

PFLAG Buffalo/Niagara

Parents, Families, Friends and Allies United with LGBTQ People

**PO Box 617
Buffalo, NY 14207
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There will be no sharing meeting in July.
The next meeting will be August 18th 2:30-4:30
Kenilworth United Church of Christ

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www.pflagbuffalo.org

www.facebook.com/pflag.niagara

Generally, monthly sharing meetings are held at **Kenilworth United Church of Christ, 45 Dalton Drive, Tonawanda 14223**, from 2:30 - 4:30. Newcomers and anyone interested will be offered the option of meeting privately with a PFLAG parent. Our monthly meetings are in the library, which is near the parking lot entrance. The facility is handicapped accessible. **New Parents Meetings** are scheduled as needed at a location convenient to those involved. These self-help one on one sessions are available to those who request a meeting outside of the monthly sharing meeting.

We meet because we have learned that someone very close to us is Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, or Transgender. We try to help one another deal with this information in a positive manner. Although we do not agree at all times, we try to be understanding. We offer help to those who seek it, but do not force ourselves on others. We strive to maintain anonymity while sharing on a level that is comfortable for all of us.

PFLAG News

Congratulations to our 2019 scholarship winners Connie and Elliot!



Connie is graduating from West Seneca East High School. She is the first recipient of The \$500.00 Mary L. Hewitt Scholarship, named in memory of PFLAG's and the local LGBTQ community's "mother." Connie was an honor student and will be attending Allegheny College. She plans to study biology and engineering.

Connie inspires others with her determination. She has overcome many obstacles (including being homeless) to succeed at a high level. She attributes finding support in Syracuse's Q Center and her current school's GSA to instrumental and wants to help others to give back. As one of her referring teachers wrote, "She will no, no doubt, continue active involvement in groups that promote tolerance and understanding."

Another reference notes that Connie wants to work with LGBTQ homeless youth, as she knows their struggles personally, and wants to work with "organizations that help those young people in particular."

The \$500.00 Marvin J. Henschbarger Scholarship was awarded to Elliot, a graduating senior at Hamburg High School. This deserving senior will be attending SUNY at Oswego to study psychology with a double minor in expressive arts therapy and gender studies.

Elliot was active in the school's Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA), active in meetings and events. Elliot marched in the Pride Parade, attended the Diversity Prom, and participated in annual GSA conferences. This standout teen has offered to return to high schools to working with LGBTQ youth even after graduation.

His dedication is evident. He wrote, "This community has done so much for me and I hope I can give back as much as I possibly can. "

PFLAG Buffalo/Niagara is happy to be able to honor and assist these two young people in their post-secondary education. Congratulations Elliot and Connie!

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