

# LGBTQ Youth News

## Welcome to the 2011 Annual Newsletter

The Orlando Youth Alliance (OYA) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization 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.



ORLANDO YOUTH ALLIANCE

2011 Annual report

### Mission

OYA's mission is to provide a safe space for gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, transgender, and questioning youth ages 13-24 in Central Florida.

OYA is a 501 (C3) non-profit organization founded in 1990.

### **Board of Directors:**

Michael Slaymaker  
Laura Stiles  
Andrea Sheldon  
Kim Bowles  
Nay Burton  
Bill Mallahan  
Hector Hernandez  
Nicholas Leon  
Thomas Brignolo  
Floyd Benfield  
Dan Grell



OYA Camping Trip

## History of OYA

The Orlando Youth Alliance was first formed in 1990 as a support group to assist at-risk gay, lesbian, bi-sexual and transgendered youth under the moniker "Delta Youth Alliance". The group evolved into "GALIXY", Gay and Lesbian Idea eX-

change for Youth. The group exists today as the Orlando Youth Alliance, Inc., (OYA) but maintains the same mission statement. Through the years, OYA has provided support to hundreds of Central Florida youth. Beyond weekly meetings, the group has expanded its out-

reach into the Orlando community. Even though the name has changed over the years, the mission has not. We are committed to providing a safe place for GLBTQ youth to gather and be themselves in the self discovery and development phase of their teen years.

## Milestones and Activities from 2011:

03/01/2011—Moved into the Zebra House

*Zebrayouth.org*

04/02/2011—Painted Mrs. Strumplers House

04/09/2011—Youth members participated in Orlando AIDS Walk

04/12/2011—Orange County Health Dept. does HIV/AIDS

04/18/2011—Babes in Bonnets Fundraiser at the Parliament House

06/03/2011—Lock-in sleep over with the youth

06/04/2011—Youth attends Gay Days at Magic Kingdom

06/25/2011—Darden's Olive Garden Kitchen Learning Experience

08/13/2011—GLOWS water skiing outing

09/01/2011—SYA (Seminole Youth Alliance) begins weekly support group

09/24/2011—Homecoming Dance for youth held at Loch Haven Community Center

10/28/2011—Halloween Party to benefit Hope & Help

11/13/2011—COWP parade with LYA

11/19/2011—OYA Camping Trip

12/13/2011—OYA Holiday Party

## Hospitaliano!

Darden's Pride Alliance and The Olive Garden brought new meaning to the phrase, "When you are here, you are family!" by hosting an OYA Kitchen Learning Experience for the youth. OYA members got an opportunity to speak to chefs and marketing managers to learn about career

opportunities and experienced creating their own Olive Garden dish with fresh pasta, and marketing their product. Darden's Pride Alliance is hoping to bring this event again next year.



Congratulations to Michael Slaymaker for winning the Outstanding National Philanthropy Day Outstanding Professional Fundraiser of the year award for his work with OYA!





## 1930s Circus Theme Homecoming Was a Hit!

OYA hosted a Homecoming for the youth at the Loch Haven Neighborhood Center back on Saturday, September 24, 2011. The event was a success with nearly 40 youth members in attendance. The Orlando Youth Alliance would like to thank everyone who attended and volunteered their time.



## Trick or Treat, Benefit for Hope & Help

OYA and the youth members attended and volunteered for the Haunted House party in October. We had over fifty kids come to trick or treat and collected approximately seventy items for the Hope & Help food drive that was delivered. This was great opportunity to engage the youth to give back to the community.



55 youth members enjoy Magic Kingdom during Big Gay Weekend.



OYA Youth Members Marching in the Parade for Come Out With Pride 2011

Will Fulton was a 20 year old rising star at Disney's Boardwalk Hotel. His life ended too soon in a car accident. Will's parents donated his clothes to help the homeless youth at the Zebra House. Many relatives and friends sent memorial contributions to OYA. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

### OYA \$1,000 + Donors:

Tom Adams  
Be Real Orlando  
City of Orlando  
Don Granatstein & Susan Unger  
The Parliament House  
Jame Von Schaumburg  
Walt Disney World  
Zebra Foundation

### \$101–\$999:

Manny Agon  
Gary Ashland (GLOWS)  
Tom & Donna Aswad  
Attitude Specialty Lighting  
Baby Blue  
Bruce Badash  
Barcodes  
Lorraine Bell  
John Best  
Jim Bowden  
Kimberly Bowles & Ridge Holdridge  
Gregory Brow  
Kevn Callahan  
Century Costumes  
Chicago GPA  
Club Orlando  
Club S.N.O.N.  
Club Steel  
D' Squared Productions  
Deigo Da Silva  
Darden Restaurants  
Disney Worldwide Services  
Gina Duncan  
Michael Dwulit  
Embassy Suites Hotel  
Scott Feneck & August Calabrese  
John & Hope Fulton  
Funky Monkey Wine Company  
Larry Glinzman & Carlos Murphy  
Joel Gran  
Hamburger Mary's  
Hard Drive Productions  
Steven J. Heller, Inc.  
Brad Hodum  
Home Depot  
Gary Hyslop  
Jimmy's Catering  
JM Best Productions  
Tom Johnson  
Lowrey & Stephen Jones  
Michael Jungen  
Karen Benner Hair Design  
Brad Lawson  
Matt Mcknight  
Tom Johnson  
Lowrey & Stephen Jones  
Michael Jungen  
Karen Benner Hair Design  
Brad Lawson  
Matt Mcknight  
Metropolitan Business Association  
MyOptics

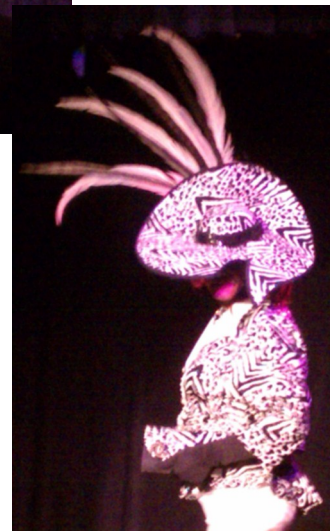
Orlando Gay Chorus  
Park Lake Gay Straight Partnership  
Park Lake Presbyterian Church  
Bill Pease  
Beth Petteway  
Travis Pilch  
P.R.I.D.E. at Walt Disney World  
Pulse Nightclub  
Revolutions Night Club  
John Rosselle  
Savoy/Paradise  
Ron Schorsch & Bernd Hilbert  
Denver Severt  
Michael Slaymaker  
Darcel Stevens  
StudiOUT—Universal Orlando Resorts  
Sun On The Beach  
Sandy Neubarth  
SunTrust Foundation  
The First Unitarian Church of Orlando  
The New Pheonix  
The Parliamont House  
Lyle & Linda Tripp  
Michael Tubbs  
Universal Orlando Resort  
Walt Disney World  
Richard Zajac  
Louis Zaragoza

### Up to \$100:

Barefoot Spa  
Floyd Benfield  
Martha Benfield  
Delta Lambda Phi  
Nay Burton  
James Duerr  
Enzian  
Ethos Vegan Kitchen  
Marquerite Fadhl  
Charlotte Flemming  
Ann Greenwood  
Dan Grell  
Hector Herenandez  
Louis King  
Nicholas Leon  
Maquire Consulting  
Giner Malcolm  
Bill Mallahan  
Jeffrey Miller & Ted Maines  
Dayle Miller Skeakley  
Rene & Deborah Moreno  
Deborah Musbach  
Richard Pearson  
Jo Petteway  
Andrea Sheldon  
Jean Siegfried  
Nicholas Simons  
Michael L. Smith  
Kevin Stewart  
Laura Stiles  
Sherrie Wagnor  
Edward Wales  
David Wales  
David Weaver  
Marilyn Williams



The Parliament House once again honored our youth and made OYA the recipient of the Babes in Bonnets fundraiser. Darcel Stevens, Baby Blue served as emcees and ten local businesses created bonnets and donated prizes to be auctioned off. Nearly \$9,000 was generated.



OYA would like to thank ALL Donors in 2011 for their charitable donations!!!!



ORLANDO YOUTH ALLIANCE

[Orlandoyouthalliance.org](http://Orlandoyouthalliance.org)  
[Lakelandyouthalliance.org](http://Lakelandyouthalliance.org)  
[Seminoleyouthalliance.org](http://Seminoleyouthalliance.org)

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A copy of the official registration and financial information for Orlando Youth Alliance, Inc. (#CH25270) is available from the Department of Consumer Services by calling toll-free within the State 1-800-435-7352. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the State.