

# PASSION



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## WHAT A **BETTER WORLD** IT COULD BE!

June is Pride Month, a great reason to celebrate the establishment of the Pride Fund at the Community Foundation of Greater Flint (CFGF). Founders Sandra Murphy, Sue Peters, and Dale Weighill created the fund to advance the dignity and quality of life for the LGBTQ+ community. With your donations, matching gifts and smart investments, the endowment is now \$61,000.

It began with a personal vision to meet an unmet need in Flint and Genesee County. Sandra Murphy, nearing retirement as Director of Donor Services at CFGF, believed that the Pride Fund should be established to meet the unique needs of LGBTQ+ people. There was no community endowment for this cause. Sandra ran the idea by two friends.

Dale Weighill serves as Associate Vice President of Institutional Advancement at Mott Community College. A strong advocate for the gay community and a social media influencer, Dale jumped on board. He hosted his 48th birthday party and asked family and friends to support the Pride Fund in lieu of gifts.

Sue Peters is Vice President of Community Impact at CFGF. Sue and her wife, Kim Owens, were one of the first lesbian couples to be married legally in Genesee County. Together they are raising twin boys and are founding donors to the Pride Fund.

In 2018, the Pride Fund was established at CFGF. It serves as a permanent resource to nonprofit organizations providing programs and services to LGBTQ+ youth, adults, families, and seniors in areas

such as health and wellness, arts and culture, housing, education, and training.

"We are grateful that donors have come forward to grow the fund by making generous gifts, hosting house parties, and sharing the news with family and friends," said Isaiah M. Oliver, CFGF President and CEO. "Join me in growing the Pride Fund to increase our capacity to meet the growing needs of our LGBTQ+ community right here in Genesee County."



*Founding donors, from left, Dale Weighill, Sandra Murphy and Sue Peters.*

# LGBTQ+ PRIMARY CARE AND HIV TREATMENT

After conversations led to establishing the Pride Fund, in 2018 a \$21,250 grant from the Arthur L. Tuuri Health Fund was awarded to Wellness AIDS Services. Wellness assists individuals infected and affected by HIV and provides prevention education in Genesee County.

The organization has a 35-year history of serving marginalized populations with priority given to people of color, people living with HIV, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and other sexual minorities (LGBTQ+), injecting drug users, as well as people experiencing homelessness and extreme poverty.

Educating providers to meet the healthcare needs of LGBTQ+ persons and connecting those individuals to culturally competent providers was the project's aim. Providers were recruited to participate in the cultural competency, implicit bias, and cultural humility trainings.

"Our goal is to provide direct access to LGBTQ-focused medical, social service, and public health services to the community and increase the capacity of providers wishing to incorporate best practices for creating inclusive spaces for all residents of Genesee County," said Stevi Atkins, Wellness Chief Executive Officer.

"These populations are disproportionately affected by poor health outcomes and often remain invisible because they continue to be left out of data collection. It is critical for providers to develop the competencies and knowledge essential to engaging and retaining these patients in care."



## CENSUS 2020: GRANT SUPPORTS GET OUT THE COUNT EFFORTS

In March 2020, the first Pride Fund grant of \$756 was made to Wellness AIDS Services to support Census 2020 outreach efforts. Additional funding was provided through the CFGF Census 2020 Fund.

"The process of participating in the Census has always been problematic for members of the LGBTQ+ community," said Stevi Atkins, Wellness Chief Executive Officer. "The population we serve are often hypervigilant and skeptical about participating in government-based data collection. Their biggest

concern is confidentiality and ensuring their personal information isn't used to target vulnerable populations."

The organization identified individuals with diverse perspectives to serve as Census educators, acting as a point of contact for information. Census recruitment events were held at the Wellness Safe Space Ally Center in Flint. An onsite computer lab was available to complete the Census form online. Social media campaigns highlighted the importance of completing the Census.

Atkins added, "We have earned trust and feel we are best equipped to be the messenger for the groups we serve."

Initial Census findings for Genesee County are expected in March 2022.

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# PRIDE TIMELINE

## JUNE 29, 1969

Police raid the Stonewall Inn in the Greenwich Village neighborhood of Manhattan, instigating the Stonewall Riots

## JUNE 28, 1970

First Pride March held in New York City

## JUNE 25, 1978

Gilbert Baker's original design of the rainbow gay flag flown at the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Parade

## JUNE 26, 2015

U.S. Supreme Court makes same-sex marriage legal in all 50 states

# DOUBLE THE RAINBOW, AND THE ENDOWMENT!

June is Pride Month, and a special Pride Fund Day of Giving is planned for Monday, June 28. The community foundation has set a goal of reaching \$100,000 for the endowment as part of its strategic plan focused on equity.

The rainbow is a fitting metaphor for the LGBTQ+ movement. The colors reflect the diversity of people who embrace its symbolism. Join us in giving so we can Double the Rainbow and local impact.



# DOUBLE THE PRIDE

Working to double the impact of the **Pride Fund**.

Give online anytime at [www.cfgf.org/pridefund](http://www.cfgf.org/pridefund), or you can use the giving envelope from this special edition of *Passion & Purpose*.

## PRIDE FACTS



Pride has extended to LGBTQIA+ to include queer, intersex, and asexual groups

# 52%

of LGBTQ people have experienced depression recently



1 in 8 LGBTQ people have experienced unequal treatment from healthcare staff

# 46%

of lesbian, gay, and bisexual people are open about their sexual orientation with their family



1 in 5 LGBTQ women live in poverty

# 43%

of LGBTQ employees have not revealed their orientation at work

## PHILANTHROPY SPEAKS PODCASTS



Two podcasts were recently held to bring awareness to the Pride Fund and the issues relevant to the LGBTQ+ community. Topics included legislation at the state and federal levels, grantmaking from the fund, and an overview of services available. Guests include: Dale Weighill; Stevi Atkins; Mikaylah Heffernan, Legislative Director, State Rep. John Cherry; Samara L. Hough, LMSW, Director, University of Michigan-Flint Center for Gender and Sexuality; and Claudnyse Holloman, President and CEO, Voices for Children.

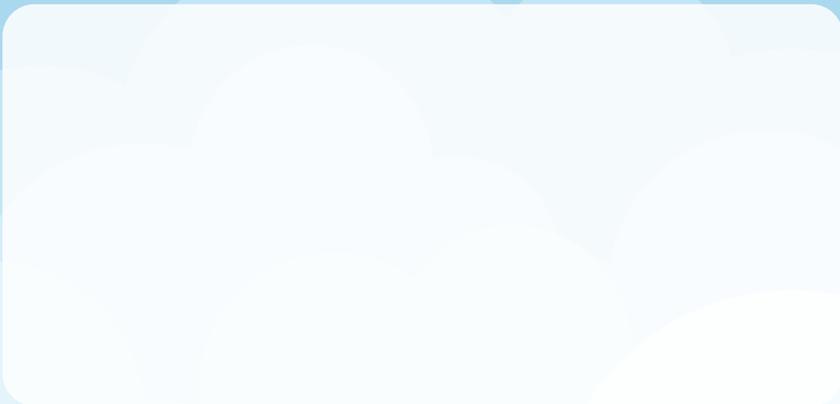
**Both podcasts are available for viewing on the Community Foundation's Facebook page, YouTube Channel, and website at [cfgf.org](http://cfgf.org).** You may also listen by searching Philanthropy Speaks on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, and Stitcher.



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Support the Pride Fund with an online gift at [www.cfgf.org/pridefund](http://www.cfgf.org/pridefund)

## YOUR GIFTS BRING HOPE

Your gift is important to the future of the LGBTQ+ community in Flint and Genesee County. You may also consider making a gift that costs you nothing during your lifetime – a planned gift in your will.

Dale Weighill celebrated his 48th birthday with friends, family, and the Pride Fund. In lieu of gifts, Dale requested donations in his honor be made to the fund. Others have held house parties with the same goal in mind.

Sandra Murphy retired from the Community Foundation in 2019. On occasions like this, many people want to do something. To build the endowment, Sandra encouraged gifts to the Pride Fund in honor of her retirement.

Interested in giving and creating more impact? Have a conversation by calling Rebecca Pettengill at 810-767-8270 or email [rpettengill@cfgf.org](mailto:rpettengill@cfgf.org).



**PRIDE** Fund  
[cfgf.org/pridefund](http://cfgf.org/pridefund)

### YOU CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE GROWTH OF THE PRIDE FUND BY:

- Making a gift – of any size – to make a difference
- Becoming a Champion for the Pride Fund and making a 3-year pledge of \$1,000 a year
- Honoring a significant person in your life with a significant gift
- Hosting a party or asking a CFGF staff person to meet with you and a potential donor
- Designating a portion of your estate to the Pride Fund