



Mary Jo Schnell &lt;maryjoschnell@outcenter.org&gt;

## OutCenter July and August 2015 Newsletter

1 message

OutCenter <info@outcenter.org>  
 Reply-To: info@outcenter.org  
 To: maryjoschnell@outcenter.org

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*Serving the LGBT+ Community in Southwest Michigan*

# OUT and a b OUT

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[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

*Free Counseling at the  
 OutCenter*



If you or someone you know would like to speak with a therapist-in-training, please know the OutCenter is host to a tremendous resource: Chris Lacefield, Masters and PhD Candidate in Psychotherapy.

You can call and leave a confidential message to set up an appointment:

269.925.8338

**We need your support!**

August 17, 2015

### A DAY OF VICTORY AND CELEBRATION!

On June 26, 2015 the Supreme Court's decision regarding marriage sparked waves of celebration across America, but it also allowed the OutCenter, working in collaboration with Michiga

n for Marriage and the ACLU of Michigan to host one of the first press conferences on the issue in Michigan. This effort leveraged a great deal of attention from local media outlets. It includes, but is not limited to the



Members of the press setting up at the OutCenter.

following: [WNDU](#), [WSBT](#), [Fox 28](#) and [ABC57](#), the [Herald Palladium](#), and [The Coast at 98.3/WCXT FM WSJM](#).

There was also video coverage, posted on [YouTube](#) by community member Gary Goben.

Afterward, the OutCenter opened its doors for an amazing victory day celebration! The message was essentially the same throughout that day: the



Celebration at the OutCenter.

decision was a great leap forward, but there is a great deal left to be done. Let us keep fighting for what is good and right!

### Lake Effect Pride Celebration a

Your LGBT community center is committed to staying informed and on the forefront - for you, for your loved ones, and for every person in this community.

Please help us help others in need now!

And help us create more Communities That Care across Southwest Michigan!

You can make this possible with your contribution.

OutCenter Affiliate \$100

OutCenter Friend \$250

OutCenter Benefactor \$500



### Teen Pride School Year Meetings thru December!

Become the **change** you want to see in Southwest Michigan!

Join a growing number of Teens in the area who are dedicated to LGBT+ Equality!



Keep up to date at the Teen Pride Facebook Page:

### Success!

On July 31, 2015, from 6-11 PM, the OutCenter brought together an amazing community! Aside from setting a new attendance record, this event also raised over \$18,000 of MUCH needed support! And there were an amazing number of ALLIES, too!



And, of course, Lake Effect Pride provided the OutCenter Board and staff a great opportunity to honor the 2015 "Make Waves Ally of the Year" award to Norma Tirado, VP of Human Resources and Chief Information Officer at Lakeland Medical. Norma has been a strong and effective ally for years and has brought in the OutCenter's LGBT+ Cultural Competency Training into Lakeland and it is now an ongoing part of their diversity training for all Lakeland staff.



2015 Ally of the Year awardee, Norma Tirado, with OutCenter Board Chair Paul Lane, and 2014 Ally of the Year Gloria Weberg.

Competency Training into Lakeland and it is now an ongoing part of their diversity training for all Lakeland staff.



Brian Savage, 2015 True Leaders Serve award recipient with OutCenter Board Chair, Paul Lane.

Brian Savage, past OutCenter Board Chair, was the 2015 "True Leaders Serve" award recipient for his work above and beyond! Brian helped lead the OutCenter through the last three years as the organization worked to prepare the organization for the next level of success, pivot programs, resources and attention on prioritized issues and strategies, and build toward a future where all LGBT+ people and their families in Southwest Michigan are respected, understood, and afforded the same rights and responsibilities as everyone else.

The evening also included national recording artist, Loren Harris, debuting "No Fences," his anthem to marriage inspired by the SCOTUS decision on June 26. Stay tuned for details on how this song may help the OutCenter!



For more photos, please visit the [OutCenter Facebook Group](#).

### 2015 Communities that Care Awardees

This is the inaugural year for these awards at the Lake Effect Pride Celebration and were given to 10 groups that occupy very unique positions to make a difference in the lives of LGBT+ people and who have worked very diligently





**Whole Lives,  
Healthy Lives:  
Adult Support Group**

This group is growing!

Whole Lives Healthy Lives  
Adult Support Group  
*Summer 2015 Schedule*



**Weekly Monday Meetings** 7-9 PM  
(May 18 thru August 31, 2015)

No Meeting on Memorial Day, May 25<sup>th</sup>

Schedule of Volunteer Professional Facilitators:  
1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month: Margo Runkle  
2<sup>nd</sup> Monday: Ron Robinson  
3<sup>rd</sup> Monday: Sandy and Larry Feldman  
4<sup>th</sup> Monday: Chris Lacefield  
5<sup>th</sup> Monday (June & August): Ron Robinson

OutCenter Community Room, 132 Water Street, Benton Harbor, Michigan, 49022, 269-925-8330, [www.outcenter.org](http://www.outcenter.org)



**Monday Nights**  
7-9 PM

A great opportunity for adults to connect in a supportive and healthy environment. Attend and find out more about this great group of folks!

**Foundation Support**



**Frederick S. Upton  
Foundation**



in collaboration with the OutCenter or in collaboration with others to address very large critical service disparities in Southwest Michigan.



Dr. Kevin Ivers on behalf of Berrien RESA



Harvey Johnson on behalf of Berrien Unit. Univers. Fellowship



David Feaster on behalf of CARES



Sven Erickson on behalf of Coloma United Church of Christ



Paula Laquerre on behalf of MI Youth Opportunities of DHS



Joel Cooper on behalf of Disability Network SW Michigan



Dr. Bob Braman on behalf of First Congregational Church UCC



Dr. Lynn Gray and Team on behalf of Lakeland Medical



Tami Miller on behalf of Krasl Art Center



Dr. Raghu on behalf of Psychological Specialties

**Stay Connected**



OutCenter | 269-925-8330 | [info@outcenter.org](mailto:info@outcenter.org) | <http://www.outcenter.org>  
132 Water Street

Benton Harbor, MI 49022

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