

PFLAG Update

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What is PFLAG?

PFLAG is a support group. We help parents (and other family members) of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people understand and accept their children. We do this by sharing the stories of our own journeys to acceptance. Coming out is not an event but a process, and PFLAG eases the process by extending warm friendship and ending the isolation some parents feel when they think there is no one who truly understands what an impact their child's revelation has had on them.

And did you know that LGBT people also come to PFLAG for help? They tell of their fears of rejection by their families, or of having come out and experienced troubling reactions from their relatives. When they hear PFLAG parents speak, they grasp what their own families are feeling. Thankfully, many gays keep coming to PFLAG long after they've stopped having family problems. Their insights are invaluable to everyone in the room.

PFLAG is also an advocacy organization. That's why you see PFLAGers marching in pride parades, manning booths at pridefests, speaking at rallies and protests, writing letters to editors, and testifying at legislative hearings on non-discrimination and marriage equality. That's why the chapters support a national office with an international voice saying that we don't want special rights for our gay children and friends -- we just want equal

rights so that they can achieve their full potential.

But no one who comes to PFLAG must commit to activism. If parents are ready to talk about what their child's orientation has meant to them; if gays are ready for friendship and guidance in coming out -- they're ready for PFLAG.

Providence meeting moves to new location, day and time

The Greater Providence chapter of Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) will not hold its regular December meeting, and in January the chapter will make major changes.

Instead of the December meeting, we will have a holiday party at the home of one member family.

In January we will change the place, the day, and the time of our regular monthly meetings.

PLACE: Options office, Suite 110 at 134 Thurbers Ave. (at Eddy St.), Providence (See directions on p. 4)

DAY: First Thursday of each month (starting January 3)

TIME: 7 -- 9 p.m.

Check out our Option's Resources Section for contact information on the many PFLAG chapters in our region.

PFLAG offers college scholarships

The national office of PFLAG is once again offering 25 scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 or \$2,500 to students entering higher education for the first time. The application deadline is February 1, 2008 for students entering school that fall. The applicants must have graduated from high school in 2006 or anticipate graduating in 2007.

Applicants must:

- Identify as either a gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender person OR as a supporter of GLBT people;
- Demonstrate an interest in service to the LGBT community;
- Have applied to an accredited institution of higher education in pursuit of either an associate's degree leading to transfer credits towards a bachelor's degree, or a bachelor's degree program at a four-year college; and
- Meet the academic standards established by the PFLAG scholarship panel.

PFLAG scholarships provide an important, positive statement to young people who are coping amazingly well in an often adverse school environment. They are sometimes marginalized and subjected to harassment and discrimination, not only at school but possibly in their own families. Many of them are articulate, accomplished scholars with great promise for future contributions to our society in general and to the cause of rights and recognition for LGBT people in particular

For further information and application forms, visit the Web site www.pflag.org and click on "Education and Programs." ▼