The LGBT Network is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that is a home and voice for LGBT people, their families, and support systems of Long Island and Queens. The LGBT Network’s four community centers help LGBT people to be themselves, stay healthy, and change the world. The LGBT Network has a 25-year history of pioneering advocacy and change to create safe spaces where LGBT people live, learn, work, play, and pray.


The LGBT Network provides **direct services** to more than 5,000 people annually (Youth, Older Adult, Veterans, Transgender, Volunteers, Mental Health, HIV).

More than 25,000 **visits** are made to its community centers (LGBT Network event and programming as well as external programs / space rental).

**Education services** reach more than 10,000 youth, teachers, counselors, corporate professionals, healthcare providers, and other members of the community.

**Outreach initiatives** engage more than 500,000 + people (National Coming Out Day Campaign, LI LGBT Conference, Ambassadors Program, Get Justice Summit, Bar Outreach, Online Outreach).

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5,000+ 25,000 10,000 500,000+

13K likes 3,852 followers 2,117 followers
CELEBRATING 25 YEARS
1993-2018

(LGBT Network) afford me the opportunity to have one-on-one sessions with a social worker... you can be yourself and there’s no judgment.”
—Rona Sinz, 58, of Holbrook

I originally found it difficult to make friends... coming to (LGBT Network’s) Youth Squad, I felt so comfortable and accepted, and I was able to open up.”
—Claire, 12, of Sag Harbor

1993
LGBT Network begins as Long Island Gay and Lesbian Youth (LIGALY)

1994
When an anti-gay film is shown at a Port Washington Library, LIGALY stages a protest, filling the library with 100’s of supporters – when Founder David Kilmnick attempts to address audience he is removed by police

1995
LIGALY opens first Community Center in Bay Shore

1995
LIGALY organized the first Long Island LGBT Youth Conference held at Suffolk Community College, Brentwood

1996
LIGALY establishes the Youth Action Project – a peer educational program

1997
LIGALY establishes its first website (ligaly.com) which is featured in a Newsday article on the isolation of gay youth on Long Island

1998
When BOCES scraps plans to form an alternative high school for LGBT students at LIGALY’s Bay Shore Center, LIGALY steps in and helps start the first GSA on Long Island

1998
LIGALY holds candle-light vigil with over 500 attendees, calls for New York hate-crime bill after the brutal murder of Matthew Shepard

1999
LIGALY creates workshop on anti-gay bullying for elementary school students which is first presented to students in Huntington

2000
LIGALY takes a stand and initiates local campaign in response to Boy Scouts’ ban on gay scout leaders

2001
LIGALY hosts the first suburban LGBT prom in America with the theme “Free to Be” for LGBT youth who don’t feel safe attending their own school prom – LIGALY prom sells out with over 300, and an international audience

2002
LIGALY takes a monumental step forward by purchasing its first building – a 4,300 square foot facility in Bay Shore to create Long Island’s first LGBT Community Center

2002
LGBT Network organizes first National Coming Out Day Campaign, that has grown to over 430 organizations and 500,000 people participating globally, in 2018

2003
When Fred Phelps and the Westboro Baptist Church protest the Gay-Straight Alliance club at Mepham High School, LIGALY organizes a demonstration in support of the GSA with over 400 in attendance

2004
LIGALY organizes a caravan across Long Island, with over 100 cars, seeking marriage licenses for same-sex couples at town halls

2004
LIGALY introduces the Safe Schools Initiative, supporting the growth of Gay-Straight Alliance clubs, building student and educator leadership, increasing awareness, reducing harassment, and combatting bullying

2005
LIGALY takes a monumental step forward by purchasing its first building – a 4,300 square foot facility in Bay Shore to create Long Island’s first LGBT Community Center

25 YEARS OF IMPACT
LGBT Network has been a place of welcome, a place of love, and a place of community for LGBT people... without (them) I don’t know where I’d be.”
—Zach Reyes, 21, of Huntington Station

“(LGBT Network) trained me to be an advocate and that started me off lobbying the Nassau County Legislature for transgender human rights.”
—Joanne Borden, 92, of Valley Stream

2005
LIGALY expands to serve the LGBT community of all ages as LGBT Network

2005
Long Island Trans Experience (LITE) becomes part of LGBT Network

2007
Partners in Pride program created to build support and connect Long Island’s LGBT business community

2009
When the LGBT Network Center at Bay Shore is vandalized, hundreds nationwide rally, the Governor and others visit in further support and the Center reopens within days

2010
LGBT Network establishes the Long Island Gay Parent Teacher Student Association, the nation’s first and only chartered PTA focused on the needs of LGBT students

2010
HIV, STD, Pregnancy prevention initiatives launched

2010
Equality Long Island, LGBT Network’s C4 advocacy arm is founded

2012
LGBT Network launches Living Out, a free publication covering Long Island LGBT news, culture, and life

2012
Long Island Pride Parade becomes part of LGBT Network

2012
LGBT Network launches a free publication covering Long Island LGBT news, culture, and life

2012
Long Island Pride Parade becomes part of LGBT Network

2012
LGBT Network and the New York Mets form partnership and host the first-ever Pride Night in New York professional sports history

2013
LGBT Network opens its third Community Center in Sag Harbor on Long Island’s East End, after suicide of East Hampton youth

2015
LGBT Network expands into New York City, serving the borough of Queens

2016
LGBT Network hosts 1,000+ at Bay Shore center for vigil service and memorial in 2017, for victims of Orlando massacre

2017
LGBT Network hosted 1,000+ at Bay Shore center for vigil service and memorial in 2017, for victims of Orlando massacre

2017
The LGBT Network re-envisions annual Long Island Pride Parade with a move to Long Beach as a 3-day celebration, triples attendance bringing tens of thousands of new participants and tourists

2018
New York Islanders become first professional sports franchise to participate in LGBT Network’s National Coming Out Day Campaign

2018
LGBT Network releases plans for first-ever affordable, LGBT senior housing complex in the tri-state area

2018
LGBT Network opens its second Community Center and first LGBT Center ever in Nassau County

2011
LGBT Network opens its second Community Center in Sag Harbor on Long Island’s East End, after suicide of East Hampton youth

2017
LGBT Network re-envisions annual Long Island Pride Parade with a move to Long Beach as a 3-day celebration, triples attendance bringing tens of thousands of new participants and tourists

2013
LGBT Network expands into New York City, serving the borough of Queens

2016
Groundbreaking of LGBT Network’s fifth Community Center in Patchogue

2010
Partners in Pride program created to build support and connect Long Island’s LGBT business community

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Long Island LGBT Conference

The 23rd Annual Long Island LGBT Conference at Stony Brook University broke records with 450 youth, teachers, counselors, other professionals, and community members in attendance, most of who were students representing their schools’ Gender and Sexuality or Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) club. Sixteen workshops engaged, educated, trained, and empowered the mostly youth audience so that they can return to their schools, communities, and organizations to serve as the agents of change to create safe spaces and work towards LGBT-inclusion.

Queens LGBT #GetJustice Youth Summit

The first-ever Queens LGBT Youth Summit attracted nearly 200 students from across Queens and New York City. The Youth Summit is the Queens’ LGBT activism and advocacy conference that educates and empowers students, educators, professionals, health and human service providers, and other members of the community to advocate and organize in their schools and communities around the needs of LGBT young people through the lens of Sexual and Reproductive Justice.

Attendees received training on how to implement and organize the LGBT Network’s new youth-led day-of-action – #GetJustice Day – and return to their schools and communities with knowledge, skills, and an SRJ Tool Kit, and be ready to #GetJustice!

GSA Mini Grants

In 2018, the LGBT Network expanded its GSA Mini Grant program with a second cycle of funding on Long Island. The program provides small grants to high school Gender and Sexuality Alliance or Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) clubs to advance local efforts to address and prevent the bullying of LGBT youth.

LGBT Network awarded 17 grants totally $5,500 to the following schools:

- Bay Shore High School
- Bethpage High School
- Central Islip High School
- East Hampton High School
- East Islip High School
- Great Neck North High School
- Lindenhurst High School
- Lynbrook High School
- Mattituck High School
- Northport High School
- Pierson High School
- Plainview Old Bethpage-JFK High School
- Sachem East High School
- Sayville High School
- Uniondale High School
- Walt Whitman High School
- Wantagh High School
LGBT Network Youth Programs continue to serve tens of thousands of people through daily youth drop-in programs, leadership development, and youth organizing efforts. We’re building a new generation of leaders who are visible, strong, and proud. Developing our young people’s skills and capacity reduces isolation, prevents suicide, and creates change in our schools and communities.

**Annual LGBT Youth Prom**

In June for Pride Month, the LGBT Network continued its 17-year history of holding a prom for LGBT youth and their friends. Nearly 150 youth enjoyed a fabulous evening at the Crest Hollow Country Club with “mocktail hour,” dancing and DJ, buffet, and the crowning of the six-person Rainbow Royalty Court. Special thanks to Bethpage Federal Credit Union, Honda City of Long Island, and dozens of donor households that sponsor youth to attend the prom to make prom accessible to as many youth as possible.

**Night of Noise**

In April, the LGBT Network held its annual Night of Noise celebration bringing together over 150 youth from across Long Island – the biggest event of the year for our Friday night OUTlet program. Night of Noise commemorates and ends the Day of Silence, an annual youth-led day-of-action to give voice to the bullying of LGBT youth. The Bay Shore Center parking lot is converted into an outdoor mini-fair while a party with DJ takes place inside. The focal point is the Wall of Hate – a cinderblock wall constructed so that youth can spray paint all of the words they are bullied with – then ceremoniously take turns breaking it down with a sledgehammer.

*You get a chance to tear it down – that you can stand up against it … that you can break it – it doesn’t have to break you.*

— Oliver, 18, Islip High School

**Youth Programs**

**After-School Drop-In:** Our three Long Island community centers held 225 after-school drop-in programs this year to provide LGBT youth with a safe space. Programs focus on developing leadership, promoting health, and building community.

**GSA Training Programs in Schools:** To further empower youth leaders in our schools, the LGBT Network delivered 45 training programs to more than 1,000 youth leaders throughout the school year to build the capacity of GSA clubs.

Want to learn more about our Night of Noise?

Visit our YouTube Channel to watch an moving video about the impact of this annual youth event.
National Coming Out Day
Breaking Records

The LGBT Network broke records with its National Coming Out Day Campaign (NCOD) on October 11th. The Campaign engages communities of people to come out in support of safe spaces where LGBT people LIVE, LEARN, WORK, PLAY, and PRAY.

More than a half-million people at 451 participating businesses, schools, places of worship, athletic teams, healthcare institutions, and other organizations participated by wearing rainbow ribbons, ally and pronoun stickers, and implementing awareness programs – all in an effort to show support. We doubled participation over 2017, and quadrupled numbers from 2016!

The New York Islanders became the first professional sports franchise in any league to participate in the LGBT Network’s National Coming Out Day campaign.

The Islanders announced “Pride Night,” to be held on Sunday, January 13 with a portion of the proceeds from ticket sales supporting the expansion of the LGBT Network’s anti-bullying programs.
Transgender Rights
Human Rights

While the LGBT Network celebrated three very important days that both remember and empower our Transgender community in 2018; we are fighting for transgender rights every day!

Transgender Day of Visibility (TDOV) is a celebration of the lives and accomplishments of Transgender identified people. TDOV is a day to show your support for the trans community. It aims to bring attention to the accomplishments of trans people around the globe while fighting cissexism and transphobia by spreading knowledge of the trans community. This is a day of empowerment and getting the recognition we deserve!

Transgender Day of Remembrance memorializes and remembers individuals who have died throughout the world due to anti-transgender bias and hatred. Annually in November, the transgender community, family, friends, and loved ones turn their attention to those lost to violence and prejudice. Transgender Day of Remembrance reminds everyone that we are their sons, daughters, parents, friends, and lovers.

Transgender Day of Resilience showcases an open expressive art space at the LGBT Network Queens LGBT Center that celebrates our amazing, beautiful and diverse community through the dynamic expression of their voice through art.

We welcome everyone as an artist, regardless of age or ability. The open art space is all about respect and inclusion, where you can explore your creativity in a relaxing, stress-free environment encourage them to express their message of empowerment and RESILIENCE through drawing, painting, craft, music, dance and so much more!

The fight for our transgender community is very real and our rights are attacked daily. In 2018 alone President Trump revoked transgender people’s civil rights when he moved to define “sex” on the genitalia at birth, a change in status that would rescind the rights of transgender peoples across America.

According to recent statistics, over 85% of LGBT students report verbal harassment in school, 60% report sexual harassment, and 27% report physical harassment, leading to over 58% feeling unsafe in school, and leading to at least 32% missing school.

LGBT Network serves trans community all year long!

The Long Island Trans Experience (LITE) provides social support services to transgender and gender non-conforming people of all ages, as well as their families, friends, and loved ones. Monthly meetings were held in all our Long Island community centers in 2018. LITE fosters an environment of energetic, diverse, and understanding individuals who are free to express themselves and develop personal growth in their identities.

The TGNC Youth Group was established in 2018 and is a bi-weekly social and empowerment group for transgender, gender nonconforming, and non-binary youths ages 13-24. Bi-weekly meetings were held in each of our three Long Island centers. Group meetings provide a safe space for TGNC youth to make friends, build community, and find pride in their identities.

The LGBT Network holds a bi-weekly Trans Empowerment Group at the LGBT Network Center at Queens open to all trans and gender non-binary people. One of the largest empowerment groups in the region, its intent is to build community, provide peer support and host workshops and training that give the tools to succeed as well as inspire and of course EMPOWER!

“On the day that the LGBT community is celebrating the historic accomplishment of a transgender woman running and winning as a major party candidate for Governor of Vermont, we are reminded that hatred still exists, and we have a long way to go until all LGBT youth can feel safe in their schools and communities. Bullying against any student is wrong and should be dealt with swiftly. And when the bullying is coming from parents, a community-wide response led by school officials and local elected officials is necessary to protect and ensure all students are safe. It is the duty of all officials to create this safe environment and anything short of that should result in termination.”

-David Kilmnick, PhD, MSW
President & Chief Executive Officer, LGBT Network
2018 Long Island Pride was a 3-day destination celebration that featured over 20 events.

Long Island Pride attracted more than 30,000 people from 15 states across the country, and from 3 Canadian cities. LI Pride has grown to be the 2nd largest LGBT Pride celebration in the NY Tri-State Area – 2nd only to NYC Pride.
Had such a great time at [LI] pride today can’t wait until next year to do it all over.”
Elmont High School GSA

[LI Pride] was Fantastic! It brought business to the community. It showcased what the boardwalk is all about right now and what Long Beach has to offer.”
Gregg LaPenna, Shakes & Shuckers (Boardwalk), The Whales Tale (West End)

I’m at a Pride event in my hometown with my parents and my heart is full. #lipride”
@ejsamson (Instagram)
The New York Mets and New York Islanders join the LGBT Network to show pride.

New York Mets Joined with Pitcher Doc Gooden for 3rd Annual Pride Night with the LGBT Network

A special pre-game ceremony took place with American Idol and television star Kimberly Locke performed the National Anthem while 50 LGBT youth and their parents broke the world record for the world’s largest LGBT flag unfurled at any Major League ballpark. First responders will be recognized with the Nassau County Police Department’s LGBTQ Society proudly serving as color guard.

Thousands of fans will wore commemorative Pride Night shirts with a portion of each ticket sale going to support the LGBT Network’s anti-bullying programs in Long Island and New York City schools. The New York tri-state area is home to an estimated 2 million LGBT residents and families who have long felt left out and not safe in major league ballparks and arenas.

Islanders the First Sports Franchise to Participate in LGBT Network’s Global Campaign

LGBT Network President/CEO David Kilmnick and New York Islanders Co-Owner Jon Ledecky have announced a major anti-bullying partnership in over 200 Long Island and New York City Schools.

David Kilmnick, PhD, President/CEO of LGBT Network said, “The epidemic of anti-LGBT bullying isn’t confined to school classrooms and hallways, it continues in the gym, on the field, and on the ice. The partnership between the LGBT Network and the New York Islanders will fight bullying in our schools and communities. As a life-long Islanders fan I bleed orange and blue. To know the team that I grew up rooting for is working to create safe spaces for all fans and players, makes me even prouder to be an Islanders fan and want to shout ‘yes, yes, yes’. The Islanders and NHL’s leadership role in support of LGBT inclusion in sports sends a strong message to thousands of LGBT youth and their families that they are welcomed and celebrated on the ice and in our arenas.”

The New York Islanders are proud to support the LGBT community in creating safe spaces for all. Hockey is truly for everyone.”

-Jon Ledecky,
New York Islanders Co-Owner

Bullying is still a major league problem for LGBT youth. Over 82 percent report being verbally and physically harassed in the past year. It’s not only the school hallways where our young people report feeling unsafe, but also on the ball field. We are grateful and thankful to Major League Baseball for taking the lead in professional sports including the LGBT community in its diversity priorities and initiatives.”

-David Kilmnick, PhD, MS, President & Chief Executive Officer, LGBT Network
The LGBT Network works to connect people culturally through art, craft, music, drama and all the cultural arts. In 2018 the LGBT Network hosted dozens of Paint and Sip’s between our Queens Center, Bay Shore and Sag Harbor.

**LGBT Karaoke Nights**
Our Queens Center is famous for their Thursday Night Karaoke down the hall of the center at COFFEED; even grabbing the attention of New York City Council people and many other community leaders.

**‘Sip and Paint’ Nights**
Our ‘Sip and Paint’s’ have a more relaxing style to unwind and let your “inner artist” become your “outer artist” while enjoying a glass of chardonnay. This event is so popular almost each of our Center’s partake in it.

**Cultural Field Trips**
Culture and music is also offered to our LGBT youth through OUTlet (formerly known as Club LIGALY). This unique, safe, and substance-free space is an amazing way to make friends and hang out; it also connects our youth with cultural arts like music and Broadway show adventures.

**SAGE-LI OUTdoors**
LGBT Network organizes active outdoor events for older adults to keep active, stay healthy, and connect with one another.

**Art Exhibits**
The exhibit, “Sticks and Stones – Reclaiming names that were used to hurt us” opened at the Q-Center in Long Island City. This 21-piece art installation is a visual representation of slurs or terms used to marginalize the LGBT community. The art exhibit serves to undermine the power of those words by turning them on their heads and discussing them openly.
The LGBT Network is helping people in Long Island and Queens to know their status and take action to protect their health and the health of their partners through testing, education, prevention, and linkage to care. Community members can drop-in to any Long Island LGBT Center for testing, PrEP and PEP services during regular drop-in hours, or by appointment. We are also providing these services in the community at regularly scheduled outreach events in local bars, schools, and community events.

**HIV TESTING & OUTREACH LOCATIONS**

- Ice Palace, Cherry Grove
- The Whyte Medical Center, The Fire Island Pines
- Veranda at The Eagle
- Suffolk County Community College – Selden Campus
- Suffolk County Community College – Grant Campus
- Suffolk County Community College – East Campus
- Daytop Village
- THRIVE
- Beacon Family Wellness Center
- Outreach- Bellport
- SUNY Old Westbury
- Hofstra University
- Farmingdale University
- Suffolk County Re-Entry Resource Fairs
- Nassau Parole Resource Events
- Boxers Hells Kitchen
- Hardware Bar
- Uncle Charlies
- Boxers UES
- Tool Box UES
- Boxers WH
- Hombre’s Lounge
- Manhattan Cocktail lounge
- Albatross Bar
- Icon Bar
- Fresco Cantina
- Queensborough Community College
- Jamaica Jams
- True Colors Bar
- Friend’s Tavern
- Music Box/Caja Musical
- Club Evolution
- Queens Pride
- Bum Bum Bar
- Alejandro’s Tapas Bar
- LaGuardia Community College Health Fair

**INDIVIDUALS SCREENED FOR HIV/STD**

- **710**

**POSITIVE HIV DIAGNOSES**

- **9**

**LINKED TO IMMEDIATE CARE**

- **100%**

**STI SCREENINGS**

- **505**

**POSITIVE STI DIAGNOSES**

- **24**
In 2018, the LGBT Network opened the new Queens LGBT Center, in Long Island City. Bringing new advocacy, healthcare services, justice, family, cultural and immigrant initiatives to the entire Queens region.

**AT THE Q-CENTER**

- **Free to Be**: A support and social group for LGBT people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- **Mirror: A Work Cooperative for Translatina Women**: A weekly gathering of translatina women who support each other, exchange ideas, and learn skills with the goal of starting and maintaining businesses in cosmetology.
- **Queens Ending the Epidemic Committee Meetings**: A monthly collaborative meeting of HIV service providers, advancing the Governor’s initiative to End the Epidemic of New HIV Infections in New York State.
- **Queens Ending the Epidemic Blueprint #19 (Trans-gender Health) Subcommittee Meetings**: A workgroup collaborating on improving transgender health and in Queens as part of the Governor’s initiative to End the Epidemic of New HIV Infections in New York State.
- **National Coming Out Day Celebration with Assembly-member Barnwell**: A gathering to celebrate National Coming Out Day which provided a safe space for members of the community to share their personal coming out experiences.
- **Familia - Trans Queer Liberation Movement Meeting**: We hosted a meeting of this group which works on rights and protections for LGBT Latinx immigrants.
- **Queens Ending the Epidemic Committee Meetings**: A monthly collaborative meeting of HIV service providers, advancing the Governor’s initiative to End the Epidemic of New HIV Infections in New York State.
- **Older Adult and Veteran Programming**: Social, recreational, educational, and advocacy programming for adults, ages 50+.
- **Drop-In Hours**: Safe space to hang out with friends, read, or simply relax.

**OUT IN THE COMMUNITY**

- **Pass the Mic - Youth health fair**: LGBT Network provides resources, health education and program information at Elmcor Youth Center Health Fair.
- **#GetJustice LGBT Youth Summit**: The Queens LGBT activism and advocacy conference that educates and empowers students and educators.
- **LGBT in the Rockaways Conference and Forum**: Conference on the issues and concerns specific to the LGBT Community of the Rockaways, and discussion on solutions and actions to address those concerns.
- **Pride Night with the Mets**: Annual Pride Night with the NY Mets.
- **LGBT #GetJustice Day**: A Day of action for young people to raise awareness about sexual health and health care access issues specific LGBT youth.
- **Queens Pride**: LGBT Network marched in the Queens Pride Parade and tabled at the street festival providing program information and free, rapid HIV testing.
- **Jamaica Jams**: Street festival where LGBT Network provided free, rapid HIV testing.
- **Celebrate Far Rockaway**: Outdoor health fair where LGBT Network provided program information, health education and resources.
- **#19 Event**: Participated in Conference on Transgender Health needs and advocacy approaches held at the Queens Museum.