

the Pride Center

Tulsa Oklahomans for Human Rights

September 1997

One Year Old and Getting Better

Well, the Pride Center has now been open for a full year. It's hard to believe that time has passed by so quickly. After a slow start, things are finally starting to take shape. Thanks to the generous donations by several members of the community, we now have a large lounge area with a big screen TV, a small lounge, a small meeting room and a large multi-purpose room. The Pride Center also houses the Pride Store and the offices for HOPE.

With recent donations of money, furniture, and time, we have been able to convert the Renfro Room into a large lounge area. It's a great place to just relax and chat with friends, watch TV, or have a meeting in a comfortable setting. Creating a large lounge area has opened up the PrimeTimers Lounge and has given it a more open feeling. The PrimeTimers Lounge will continue to be used by our volunteers who answer the phone and greet visitors to the center and it is a comfortable setting for meetings of small groups. For more formal small meetings, there is still the Stariott Conference Room.

Neal-Padgett Hall is the multi-purpose

room and has plenty of room for large meetings and events. This room is currently undergoing major renovations, including repainted walls and floors, plumbing and electrical work.

HOPE has operated out of the Pride Center since it's opening last year, although HIV testing continues at the Testing Clinic, 4158 S Harvard, Suite E-2. The Pride Store has been in operation since January 1997. It's the perfect place to go for any of your Pride merchandise needs- T-shirts, bumper stickers, jewelry, cards, books - and if they don't have it, just ask, there's probably somewhere to order it.

Overall, we've come a long way with the Pride Center over the last year. Since Tulsa's community isn't used to having a central location, it's been slow to build the awareness and interest in the center, but it's coming along nicely. There is still a lot to do though, and we need your support to make it work. Please consider donating a little of your time and/or money to help support the Pride Center and make it a central showplace for the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered community.

Fall Activities Planned

This fall is already shaping up to be quite eventful, so get ready to mark your calendars for some can't miss events. First of all, the **Community Fun Nights** have been moved from Saturday Nights to **Friday nights at 7:00 PM**. Starting in September, the fourth Friday night of each month will be **Movie Night** at the Pride Center. We will be showing **Jeffrey and Bound** on September 26th, and we are planning to show **The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert** on October 24th. The October Movie Night will be in conjunction with a party centered around the movie. Not all of the plans have been made, but it should be a lot of fun. Keep your eyes open for further information as the date nears.

The second Friday of each month will be a **Coffee House** with various activities planned, starting at 7:00 PM. The first Coffee House will be on October 10th. Due to the closeness to **Coming Out Day**, we're planning special activities in conjunction with that. If you have ideas for an activity you'd like to see, contact Kathy at 712-1600.

Speaking of coming out, there is now a **Coming Out Support Group** meeting at the Pride Center bi-weekly on Tuesday evenings at 6:00 PM. The next planned meeting is September 23rd, and will be a Potluck Dinner. Call Johnny at 712-1600 for details.

As was noted in last month's newsletter, TOHR is planning to march as a group in Tulsa's upcoming **Centennial Parade on September 20th**. Staging for the parade will be at the Tulsa Fairgrounds at 9:30 AM. Call 712-1600 for more information or to join in the march. Even if you can't march, at least come out to support those who do!

A **Statewide Community Summit** has been called on **September 27th from 2:00 to 5:00 PM** at the Stroud McDonald's on the Turner Turnpike as a means of forming a statewide alliance from which we can work on issues important to gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgendered people throughout the state. Several groups in Tulsa have already met for the same reason and a follow up meeting for the **Tulsa Community Summit** has been planned for **October 18th from 2:00 to 5:00 PM** at the Pride Center.

Johnny sure keeps busy with activities for HOPE. He is planning his next HIV Prevention workshop for men on **September 28th from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM**.

Pride Center / HelpLine : 743-4297

HOPE : 712-1600

Newsletter : pride_center_news@pobox.com



Community Groups and Activities

Community Coffee House - Held the 2nd Friday of each month starting at 7:00 PM. Different activities planned for each month. Call with suggestions!

Community Movie Night - Held the 4th Friday of each month starting at 7:00 PM. Movies of interest to the community will be shown. Call with suggestions!

Coming Out Support Group - Support group to help deal with the issues and fears faced at any stage of the coming out process. Bi-weekly on Tuesdays at 6:00 PM.

Primetimers - Social group for gay and bi-sexual men ages 40 and over. Associate memberships for men 21-39 years old. 3rd Tuesday each month at 7:00 PM.

Safe Haven - An unstructured "safe place" gathering for young adults between 18 and 30 to meet and socialize. Held the 1st Friday of each month at 8:00 PM.

Volunteers Needed

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The Pride Center needs volunteers to act as sitters and answer the HelpLine phone. The Center is staffed by volunteers from 6 - 10 PM on weekday evenings and from 12 - 10 PM on weekends. If you can volunteer 1 night a week, 1 hour a week, once a month, whatever you can manage will help keep the Pride Center open.

Volunteers are also needed at the HOPE testing clinic. Training classes are available for those interested in getting involved, but volunteers are also needed to help with filing and answering the phone.

Pride Center Pledge Drive

The **Pledge Drive** continues for the Pride Center. Our community center is now a reality, but your financial support is still needed. We have on-going monthly expenses to keep the Pride Center in operation, as well as the need for resources to finish work on several rooms. Please consider making a monthly pledge to help with these monthly operating expenses. Any assistance will most certainly help.

Discrimination

The Pride Center is now taking **reports of discrimination** to collect info from those who might not make a report otherwise. Volunteers and staff can also refer you to agencies/people who might help regarding the discrimination complaint. **743-4297.**

He is planning his next HIV Prevention workshop for men on **September 28th from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM.** This workshop is called "**Partners In Life**" and involves discussion and education about Safer Sex practices and how to negotiate and live more safely.

TOHR is planning a **General Membership Meeting** for **September 30th at 7:00 PM** at the Pride Center. We will have representatives from O'RYAN (Oklahoma Rainbow Young Adults Network) to speak about the group's activities & plans.

TOHR is also talking to Kerry Lobel, Executive Director of NGLTF (National Gay & Lesbian Task Force), about presenting the activities of the organization and what we can do to help. This is tentatively planned for October 21st, but look for a concrete date in the next newsletter, or call 712-1600 for info.

Plans are also in the works to have a couple of weekly TV watch party nights, for **Monday Night Football** and for **Ellen**. **Monday Night Football** is at 8:00 PM on Mondays. **Ellen** plays at 8:30 PM on **Wednesdays** starting September 24.

the Pride Center / TOHR / HOPE

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September 1997

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	Unity Lambda Al-Anon 7:30PM	PrimeTimers Meeting TOHR Board Meeting	Alcoholics Anon 7:00 PM			Tulsa Centennial Parade - Staging at Fairgrounds 9:30 AM
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	Unity Lambda Al-Anon 7:30PM Football Watch Party 8:00 PM	Coming Out Group Pottluck Dinner 6:00 PM	Alcoholics Anon 7:00 PM ELLEN Watch Party 8:30 PM		Community Movie Night at Pride Center 7:00 PM	Statewide Coalition Meeting Stroud McD's 2:00-5:00PM

October 1997

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
Partners In Life Workshop 10 AM - 3 PM	Unity Lambda Al-Anon 7:30PM Football Watch Party 8:00 PM	TOHR Membership Meeting 7:00 PM	Alcoholics Anon 7:00 PM ELLEN Watch Party 8:30 PM		Safe Haven 8:00-Midnight	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Unity Lambda Al-Anon 7:30PM Football Watch Party 8:00 PM	CUUC 7-9 PM Coming Out Group 6:00 PM	Alcoholics Anon 7:00 PM ELLEN Watch Party 8:30 PM		Community Coffee House at Pride Center 7:00 PM	NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	Unity Lambda Al-Anon 7:30PM Football Watch Party 8:00 PM	PrimeTimers Board Meeting TOHR Board Meeting	Alcoholics Anon 7:00 PM ELLEN Watch Party 8:30 PM			Tulsa Coalition Meeting 2:00-5:00 PM
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	Unity Lambda Al-Anon 7:30PM Football Watch Party 8:00 PM	PrimeTimers Meeting Coming Out Group 6:00	Alcoholics Anon 7:00 PM ELLEN Watch Party 8:30 PM		Community Movie Night at Pride Center 7:00 PM	
26	27	28	29	30	31	
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