



Southern LGBT Map Directory

INTRODUCTION

After about a half of year's work, Southerners on New Ground is proud to present the Southern LGBT Map Directory, a collection of 24 organizations, groups, and collectives in the South that are doing progressive LGBT organizing. These groups are working around everything from gay and lesbian rights to anti-bullying to reproductive justice to anti-violence to trans prison support. Although not all of the organizations are explicitly queer, they all share a commitment to social justice and intersectional organizing. We have learned that although queer-led social justice organizations in the South may be few in number, they are doing amazing work with limited resources. We created this directory to counter the isolation and burnout that organizers experience all too often in the South and hope that it will help bring people together to strategize, share resources, and support each other.

As we interviewed people for this project, some common themes emerged: people feel isolated, they often work for organizations that are the only ones in their state doing intersectional work, they have trouble moving LGBTQ organizations to be anti-racist and vice versa, they have limited resources, and yet they are hopeful, believe in intersectional organizing, have faith in youth organizers, and have seen people change as a result of their organizations. We have seen that doing this work in the South is often difficult and frustrating, but the people doing it are resilient, and hold onto a vision of a better world.

CRITERIA

There are many support and resource groups in the South for LGBT people that we did not include in this directory, including informal social groups, university LGBT centers, HIV prevention groups, PFLAG, and pride groups. We did not include these direct services and support groups because they are often well-known within their local communities, are listed in other resource guides, and because their main purpose is not organizing. Though creating safe space for LGBT people to be together is vital work, this directory is meant to highlight groups that are empowering their members to make change in their communities.

More specifically, we wanted to include groups that...

1. are in the South
2. reflect our base: queer, rural, low-income, people of color, trans folks, immigrants, cultural workers, and people with disabilities.
3. have relationship with SONG
4. were recommended by other organizers
5. have an intersectional analysis
6. are not well-known and deserve more support

Unfortunately, because of the difficulty in finding groups that fit criteria six, organizations that were already connected to SONG were more likely to make it into the directory. We acknowledge that this directory includes only a few trans-led groups, and does not include disability rights groups. Their absence from this directory does not mean that they do not exist, and we hope that as we continue to expand the directory we will find and include them. Alabama and Mississippi are also not in the directory because of similar difficulties with finding and contacting groups in those states. Also, we apologize in advance if you feel your organization was misrepresented. The profiles are a combination of information we found from organizational websites and our interviews with an individual from the group. We tried to accurately summarize the work of each organization, but we know the profiles may have been more thorough if we talked to more individuals from each group.

Although there are definite gaps in this directory, and every directory eventually becomes outdated, we hope that this will still serve as a valuable tool for people to connect with others who are organizing in the South. We want to thank all of you who participated in the project. Your dedication and energy is transforming the South.

HOW IT WORKS:

The Southern states are arranged alphabetically, and then the organizations are listed alphabetically within each state.

HOW WILL WE UPDATE THE DIRECTORY?

We will include a form on our website that people can submit to us if they want to be included in the directory or update their contact information if their organization is already in the directory.

ABOUT SONG:

SONG believes all our identities, issues, and lives are connected across race, class, culture, gender, and sexuality. SONG is a membership-based, Southern regional organization made up of working class, people of color, immigrants, and rural LGBTQ people. We vision a world where the triple shift factory worker and the drag queen at the bar down the block see their lives as connected and are working together for liberation. SONG currently works to build, connect, and sustain those of us in the South who believe in liberation through a 600 membership of primarily LGBTQ people. Our core work is around our Traveling Organizing School and campouts, retreats, and outreach that connect 'the Kindred' (those who share the dream of SONG) to each other.

To learn more about SONG, please visit our website at: www.southernersonnewground.org

SHOUT OUT TO:

The Active Element Foundation's *Future 500*. The *Future 500* is an amazing and comprehensive directory of 500 grassroots, progressive, youth-led organizations in the United States (if you work with youth and don't have a copy, get one!). We used it as a model for our Southern LGBT Map Directory. In particular, the format of the entries and the introduction were modeled after the *Future 500*.

PROFILES:

ARKANSAS

Center for Artistic Revolution (CAR)

Contact: Randi Romo

Address: P.O. Box 2300

North Little Rock, AR 72114

Phone: 501-244-9690

Email: through website

Website: <http://www.artisticrevolution.org/content/index.php>

Founded: 2003

Base: LGBTQ and people of color

Issues: LGBTQ families, voting, civil rights commission for LGBTQ people, anti-bullying legislation

Profile:

CAR is a multi-issue organization that has over 1100 members. CAR is involved in number of issues ranging from their All Families Matter campaign, which involves traveling the state to engage Arkansans in conversations about nontraditional families in order to counter a restrictive ballot initiative, to a get out the vote campaign, to pushing for legislation that provides comprehensive civil rights for LGBTQ people both in schools and in the state. CAR is also addressing the lack of funding streams for HIV prevention and testing in areas heavily populated by people of color. They are looking into more effective and inclusive anti-bullying legislation for Arkansas schools. CAR also includes youth in their movement with a LGBTQ youth video series. Finally, CAR is also confronting the anti-immigrant rhetoric and hate speech that is rampant in their state. CAR uses youth involvement as one of their strongest strategies. They involve youth at the decision-making and power-sharing level. Randi feels hopeful whenever CAR can deflate the efforts of those who would restrict LGBT families.

FLORIDA

Jacksonville Area Sexual Minority Youth Network (JASMYN)

Contact: Cindy Watson

Address: PO Box 380103
Jacksonville, FL 32205

Phone: 904-389-3857

Email: jasmyn@jasmyn.org

Website: www.jasmyn.org

Founded: 1993

Base: LGBTQ youth, people of color

Issues: support and advocacy for LGBT youth, youth empowerment

Profile:

JASMYN is a LGBT youth-centered group that provides support groups, a drop-in youth center, and a gay youth information line. JASMYN advocates for LGBT youth in foster care and also does HIV prevention education. Youth can become leaders by serving on the Youth Council. JASMYN's youth center is an accessible, safe place where LGBT youth can connect with each other and participate in events. Discussions, movies, speakers, and retreats provide regular opportunities for youth to engage in activism. Many of JASMYN's "alumni" go on to become staff members or do other social justice work. Cindy Watson, the executive director, says that watching young people develop an understanding of oppression and a sense of social responsibility gives her hope for the future.

Power U Center for Social Change

Contact: Julia Daniel

Address: 1633 NW 3rd Ave.
Miami, FL 33136

Phone: 305-576-7449

Email: info@poweru.org

Website: www.poweru.org

Founded: 1998

Base: African American youth

Issues: housing/gentrification, leadership development, education reform

Profile:

PowerU Center for Social Change is a grassroots organization that was formed 10 years ago by adults and youth concerned about environmental issues. Four years ago, their focus shifted to address issues of gentrification and criminalization of youth. Power U analyzes high incarceration rates and expulsion rates of youth in their predominantly African American community. They have recently been doing work toward support of anti-bullying legislation. Julia Daniels says Power U's work is inspired by the passion of the youth and powered by their conceptualization of justice. Power U's goals for the future are to be visionary rather than reactionary and to increase political education and foster leadership development.

GEORGIA

Charis Books and More

Contact: Elizabeth Anderson

Address: 1189 Euclid Avenue
Atlanta, GA 30307

Phone: 404-524-0304

Email: info@charsbooksandmore.com

Website: www.charsbooksandmore.com

Founded: 1974

Base: Feminist Community of Atlanta, GA

Issues: feminism, space for community organizing

Profile:

Charis Books and More is the oldest and largest feminist bookstore in the South. It opened 34 years ago and continues to host community programming and events. It is now the designated venue of its sister non-profit, Charis Circle. The bookstore attracts many organizers and showcases the work of activists who represent all populations. Their events are free and the bookstore is a feminist space that

Charis Circle

Contact: Kerrie Lynn

Address: 1189 Euclid Avenue, NE
Atlanta, GA 30307

Phone: 404-522-9912

Email: info@chariscircle.org

Website: www.chariscircle.org

Founded: 1996

Base: Atlanta's LGBTQ community, women,

Issues: feminism, manages programs at Charis Books

Profile:

Charis Circle is the non-profit that spawned from Charis Books and More with the purpose of managing the programs held at Charis Books. They organize free community events such as author lectures, reading groups, community issues dialogues, workshops, and skill-shares. Charis is currently using a strategy of looking through a lens of sustainability. They are working to get more community member involvement in order to increase transparency, develop self-sustaining leadership and growth, and to maintain a reflection of the community in their programming. The community Charis serves is extremely diverse and represents mostly the Metro Atlanta geographic area, including Atlanta's LGBTQ community. They also hold programs for children. Kerrie Lynn, one of the organizers of Charis Circle, finds hope and motivation in the opportunity she gets to be at least marginally involved in numerous movements due to Charis Books and More's attraction of other organizers.

MondoHomo

Contact: Kiki Carr

Address: 251 Tye Street SE, Atlanta, GA 30316

Phone: (404) 406-8281

Email: homosouth@yahoo.com

Website: http://www.mondohomo.com

Founded: 2006

Base: Atlanta Alternative LGBTQ

Issues: arts, alternative LGBTQ community

Profile:

MondoHomo is a 5- day long alternative queer arts festival in Atlanta, GA. The festival includes workshops, arts, and recreation activities. Their primary aim is to build a radical alternative LGBTQ community different from the mainstream, often apolitical, culture of Atlanta's gay scene. MondoHomo is committed to building cross cultural alliances. This is reflected in their artist choices and activities that cater to diverse crowds such as their workshops on radical elders and homo hip hop. MondoHomo is extremely interested in learning about and collaborating with other Southern organizations.

SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Health Collective

Contact: Kai Gurley

Address: 1237 Ralph David Abernathy Blvd SW Atlanta, GA 30310

Phone: 404-756-2680

Email: info@sistersong.net

Website: www.sistersong.net

Founded: 1997

Base: women of color

Issues: reproductive justice

Profile:

SisterSong is a national collective of more than 80 women of color and allied organizations and 500+ individuals working for reproductive justice. SisterSong focuses on education and training, but also does advocacy work. One of their main organizing strategies is to bring people together from around the country to create the space for women of color to be together and strategize about the reproductive justice movement. Kai Gurley, Development Coordinator, sees the intersectionality and human rights base of the reproductive justice framework as radical and powerful, and it gives him hope for the future of the movement. He is motivated by getting people to see their lives and their work in a more intersectional way than they have before.

SOPO Bicycle Co-op

Contact: Rachel Spiewak

Address:

Physical Location: 465-C Flat Shoals Ave.
Atlanta, GA 30316

Mailing Address: 981 Manigault St.
SE Atlanta, GA 30316

Phone: 404-425-9989

Email: info@sopobikes.org

Website: www.sopobikes.org

Founded: 2004

Base: low income, urban youth

Issues: bicycle repair, environmental justice, sustainable transportation

Profile:

SOPO Bicycle Cooperative is a four-year-old non-profit, community-based bicycle repair shop that aims to give access to socially and environmentally responsible, affordable, accessible, and sustainable transportation for members of the Atlanta, GA community. SOPO provides free bicycle maintenance services and education during General Shop Hours, and through special programs. They are committed to the creation of a safe and neutral space for people of all identities and backgrounds. For SOPO bicycling embodies the action of "taking back the streets" and allows people to have transportation that affords them connection with their communities. SOPO has targeted programming for volunteer diversity training and also has a partnership with an assisted living facility in their community. SOPO adheres to the strategies outlined by scholars such as bell hooks and applies the "Each One Teach One" model of pedagogy. Rachel Spiewak, one of the co-founders of SOPO finds motivation in the growth that SOPO has had in just four short years. SOPO now has a youth mentoring program and are constantly building capacity for serving their cross-population constituency.

SPARK! Reproductive Justice Now (formerly Georgians for Choice)

Contact: Mia Mingus

Address: PO Box 8551

Atlanta, GA 31106

Phone: 404-523-0022

Email: miamingus@georgiansforchoice.org

Website: http://sparkrj.org/content/

Base: women of color, LGBT people of color, and young people

Issues: reproductive justice, youth leadership development

Profile:

SPARK is a statewide organization run by two young queer women of color that does reproductive justice organizing in Georgia. They are beginning to work around youth rights and leadership development to find more leaders, particularly in the Atlanta area. SPARK believes that the people most impacted by reproductive justice issues should be the organizers for their own communities. They use a grassroots strategy of listening to communities and putting them in positions of power. One of SPARK's main strategies is coalition building and collaborating, for example, they do a lot of joint fundraising and their programs are organized by a committee of community members. SPARK also does inter-generational organizing, and wants to increase the visibility and power of new, young leaders. Mia Mingus, Co-Director, says that the reproductive justice framework gives her hope because it is powerful, new, and created by and for women of color and because the framework is evolving, it is a framework that many oppressed groups can use.

KENTUCKY

Appalachian Media Institute (AMI)

Contact: Rebecca O'Doherty

Address: 91 Madison Ave
Whitesburg, KY 41858

Phone: 606-633-0108

Email: rebcca@appalshop.org

Website: www.appalshop/org/ami

Founded: 1988

Base: rural, low-income youth in Eastern Kentucky

Issues: youth empowerment, media production

Profile:

The Appalachian Media Institute is a program of Appalshop, a community-based arts and education center in the coalfields of Kentucky. Every summer, AMI pays 15 interns to spend 10 weeks participating in their intensive summer institute. AMI also offers year-round production training with youth, teachers, and community groups in central Appalachia. The summer interns make and distribute their own documentary media while gaining technical and media skills and deepening their knowledge of where they live. They also receive media literacy training. The youth range from age 15-20 and are mostly local or from surrounding counties. An important strategy is giving youth the tools to represent their own region, because besides AMI and Appalshop, there is no media being created by Appalachians themselves. AMI is beginning a "state project" which will connect Appalachian youth organizations so they can talk about how they are doing youth development in different ways. Ada also wants youth who have gone through AMI's summer institute to do the state project and be trained to facilitate. She says it would be very helpful to learn how other low-income, rural organizations are organizing youth.

Fairness Campaign

Contact: Carol J. Kraemer

Address: 2263 Frankfurt Ave
Louisville, KY 40206

Phone: 502-893-0788

Email: fairness@fairness.org

Website: www.fairness.org

Founded: 1991

Base: Kentucky LGBT people

Issues: nondiscrimination, legislative advocacy

Profile:

The Campaign was founded in 1991 to add sexual orientation language to the anti-discrimination policy in Louisville, and later grew into a broad-based community organization dedicated to equal rights. Its primary goal is passing comprehensive civil rights legislation prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. A core value of the Fairness Campaign is that all issues of oppression are linked and can only be addressed by working in coalition. The Campaign is a local organization that also organizes with the Kentucky Fairness Alliance (the state's equality federation) to do statewide legislative advocacy. The Campaign works in coalition with economic justice, racial justice, and religious groups. The Campaign uses strategies like canvassing to empower individuals and to do education work. Carol would like to get in touch with other LGBT groups who are doing intersectional, anti-racist work and strategize about how to create truly inclusive, interracial space.

Kentuckians for the Commonwealth (KFTC)

Contact: Jessica George

Address: (Main Office)

KFTC

PO Box 1450

London, KY 40743

Phone: 606-878-2171

Email: info@kftc.org

Website: www.kftc.org

Founded: 1981

Base: rural, low-income, mostly in eastern Kentucky

Issues: coal mining, mountaintop removal, economic justice, voting rights

Profile:

Kentuckians for the Commonwealth is a statewide, grassroots, multi-issue social justice organization. KFTC started in the mountains of east Kentucky in 1981 when a group of citizens organized around unfair tax breaks for coal mining companies. KFTC now has eight chapters throughout the state. They organize Kentuckians around coal mining, economic and tax justice, restoring voting rights for felons, voter empowerment, and lobbying the state legislature. They also collaborate with LGBT groups such as the Kentucky Fairness Alliance and the Fairness Campaign. One of KFTC's effective strategies has been to have members in Frankfort every day of the legislative session. They also have successfully engaged artists and writers around mountain top removal. Jessica George, development director, feels hopeful about her work because it is part of building a community she wants to live in.

LOUISIANA

Women with a Vision

Contact: Deon Haywood

Address: 1515 S. Salcedo St

New Orleans, LA 70125

Phone: 504-301-0428

Email: wwazinc@wwaz.nocoxmail.com

Founded: 1991

Base: straight and queer women, sex workers

Issues: women's health, HIV prevention

Profile:

Women with a Vision is a queer people of color led project that was started around HIV reduction and does work with marginalized communities, including folks impacted by sex work. The organization also educates around women's health issues such as breast cancer, cervical cancer, and lesbian health. Women with a Vision follows the harm reduction model by sharing information with people and then letting them make their own choices. Community outreach has worked well for the organization. This is the first year that Women with a Vision has had a physical space and so members of the community have started approaching them. Deon emphasizes that there is very little queer infrastructure in post-Katrina New Orleans and that the lesbian community is particularly fragmented and unorganized, and so there is a great need to create space where members of the queer community can come together.

NORTH CAROLINA

Cuntry Kings

Address: Durham, NC

Email: nc_kings@yahoo.com

Website: www.cuntrykings.com

Issues: gender expression, feminism, anti-racism

Profile:

The Cuntry Kings fashion feminist anti-racist drag performance from the raw material of pop culture, Southern queer experience, and national disgrace. The fifteen-member troupe is based in Durham,

North Carolina. They have about three to four performances a year and use the stage to build community and challenge the status quo. Their performances blend an intersectional analysis of oppression with campy Broadway choreography. The group is committed to consensus and working towards social justice. Danny, one of the members, says that creating a queer inclusive space in the area has been empowering. Danny is also inspired when people have come to their shows and then gone to protests. Also, just having a space where people who aren't considered "sexy" by mainstream, heteronormative standards can reclaim their sexuality has been powerful. The Cuntry Kings would like to know how they can support other radical work in the region.

El Centro Hispano - Health Program

Contact: Gregorio Cruz

Address: 201 W. Main St, Suite 100
Durham, NC 27701

Phone: 919-687-4635

Email: gacruz@elcentronc.org

Website: http://www.elcentronc.org/English/Programs.htm#Health_Program

Base: Latino MSM community

Issues: HIV prevention, education, and support

Profile:

El Centro Hispano hosts two education and support groups for Latino MSM's (men who have sex with men). One of them, called *Hermanos de Luna y Sol* (Brothers of the Moon and Sun) is a six week HIV prevention group that meets once a week to talk about issues such as family, social and cultural factors, sexuality, methods of transmission, communicating with partners, and risk factors. After the participants of the group graduate, they are expected to do HIV prevention work with other members of the community. The second group, called *Entre Amig@s* (Between Friends), is meant for those who have graduated from *Hermanos de Luna y Sol*. The goal of *Entre Amig@s* is to keep the men engaged in implementing HIV prevention. *Entre Amig@s* meets twice a month, with the first session focused on topics related to HIV prevention, while the second session is more informal and social. There are usually around 15 people in each group, and there are three groups a year. Gregorio outreaches to Latino MSM's by bringing fliers and information to gay clubs, being friendly with the community, and talking to men one-on-one.

Equality North Carolina

Contact: Shawn Long

Address: P.O. Box 28768
Raleigh, NC 27611-8768

Phone: 919-829-0343

Email: enc@equalitync.org

Website: <http://equality.nc.org>

Founded: 1990

Issues: legislative advocacy, nondiscrimination

Profile:

Equality NC is a statewide gay and lesbian civil rights organization that lobbies the legislature to enact pro-LGBT legislation. Equality NC consists of three corporate branches: Equality NC, Inc, Equality NC Foundation, and Equality NC PAC. Equality NC, Inc is responsible for most of the legislative advocacy. Equality NC Foundation's main purpose is to educate the public about issues affecting LGBT people and Equality NC PAC endorses and supports pro-LGBT candidates for state and local offices. Coalition-building is one of ENC's most effective strategies. ENC has worked in coalition with such groups as Planned Parenthood and the Council of Churches. Shawn feels hopeful because of the positive changes he's seen happen as a result of ENC's work. He says that even when negative legislation passes, there are still positive outcomes from mobilizing people.

Southeastern Regional Unity Conference

Contact: Haley Koch, 2009 Director (leadership changes every year)

Address: UNC-Chapel Hill

Email: haleykoch@gmail.com

Website: www.unc.edu/glbtsa/unity

Founded: 2001

Base: LGBTQ undergraduate students

Issues: theme changes yearly

Profile:

Unity is an annual gathering of progressive LGBTIQ-identified people and allies in the Southeast to discuss the intersections of gender and sexuality with ability, race, age, class, health, and faith. It was founded by Trevor Hoppe, a UNC student, in 2001 after he attended Creating Change. The conference began with about 100 attendees, and this year's conference had over 400 people attend. The conference is a project of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Straight, Transgender Alliance (GLBTSA) at UNC. It is entirely student-run, but is intended for the larger progressive LGBTQ community. High schoolers also attend the conference. The conference includes workshops, performances, presentations, and parties and is meant to be a space for progressive queers to gather, network, and strategize. Haley Koch, the current director, is inspired by meeting other activists and elders in the movement through the conference. She also feels hopeful when she sees how the conference impacts queer high schoolers and first-years.

Tranzmission

Contact: Zeek Christopoulos (828-582-1467)

Or Louise (828-273-8422)

Address: Asheville

Email: tranzeek@yahoo.com

Website: www.myspace.com/tranzmissionasheville

Founded: 2002

Base: white trans folks, allies

Issues: trans health, queer trans prison support

Profile:

Tranzmission started about six years ago as a result of transgender people in a certain community not having their name or pronoun respected, so they organized to "end socially enforced gender tyranny." Tranzmission puts out zines, does healthcare fundraising, holds Trans 101 workshops at community centers, nonprofits, universities, conferences, and religious establishments, has taught self-defense classes for trans people, does punk rock drag shows, and helps to organize Asheville's Stonewall Commemorative Day. One of their major projects is a queer trans prison support project. Members of Tranzmission send books to and are pen pals for queer and trans people in prison. Tranzmission is member-driven. Goals for the group include collaborating with other groups, increasing the diversity of their membership, starting a transgender health fund, creating a health clinic in the Southeast that addresses trans people's health needs, and continuing to build community and celebrate trans culture.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Alliance for Full Acceptance (AFFA)

Contact: Warren Redman-Gress

Address:

Physical Location: 29 Leinbach Dr Suite D-3
Charleston, SC 29407

Mailing Address: AFFA

PO Box 22088
Charleston, SC 29413-2088

Email: info@affa-sc.org

Website: www.affa-sc.org

Founded: 1998

Issues: nondiscrimination, legislative advocacy

Profile:

The Alliance for Full Acceptance works to eliminate prejudice based on sexual orientation through programs, media outreach, education, workshops, and legislative advocacy. It began as an effort to initiate cultural change through media and education. AFFA has over 450 members and 1200 Friends of AFFA. AFFA offers two program groups which meet regularly: a parenting group for GLBT parents and their children, and ADORASO, an outreach program to the religious community. The organization will also offer small grants to LGBTQ youth projects throughout 2008. AFFA wants to build stronger coalitions with religious and race-based organizations and also work on becoming more anti-racist. Strategies that are working well for AFFA include trainings for board members, positive, proactive messaging, and working with allies from faith communities.

TENNESSEE

Seeds of Fire: Youth Organizing & Leadership Program Highlander Research and Education Center

Contact: Elandria Williams

Address: 1959 Highlander Way
New Market, TN 37820

Phone: 865-933-3443

Email: elandria@highlandercenter.org

Website: www.highlandercenter.org

Founded: 1932

Base: low-income youth, youth of color, queer youth

Issues: youth empowerment, juvenile incarceration

Profile:

The Seeds of Fire program works with youth from 14-18, young adults 18-35, and adult allies to support youth-led work in the South and to strengthen youth and young-adult leadership. Seeds of Fire holds an annual youth-led leadership camp that gathers 20-25 young activists and provides them with intensive peer-based organizing training. The program also includes outreach and field work to support young activists in their communities. In both the field work and the camp, the program strives to help young people to understand the connections between different systems of oppression, to learn the history of people's movements, to gain skills for cultural work, leadership, and organizing, and to bond together in a network. Some strategies that are working well for the program are including youth from a variety of organizations, understanding the role of adults in the South, and connecting people to other organizers in the region. Seeds of Fire is currently focusing on juvenile incarceration and the education system, and Elandria would like there to be a clear voice in the South about what happens to queer and trans youth in prison.

VIRGINIA

Anti-Violence Project of Equality Virginia

Contact: Quillin Drew

Address: 403 N. Robinson St
Richmond, VA 23200

Phone: 804-643-4816

Email: avp@equalityvirginia.org

Website: <http://www.equalityvirginia.org/avp>
blog: <http://avp-virginia.blogspot.com/>

Founded: 2007

Base: LGBT white and people of color

Issues: violence prevention within the LGBTQ community

Profile:

The Anti-Violence Project (AVP) is an Equality Virginia Education Fund based program that works to address and end violence in the lives of LGBTQ people across the Commonwealth. AVP has an intersectional analysis and believes that violence can't be ended without also ending racism, sexism, classism, and all other systems of oppression. AVP does community organizing within queer and trans

communities so they can hold people accountable for hate violence. AVP is currently collecting data through a community survey that they will release in August. It is planning to start a campaign in southwest VA to organize local businesses to identify themselves as allies and safe spaces. Quillin Drew, the project manager, is inspired by brainstorming with people all over the country who are doing anti-violence work. On the top of Quillin's wish list is a southern regional conference where people would talk about community organizing around issues of violence.

Virginia Organizing Project (VOP)

Contact: Richael Faithful

Address: 703 Concord Avenue
Charlottesville, VA 22903

Phone: 434-984-4655

Email: through website

Website: www.virginia-organizing.org

Founded: 1995

Base: white and people of color

Issues: racial justice, economic justice, health care, tax reform

Profile:

The Virginia Organizing Project is a statewide, multi-issue citizens' organization committed to challenging injustice by empowering people in local communities to address issues that affect the quality of their lives. VOP uses a grassroots organizing model that helps people plan and implement local campaigns. VOP also brings members to the state legislature to learn lobbying skills. VOP's main work around sexual orientation is to help Equality VA, the state LGBT advocacy group. They also organize workshops on sexual orientation and nondiscrimination laws. VOP is currently working with other state-level groups on a Civic Engagement Project that sends 50 interns on a canvassing campaign about varying issues such as healthcare, the environment, and voter registration. VOP's hope for the future lies in the multi-issue approach and belief in power-sharing for a more effective progressive movement.

WEST VIRGINIA

Rainbow Community Center, Inc.

Contact: Spence Carver Leonard

Address: P.O. Box 1933

Clarksburg, WV 26302-1933

Phone: 304-622-9722

Email: rccwv@msn.com

Website: www.rainbowswv.org

Founded: 1996, incorporated 2003

Base: Rural Rainbow Communities in North Central West Virginia

Issues: Creating Visibility for LGBT Community

Profile:

The Rainbow Community Center, Inc. is a small up-and-coming LGBT Community Center in Clarksburg, WV. They began working in 1996 and were incorporated in 2003. They are currently working via P.O. Box and are working towards establishing a physical center and paid staff. The main objectives of the Rainbow Community Center are to increase positive visibility, public education, and networking for the "Rainbow" population of rural West Virginia. They do this by participating in county fairs and building one-on-one relationships with members of their communities.

Stonewall Society Network

Contact: Len Rogers

Address: P.O. 11135 Charleston, West Virginia 25339

Email: sysop@stonewallsociety.net

Website: www.stonewallsociety.com/

Founded: 1999

Issues: ending discrimination within LGBTQ community

Profile:

The Stonewall Society Network is an online networking hub for the LGBTQ community. The website includes a pledge to not discriminate against other LGBTQ people based on their race, class, ethnicity, gender, ability, age, or lifestyle. Over 11,000 people around the world have taken the pledge. The website is meant to spread the message that until LGBTQ people can treat all members of their community with dignity and respect, no one in the community will have full equality. The website also includes an art promotion area to support GLBT artists, and links to GLBT radio, resources, support, and history. The Stonewall Society has also acted as a non-legal peer arbitrator when people have had complaints about community discrimination, mostly in regard to bars.