



2014 Annual Newsletter

About Us

The Orlando Youth Alliance (OYA) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization founded in 1990 which provides a safe space for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered, and Questioning (GLBTQ) youth to gather, talk about issues and concerns that are important in their lives, as well as meet other gay youth. OYA is a peer based youth group with members ranging from the ages of 13 to 24.

Board of Directors members in 2014

Michael Slaymaker, *President*
Andrea Sheldon, LMHC, *Secretary*
Wesley Howell, CPA, *Treasurer*

Members at Large

Ginger Malcom
Roger Watkins
Patrick Howell
Floyd Benfield
Nay Burton
Brien Smith
Thomas Jacobson
Russ Kasim
Tim Stahl
Nidmarie Gonzalez-Lopez



Babes in Bonnets at The Parliament House

OYA was once again the recipient of this highly successful event. Coordinated by Darcel Stevens, area business & organizations create an Easter bonnet to be auctioned off to a packed house in the Footlight Theatre at The Parliament House. Don & Susan start off the evening with desserts and refreshments. The emcees this year were Baby Blue Star and Michael Wanzie. Thank you to all who donated, volunteered, or purchased a bonnet and/or auction prize. The event generated over \$9,000 for OYA!



OYA Annual Family Reunion

Each year we gather the youth from our three chapters and enjoy a day at Walt Disney World's Magic Kingdom. Our friends at WDW PRIDE sponsor the activity. On June 7, we took 75 into the park. For some of the youth, this was the first time they had experienced the Magic Kingdom. More importantly, this first Saturday in June had tens of thousands of LGBT visitors. It is a memorable day for our youth to be in a very large crowd and not be the minority. It truly is life changing for our youth to see same sex couples walking hand in hand down Main Street or an LGBT family spinning in the tea cups. Thank you Walt Disney World PRIDE for creating this memory for our youth.



OYA participated in the first Orlando Youth Empowerment Summit (O-YES). Over 70 youth and adults from Tampa to Orlando met at Orlando City Hall for meetings to learn and share.

Being Brandon

Tori, an OYA member and student at Full Sail University created a documentary about fellow OYA member, Brandon. The short film Being Brandon interviews Brandon and his family about his transition from female to male.



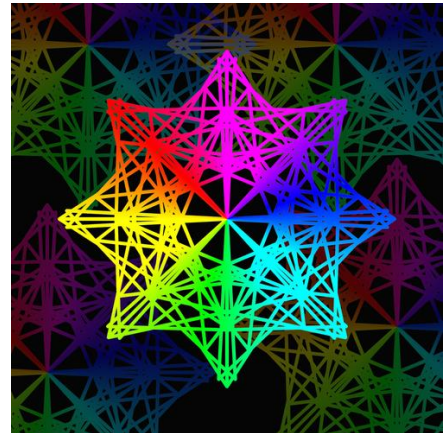


LYA in Lakeland Christmas Parade

Lakeland Youth Alliance is partnering with PFLAG of Polk County to sponsor the Polk County Pride event in downtown Lakeland in June 2015. People wishing to get involved can contact info@lakelandyouthalliance.org.

Holiday Party

Most of the youth had never seen the original Frosty the Snowman, so we showed it at our Annual OYA Holiday Party. OYA is all about new experiences. Even fun things like Frosty. The winners of the ugly sweater contest were awarded prizes.



Expansion into Lake County

Slowly but surely OYA has been working in Lake County to improve the lives of the youth in that area. Recruitment of volunteers for the Triangle Youth Alliance is ongoing. Volunteers and a meeting location are being created for South Lake County. Michael Slaymaker spoke to the Allies for Equality Club at Umatilla High School to help them with their Gay Straight Alliance. If you live or know of someone in Lake County who would like to help with these efforts, please email info@orlandoyouthalliance.org.



Miscellaneous Happenings

The City of Orlando Liaison to the LGBT community, the City Attorney, and the Liaison to the Orlando Police Department came to speak to the youth at OYA.

Each year the Orlando Gay Chorus donates tickets to their shows. The youth enjoy seeing another positive expression from this talented LGBT group.

Ripley's Believe It or Not gave our youth a back stage tour and dinner. The shrunken heads were a big hit!

OYA Donors

Over \$1,000

Don Granatstein & Susan Unger
Stan Hannan
Kenny Howard
Let's Go Play!
Sandy Neubarth
Eddie Nickell & Nicholas Olivieri
Ranger's Pet Outpost and Retreat
Tobie Plaisance
Ripley Entertainment Inc
Jim Savko
Joe Seagle & Philip Richardson
Greg Skeen
The Parliament House
Universal Orlando Foundation
Virtual Fleet Supervisor
Jamie von Schaumburg
Walt Disney World
Jimi Ziehr & Charles McGee

\$500 - \$999

Manny Agon
Jim Bowden
Karen Brown
Raymond Burton
Amy Cantley
First Unitarian Church of Orlando
Benjamin Johansen
Richard Kowalczyk & Timothy Barr
Billy Looper
Matt McKnight
Lindsay Pettite & Megan Widhalm
SeaWorld Orlando
Michael Slaymaker & George Bridges
The Orlando Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence

\$250 - \$499

AllStar The Continental Pageantry System
Barcodes Orlando
Keven Callahan
Club Orlando
Jamie Clute
Mendi Cowles
D Squared Productions, Inc.
Embellish FX
Funky Monkey Wine Company
Hamburger Mary Orlando
Hard Rock LIVE
Hardrive Production
Dan Henderson
Brandon Llewellyn
Pulse Orlando
RBARR Nightclub
SAVOY Orlando
Baby Blue Starr
Darcel Stevens
Stonewall Bar Orlando
The Abbey
The Brink Lounge & Nightclub
The Center
The Orlando Fringe Festival
The Venue
The Walt Disney Company Foundation
Michael Wanzie
Drew Weinbrenner

\$100 - \$249

Hendrik Alma
Chris Harvey
Jeffrey Scott

Up to \$99

Javier Araya
Debra Booth
Alana Brenner
Gary Lambert Salon
Nidmarie Gonzalez-Lopez
Tim Gough
Marc Gutierrez
Guadalupe Howell
Amy Iennaco
Ginger Malcom
Michael Moriarty
Simone Novaes-Card
William Stevens, Jr.
The Alford Inn
Mrs. Marilyn Williams & Ms.
Shane Williams



**Some of our members at
Come Out with Pride 2014**

JOIN VOLUNTEER DONATE

Learn more about us on our website
www.orlandoyouthalliance.org

To see a snapshot of all the programs and financial information of OYA, log onto our Knowledge Base portrait at the Central Florida Foundation at <http://cffound.guidestar.org/> and type in **Orlando Youth Alliance**.



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