### **OYA Donors**

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#### **Up to \$99**

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Karen & Denise Encinosa-Roark

Louise Fike

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### 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.



Some of our members at Come Out with Pride 2015



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### **About Orlando Youth Alliance**

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.

### 2015 Board Directors

Michael Slaymaker, President Wesley Howell, CPA, Treasurer

# Members at Large

**Jeff Speicher** 

**Ginger Malcom** 

**Roger Watkins Patrick Howell** 

**Dustin Baetz** 

**Thomas Jacobson** 

Russ Kasim

Tim Stahl

**Daniel Niccum** 

### **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 started off the evening with desserts and refreshments. The emcees this year were Baby Blue Star and Darcel Stevens. Thank you to all who donated, volunteered, or purchased a bonnet and/ or auction prize. The event generated our biggest donation ever of \$12,500 for OYA!



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.

# Each and Every Week

Orlando Youth Alliance and our chapters in Seminole and Polk Counties provide peer to peer support group meetings three times per week. We also provide two Drop-In activities per month and monthly social, educational, and recreational activities. Our all volunteer organization is dedicated to the youth of our community.







### 25th Anniversary Party

2015 marked Orlando Youth Alliance's 25th year of service to the youth of our community. In August, 80 people joined us at Dubsdread Country Club to celebrate. Jeff Horn, founder of Delta Youth Alliance retold the beginning of the organization in the early 90's. Several people spoke about what the organization is doing today and Michael Slaymaker, the current President gave us a glimpse of what's to come in the future.



### OYA Awards Two College Scholarships

Through the generosity of Bill Neighbors and Tim Warzecha, Orlando Youth Alliance provided (2) \$1500 scholarships. The first recipient was London Nunn who is studying to be a Chinese Interpreter at Lake Sumter State College. Emy Mound was the second recipient and is studying Nursing at Seminole State College.



## First Polk County Gay Pride Event

Lakeland Youth Alliance partnered with PFLAG of Polk County to produce the first ever Gay Pride event in Polk County. It was a huge success. LYA was also once again in the Lakeland Christmas Parade. Contact LYA @ info@lakelandyouthalliance.org.



### Here is just one of the scenarios of what OYA did in 2015.

We received a facebook message from a member that he had lost his job. His two roommates had bailed and left him with the apartment rental payment. The landlord informed him he was being evicted. He was going to be homeless in less than a week. He went to another youth organization who said they wouldn't help him because he wasn't homeless yet.

The OYA board expended funds to help this youth in crisis. We met with him at Starbucks and where we talked about places he could live. Parents were not an option. We discovered a friend in Casselberry who would rent him a room. We drove him to U-haul and paid for a rental truck so his belongings wouldn't end up on the curb. OYA purchased him a Wawa gift card for gas and an American Express gift card for food.

We are happy to tell you that he was able to find another job and pay his rent. At OYA, support doesn't just happen in a discussion group.