



Stonewall Columbus 2011 Annual Report

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS

Executive Director and Board President Letter

In 2011, Stonewall Columbus celebrated thirty years as the first and only LGBT community center in central Ohio. The Center on High is often the first stop for individuals in our community seeking guidance as they strive to lead balanced lives in a world filled with discrimination. The center is a safe place for LGBT individuals to learn and grow. Often our members reach out to Stonewall because they have been abandoned by their families or friends and as they travel on the long journey to create new support systems and make “families of choice,” the center is there for them.

Stonewall produces the annual Pride Festival in recognition of our LGBT community which provides a fun-filled weekend of celebration and affirmation within the central Ohio area. Stonewall Columbus also publishes the Lavender Listings Business & Resource directory, a valuable tool for our community in identifying inclusive and welcoming businesses. Revenue generated through both of these programs is used to operate and enhance the Center on High and to continue these life-changing services and events.

We have seen a lot of change in the last thirty years but the fight for equality is not over. Our families of choice are still not protected. Educating yourself about your rights is extremely important. Our young people are still facing violence in their schools, workplaces and cyberspace. Homelessness among our youth is on the rise and an increasing number of these vulnerable young adults are hurting themselves because they find themselves in what they think is a hopeless situation. Our older adults have lived most of their adult lives in hiding and now that they are entering the twilight years they find themselves isolated and alone.

Stonewall Columbus will continue to serve this community by offering education, support, social opportunities and guidance for all ages and we could not do it without your help. By volunteering and giving back to the center you help us to meet our goals. Your financial support has permitted us to operate the center and touch the lives of over 30,000 visitors each year.

We are grateful for your continued commitment and consider each of you a valuable partner in creating a vital and successful organization.

Karla Rothan
Executive Director
Stonewall Columbus

Letha Pugh
President
Stonewall Columbus Board of Trustees





*Dr. Gordon Gee Visits
Fusion October 2011*

2011 Highlights

Staff

In 2011 we added a new full time Program Coordinator to our staff and have greatly increased our roster of programs, classes, seminars and events.

Programs & Services

Stonewall Columbus sponsors and hosts a variety of classes, seminars, workshops and events throughout the year and many of them are held at the Center on High.

Pride - With more than 200,000 people in attendance, we made Stonewall Columbus Pride 2011 the second largest Pride Festival in all of the Midwest.

Stonewall Fusion - Our Fusion Friday events grew in 2011 with an average of 200 students attending nine events throughout the year. Programs focused on coming out, financial matters and community building. Fusion is a social space for the Central Ohio college-age LGBTQ community & their allies and is made possible with the generous support of Cardinal Health. Each month includes music, food, games, and drag performances.

Trailblazers - The Trailblazers is a new program at Stonewall Columbus for LGBT Adults ages 50+ that was created through a generous gift from The Legacy Fund of The Columbus Foundation. Trailblazer events include seminars, computer workshops, The Trailblazer Newsletter, and Social Outings.



*Inaugural Trailblazers
Outing November 2011*



Classes

- Afro Rhythms Dance
- Ballroom Dancing
- Basic Computer
- Cooking
- Digital Photography
- Drum Circle
- Euchre & Poker
- Qigong
- Sign Language
- Yoga
- Zumba

Groups

Fitness Clubs

- Cycling
- Hiking
- Running

Recovery & Support

- AA
- Coming Out
- Transgender

Social Clubs

- 50+
- Books
- Games
- Youth

Events

- “Calling To The Coven” Halloween Party with hundreds of costumed guests and a dance party.
- “LGBT & Allies Business Community Happy Hour” in partnership with CD102.5 and Belvedere Vodka.
- “Merry Membership Mingle” sponsored by Eleven Bar and JP Faulkner Realty. Stonewall Columbus ended the year with over 550 members!
- Sponsored the opening night of the “Columbus International Film+Video Festival” with an evening of LGBT shorts.
- Kick-Off reception with Honorary Chair NBC4 anchor Colleen Marshall for Stonewall sponsored “Pantry Drive” to benefit Project Open Hand/LifeCare Alliance.
- Participated in “National Latino AIDS Awareness Day”. Community partner for numerous events by many other organizations.

Seminars

- “LGBT Legal Literacy” Seminar Series focusing on the laws affecting LGBT parenting and relationships.
- “Trailblazers (50+ LGBT Adults) Seminar Series” “Medicare 101” & “Free Flu Shots”
- “AFTER DADT; LGBT Veterans Town Hall” – with representatives from the offices of Mayor Coleman, Senator Sherrod Brown, Franklin County Veterans Services and former U.S. Representative Mary Jo Kilroy. LGBT Veterans received important information about their benefits and available services.

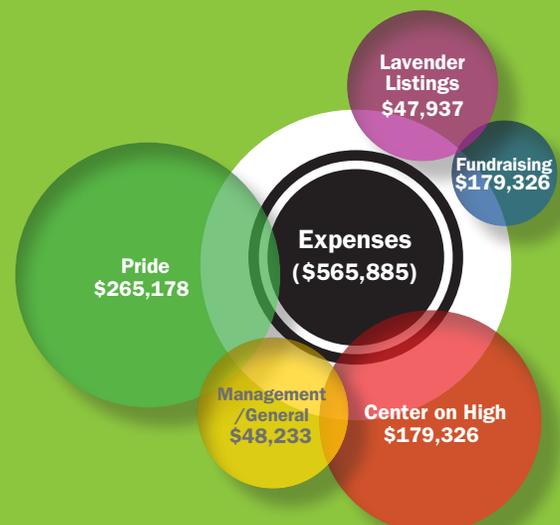
Outreach

- Executive Director Karla Rothan attended over 15 speaking engagements throughout the year at local colleges, high schools, hospitals and other businesses focusing on LGBT advocacy and education.
- Stonewall Columbus partnered with United Way to drive applicants to their Pride Leadership Program which is a training program for professionals in the LGBT community who wish to serve on boards.

Financial Info for 2011



Russ Goodwin, Chair, Stonewall Veterans Group



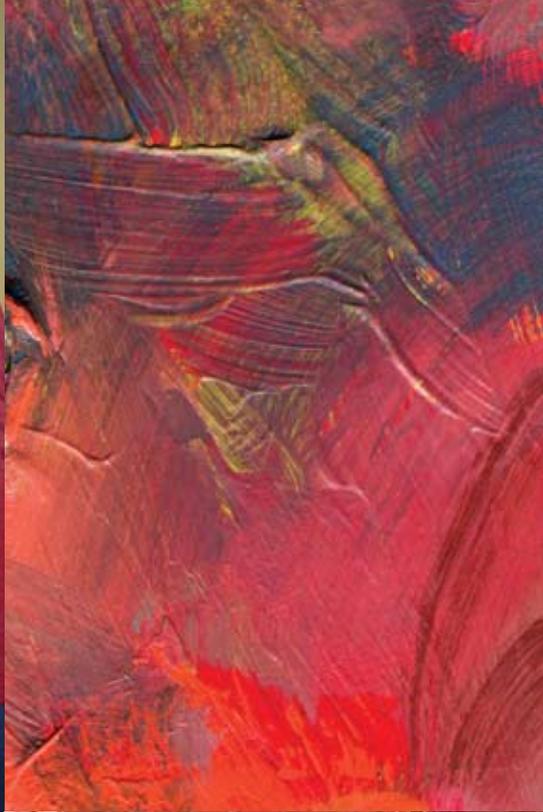


Photo Credit: Michelle Rop



Our Mission

Stonewall Columbus serves the Central Ohio LGBT community by providing a community center and offering programming and services that enhance the well-being and visibility of our diverse community through discovery, affirmation and celebration.

Board and Staff

Stonewall Columbus Board of Trustees

Letha Pugh	President
Jay Poroda	Vice-President
Brian Shinn	Treasurer
Phil Davison	Secretary
Vicki Crombie	Member
Deitra Heritage	Member
David Glisson	Member
Shane Morgan	Member
Terry Wheeler	Member
Willa Young	Member

Stonewall Columbus Staff

Karla Rothan	Executive Director
Lori Gum	Program Coordinator
John Herman	Marketing Coordinator
Suzie Simpson	Center Coordinator
Elizabeth Minot	Volunteer Coordinator
Michele Fregonas	Office Manager



*Tom Grote, Amoret Grote, Rick Neal -
Grand Marshals Pride 2010*

Chely Wright Pride 2011



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www.columbuspride.org
www.lavenderlistings.com

Social Media:

<http://www.facebook.com/stonewallcolumbus>
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/stonewallcolumbus/>
<http://twitter.com/stonewallcolumbus>
<http://www.youtube.com/stonewallcolumbus>

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