesbian Latin Dance night (25), and Free Mom Hugs at UCC Longmont (125).

This year we also enhanced our website with additional resources, notably a faith listing of Open and Affirming faith communities in the area. Check out our website for comprehensive resource listings for our LGBTQ community.

# YOUTH PROGRAM

#### FROM JENNA HOWERTON

Out Boulder County's Youth Program continues to flourish and grow! In 2019 we added new programming and successfully held our first ever LGBTQ Youth Summer Camp! We directly served over 160 unduplicated youth and indirectly served over 200 youth through our weekly youth groups, community events and outreach efforts.

We started off the year with our Annual Paid Youth Internship Program. Our internship program requires interested youth in Boulder County to go through a three-step application and interview process. This year we expanded our internship program from three paid youth to six youth! This allowed for two teams of two youth interns and one fellowship intern to work together to plan our two largest LGBTQ youth community events- our Annual Night of Noise Youth Summit and our Annual LGBTQ Youth Dance.

The Night of Noise (NON) Youth Summit is an annual event that Out Boulder County Youth hold to break the Day of Silence. The Day of Silence is a national event that raises awareness of young people being bullied because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. This year our intern team expanded our NON gathering into a large event! NON had historically been held at the Boulder Pridehouse, and this year our interns secured Casey Middle School's auditorium for the main event. They organized a night of speakers, drag performers, youth activists, and politicians. They also invited local youth serving organizations to table at the event to share about their resources. We had almost 100 people attend our NON event, which was double from the attendance of our NON event the previous year.

In May, we held our sixth annual LGBTQ and Ally Youth Dance. This year's dance theme was "Show Your Glow." Activities included "pronoun glow sticks", glow-in-the-dark face paint, flower crowns, a photo booth, a jewelry making station, temporary tattoos, and our LGBTQ history timeline game with awesome prizes! There was also a station where youth could get their make-up done by a professional make-up artist for free! The dance playlist contained mostly queer songs hand-picked from our youth interns and played by a resident DJ. Our interns also created a process for youth to request songs throughout the night.

2019 marked our 3rd year of having a Youth and Family Area at Longmont

Pride. Activities at the youth section included flower crowns, arts and crafts, and youth-led LGBTQ flag face-painting! Our Youth and Family area at Boulder Pridefest in September was also a huge success! We offered a variety of activities including an LGBTQ bead bracelet making station, a flower crown making station, youth-led face painting, an LGBTQ history game with prizes, and a Queer & Trans People of Color (QTPOC) booth with resources and pronoun buttons! The Out Youth booth was mainly run by our amazing youth volunteers with help from adult volunteers and members from our QTPOC Steering Committee. They offered information on resources, talked about their experiences in Out youth groups and led the free face-painting. Thanks to all who made Pride such a success!

In December, Out Boulder County put on it's 3rd annual Giving Tree holiday program. Youth attending our groups asked for various gifts that they could not afford or did not feel comfortable asking from their friends and family. Many of these gifts consisted of gender-affirming items such as chest binder, packers, clothing, fillers, etc. The community rallied to make sure that every youth that asked for something through the giving tree received a gift. This totaled 20 youth gifts plus a few gifts for our youth programming! In addition, King Soopers sponsored a youth holiday party at our Boulder Pridehouse! Youth across all our groups were invited to join. We had over 20 youth attend. King Soopers provided Olive Garden for dinner, presents for youth through a white elephant-type game, and large raffle prizes for youth whose ticket was chosen (this included ninja blenders, headphones, gift cards, etc.)! Thank you to all that gave and made the holiday season a little brighter for our youth!

In addition to providing these community events for our youth, we also continued our ongoing youth programming, which included our LGBTQ Middle School youth group, LGBTQ Youth of Color youth group, LGBTQ High School youth group, Longmont Queer and Trans ("QTs") youth group (we co-facilitate the Longmont QT's group with OASOS), and our Queer Creative young adult group. We also continued our longest running program, Speaking Out, which brought panels of LGBTQ adult volunteers into middle and high schools in Boulder County to share their stories and answer LGBTQ related questions.



A brand new addition to our youth programming this year was our very first LGBTQ Youth Summer Camp! We brought 11 LGBTQ youth between the ages of 13-17 to Eleven Mile State Park for a 4-day camping trip in the backcountry. We slept in tents, cooked some of our meals on the fire, swam, fished, canoed, learned how to cross-stitch, and in general explored connections within ourselves, our group, our communities, and the natural environment around us. We did not want there to be any barriers for youth to attend, so we made our camp completely free for all the youth who attended. Thank you to all that donated their time, camping equipment, and resources to make this camp happen!

Out Youth had a few other exciting new experiences this year. In April, youth from our middle school and high school groups were able to attend Out Boulder County's very first Gayla! Thanks to the incredible generosity of the Twisted Foundation, our youth had two whole tables at the Gayla and a seperate room for them to mingle, eat yummy food, and talk with Colorado's Governor Jared Polis! Thank you to Jennifer Egbert for taking our youth on a special shopping trip and paying for their fancy new outfits for the Gayla! In addition to our Gayla, our QTPOC youth were invited to the Boulder County Democrats' Annual Truman Dinner. This year the keynote speaker was Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez! Our youth were invited into the VIP section and were able to meet Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, as well as Rep. Joe Neguse from Colorado!

2019 was a great year for our youth program! Thank you to our youth group volunteers, our Speaking Out volunteers, and all those who donated their time, materials, and resources to help make it another successful year for Out Youth!

Interested in helping grow our youth program? There are plenty of ways to support us; You can be a guest cook for our monthly Queer Creative Cooking class or apply to volunteer for youth groups. And of course, donations make possible all this programming that supports our LGBTQ youth!



# **QTPOC PROGRAM**

FROM JENNA HOWERTON

**QTPOC Steering Committee** 

OBC's first Queer & Trans People of Color (QTPOC) Leadership Cohort organized together at the end of their leadership program in 2018 and decided to continue the work with OBC through the formation of a steering committee. OBC's first Queer and Trans People of Color Steering Committee (QTPOC SC) kicked off their first retreat in February of 2019. The Steering Committee is made up of QTPOC leaders in the community. The committee met once a month and began to formalize their goals in working towards their vision statement which states that queer and trans people of color in Boulder County are celebrated, connected, and liberated. The QTPOC SC collaborated with Out Boulder County's Trans Steering Committee to host OBC's annual BBQueer and TransGiving community events. The QTPOC Steering Committee also began hosting their monthly community socials which sought to build community with QTPOC folx and to educate and raise awareness around QTPOC communities and issues.

# **QTPOC Community Socials**

The QTPOC SC held its first community social in October at the Boulder Pridehouse. The theme was Halloween/Dia de los Muertos. The event was free and closed to people of color only but was open to all ages. Food and beverages were served and there were many games for the participants to connect over. The SC then held their second social at the Dairy Theatre in Boulder in November. In honor of Indigenous People's Month, the SC did a screening of the film "Two Spirits" with a panel of activists who identify as Two-Spirit. The screening was open to folks of all identities. For the December social, our SC held a (free) private screening of the film "Two Spirits", since the public screening had sold out quickly. This social was held at our Longmont office and was open only to people of color. Food and beverages were provided.

### **QTPOC Youth Group**

Our weekly LGBTQ Youth of Color group moved locations to meet at our Longmont office on Tuesday evenings. This group, as with our other groups, is always free and drop-in. Our group was led by QTPOC adults and worked in collaboration with the QTPOC steering committee for the monthly socials. A fun project that our QTPOC youth group accomplished in the summer was building two raised beds and planting starter plants! Our mini QTPOC garden produced strawberries, mint, rosemary, gourds, and squash!





# **EVENTS**

# The Garden Party

Our annual Garden Party serves as not only a crucial fundraiser as we gear up to head into an entire Summer of events, but as a way to recognize impactful work in the community. This year's theme was "Gold". Our generous and wonderful hosts welcomed over 150 people into their home. We gathered to commemorate three wonderful individuals for their tireless and selfless commitment to not only making Boulder County, but the world a better place for the LGBTQ community.

Marlon Reis was the recipient of the Jack and Jean Hodges Big Hearts award. Born and raised in Colorado and a graduate of the University of Colorado at Boulder, Marlon has resided between his hometown of Boulder, Colorado and Washington, D.C. for the past ten years. In 2011 and 2014, respectively, Mr. Polis and Mr. Reis welcomed a son and daughter to their family, making them the first LGBTQ+ parents in the history of the United States Congress.

Michael Dougherty was the recipient of the Clela A. Rorex Allies in Action award. Michael is a leader in fighting hate crimes and bias in Boulder County. He initiated the Hate Crime Initiative & rolled out the Bias and Hate Crime Hotline during Boulder PrideFest 2018. Many of the other initiatives that he has started here in Boulder County in the past few years also help protect the LGBTQ community and include the Workplace Misconduct Task Force, the Clean Slate Initiative, the Moving on from Marijuana Initiative and the Conviction Integrity Unit.

Nicholas Bell was the recipient of the Ignite and Inspire Youth Leadership Award. He has worked with teachers from other schools and outside organizations like A Queer Endeavor, to found and lead the first GSA club at Centennial Middle School. Once he left middle school to attend New Vista HS, he continued his work with middle school youth as a peer mentor for Manhattan's Allies Club, working with Barb Miller. His position as an out, proud, visible leader who was only a few years older than the middle schoolers in the Allies club allowed him to be an effective and respected leader in helping youth realize and remember that their identities are real, valid, and beautiful, and that they shouldn't have to wait for it to get better: they deserve for it to be better now.

The Pool Party

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# EVENTS

Our sober events are crucial to ensuring that we're connecting with parts of the community that we're not otherwise reaching. We're glad that one of them is our annual Pool Party held at Sunset Pool in Longmont. This event provides a safe, body-positive space where LGBTQ people and allies can have fun, relax and spend time with families and friends.

## The Holiday Party

Our annual end of year Holiday celebration and fundraiser was once again hosted by our partners over at License No. I. Over 100 gathered on the night of Tuesday, December 10th, and enjoyed a night with food, drinks, silent auction and community. We also included our youth giving tree which contained holiday wishes from OBC youth.

Additionally, we handed out our volunteer awards to those who had displayed outstanding commitment to the organization in 2019. Clela Rorex, Marie Beatty, Justin Jones, Josie Nixon, Donnie Herrington, James Allison, Timmy Basista, Yvonne Krumrey, Christine Gibbons, James Boyd, Jennifer Molde, Greg Ginocchio, were the recipients at our Holiday Party, with a very special award provided posthumously to Sara Thompson for her hard work, commitment, and love to not only Out Boulder County, but the entire LGBTQ Community. Through volunteers like these, Out Boulder County is able to keep providing the community with consistent office hours, programs, events and much more. We are eternally grateful.

#### The GAYLA

This marked the first year that we hosted The GAYLA. This event has a long history and has been known by a few names. At its inception it was known as the Monsoon Dinner, you may know it as the Open Door Fund Dinner. We were honored to have been chosen to continue this legacy event in partnership with Community Foundation Boulder County.

On April 25, 2019, 260 gathered at the St. Julien Hotel including 10 OBC youth that had the privilege of attending thanks to the generosity of Twisted Foundation. The event went fabulously with our entertainer of the evening, Paula Poundstone, and together we were able to raise over \$150,000 for Out Boulder County and other non-profits that extend their services to the LGBTQ community.

We're glad that our team was able to help us succeed in our inaugural year of this event and are thankful for the many volunteers that provided their time and support.

#### **Rainbows Over Pearl**

Rainbows over Pearl is an initiative originally started by Out Boulder County, City of Boulder, Downtown Boulder Partnership, and the others that made this possible this year. Even though the official Boulder Pridefest celebration doesn't happen until September, we wanted to showcase support and visibility among our local businesses during Pride month. This consisted of us providing rainbow flags to Pearl Street Businesses, having one hang up near the courthouse on Main Street, and have some Pearl Street crosswalks painted in rainbow colors. This was a massive success with nearly all businesses participating. This culminated in a special gathering that we held outside of Lindsay's Deli with much support from our local community.



































# **BOULDER AND LONGMONT PRIDE WEEKS**

### **Longmont Pride Week**

Longmont Pride has held its own as a staple community event in the City of Longmont. With each year that we gather we bring together members of the community that crave visibility and celebration. This year was no different. A week packed with community events such as Rainbow Reading, Arepas y Cafe, our 50+ LGBTQ Mixer and more, culminated in our annual street festival right off of Main on 4th. While 2019 provided adverse weather conditions, our committed community still came out and danced with us in the rain. We could not have been happier to celebrate with you.

The success of Longmont Pride is due to collaboration with a variety of community partners including Quarters Bar and Arcade, Longmont Public Library, OASOS, and the many volunteers that work hard in putting these events together with us. Thank you all for your commitment to help us celebrate pride in the City of Longmont.

#### **Boulder Pride Week**

Each year we love to pack Boulder Pride Week with as many events as possible in hopes to have a broad reach into the community. 2019 was no different, with over 5,000 participants gathering during the week of September 3rd.

The week was kicked off with our screening of "State of Pride" a feature-length documentary that takes you through the history and meaning of the Pride movement from a range of diverse LGBTQ perspectives.

This was followed by a Queer and Nerdy Game Night, our LGBTQ Family Planning Seminar, 50+ LGBTQ Mixer, Gender and Name Change Clinic, and our annual party "RIOT" at License No. I! Thank you to Colorado Center for Reproductive Medicine, The Dairy Arts Center, Rainbow Elders, Hotel Boulderado, and the many more who partnered with us to make this week a success.

This all led up to Boulder Pridefest, our rebranded "Rainbow Run 5K" and Visibility March on Sunday, September 8 at Boulder Central Park. The 5K and Visibility March kicked off our day of celebration and visibility by leading our runners along Pearl Street and back to Central Park to reach our Rainbow finish line! They were greeted by over 120 local organizations, businesses, and more as we enjoyed our performances from The New Family Recipe, Symphonic, Samba Colorado, The Ricardo Pena Band, and much more.

It was a marvelous celebration that could not have been done without the support of our local community and hard work of our volunteers.



























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BARBARA SHORE

BARI LEE SILVER

BECCI MATHESON

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BEN HAMILTON

LARRY HOYT & BRYAN RUSSELL BEN RODMAN

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