



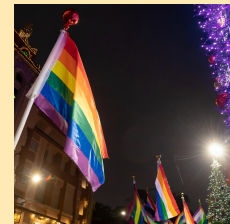
## Our Mission and Vision

*PFLAG is the nation's largest organization dedicated to supporting, educating, and advocating for LGBTQ+ people and those who love them.*



## Upcoming Events:

**Woodstock VA Christmas Parade:** December 1st @ 6p  
**Monthly Support Meeting:** December 3rd from 2p-4p



### Christmas Parade:

Join the festive camaraderie this holiday season by walking with us in the Woodstock Christmas parade! We will meet in the government center parking lot or the school bus garage parking lot (TBD at 6pm depending on space), let's spread joy together—don't forget to bring a bag of candy to share the sweetness along the route. Your presence and merry spirit will make this parade a memorable celebration for our community! Look for a unicorn icon or a rainbow flag!

### Support Meetings: Our next one is December 3rd

Mark your calendars for a gathering of warmth and understanding at our monthly support meetings, held every first Sunday from 2-4pm at the First Bank in Woodstock. In this inclusive space, all are welcome to share, connect, and find solace, creating a supportive community where acceptance knows no bounds.

## Embrace Unity: Join Woodstock VA PFLAG in Advocacy and Support

In the face of unprecedented challenges, the Woodstock VA PFLAG chapter stands as a beacon of hope and acceptance in our community. We would love for you to join hands with us, becoming a member of our PFLAG family and contributing to our cause.

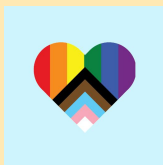
Now, more than ever, the need for support and advocacy is paramount. In a world where diversity should be celebrated, our community faces the harsh realities of discrimination and prejudice. Woodstock VA PFLAG is at the forefront, working tirelessly to foster understanding, promote inclusivity, and champion the rights of the LGBTQ+ community.

Your membership is not just a pledge; it's a commitment to creating a more compassionate and accepting society. By joining our chapter, you become an integral part of a movement that seeks to uplift those who need it most.

Additionally, your financial support is crucial to sustaining our efforts. In these challenging times, monetary contributions enable us to expand our outreach, provide essential resources, and amplify our advocacy initiatives.

Let us stand united against discrimination. Join Woodstock VA PFLAG, and together, we can build a community where love knows no boundaries. Your membership and donation will be the driving force behind positive change. Embrace the power of unity and make a lasting impact today.

Join or donate today by visiting us at [www.pflagwoodstockva.org](http://www.pflagwoodstockva.org)!



### In Local News

**To be as successful as we can be and be available for the people who need us the most, we need volunteers! We need folks who can help us with fundraisers, setting up tables at community events, and more! If you are interested, please send us a message at [pflagwoodstockva@gmail.com](mailto:pflagwoodstockva@gmail.com).**

### Empowered Advocacy: Compelling Change After 2023 PFLAG National Convention



Susie and Levi brought a wealth of insight back to their community after attending the 2023 National PFLAG Convention. Engaging with aides from the offices of Mark Warner, Tim Kaine, and Ben Cline on Lobby Day, they tackled LGBTQ+ issues head-on. Multiple sessions offered them tools to enhance chapter operations and address community challenges.



Their proactive approach extended beyond legislative engagement. Connecting with businesses and organizations catering to the LGBTQ+ community, Susie and Levi amassed valuable resources to foster growth in their chapter. With a mission to propel positive change, they returned home armed with information, ready to make a lasting impact on their community and further the cause of inclusivity and acceptance.



[Click here to watch the opening session of the 2023 PFLAG Convention with Dr. Jill Biden as opening speaker and the opening plenary session: Let Freedom Read! Read with Love to Support Inclusive Books and Education.](#)

[Click here to watch plenary session: Courageous Love in Trans Healthcare with guest speaker Admiral Rachel L. Levine.](#)



*\*Keep an eye out for a special edition newsletter that recaps the information learned at the Convention!*



## Shenandoah Valley LGBTQ+ Summit

On November 18th, three members of PFLAG Woodstock attended a Summit hosted by ARE to gather local leaders doing LGBTQ+ work in our community to share ideas and talk about what the Center means to each group. It was great discussion, and we are looking forward to connecting again and furthering the conversations on ways to work together in the future.

## Resources

- Straight For Equality
- Human Rights Campaign
- The Trevor Project
- Pronoun Guide
- Booklets for information
- PDFs of Booklets
- PFLAG Swag
- He She Ze We
- Free Mom Hugs
- Moma Bears

[Become a Member of PFLAG Woodstock](#)



## A.R.E.: Three Decades of Compassion, Change, and a Bright Future Ahead

In the wake of a growing HIV epidemic nearly 30 years ago, a small group of

compassionate individuals in Winchester laid the foundation for what would become the AIDS Response Effort (ARE). Today, ARE stands not only as a testament to their initial commitment but as a dynamic force, adapting to the evolving needs of the community it serves.

Over the years, as the HIV landscape has transformed, so has ARE. Their multifaceted approach now spans beyond medical services to address the holistic needs of their community, offering crucial support in healthcare, mental health, transportation, housing, and more. ARE's unwavering dedication to evolving with the times ensures that they remain a vital lifeline for those affected by HIV.

In a groundbreaking move, ARE has recently opened the doors to a new LGBTQ+ Center, reaffirming their commitment to inclusivity and community support. For those in the Winchester area, the call to action is clear: consider making a donation or volunteering your time to contribute to this noble cause. Together, we can pave the way for a brighter, healthier future for all.

To Find out how you can donate or get involved with ARE, please visit their [Facebook Page](#) or the official [ARE Website!](#)



## ARE Upcoming Events



Transgender Day of Remembrance

- November 20th @ 6:00pm

Friendsgiving Dinner

- November 22nd @ 6:30pm

Ornament Workshop

- December 13th @ 6:30pm

Cookie Exchange Party

- December 18th @ 6:00pm

Coffee & Coloring

- 12/8, 12/22, 1/5, & 1/19 from 3-5pm

All events hosted at the new ARE LGBTQ+ Center. Check out their [Facebook](#) page for more details!

## Honoring Resilience: The Significance of Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR)



In a world where visibility often battles against adversity, Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) stands as a poignant acknowledgment of lives lost and a steadfast call for change. Observed annually on November 20th, TDOR memorializes transgender individuals who have fallen victim to violence and discrimination.

TDOR is not merely a day of mourning; it's a collective refusal to let these stories be forgotten. It serves as a stark reminder that the fight for transgender rights and acceptance is far from over. The alarming rates of violence against transgender and gender non-conforming individuals underline the urgency of this day.

At its core, TDOR amplifies the voices of those who are no longer able to speak for themselves, demanding a reckoning with the systemic issues contributing to their tragic fates. It provides a platform to confront societal prejudices and ignorance, fostering empathy and understanding.

Importantly, TDOR serves as a catalyst for action. Beyond the solemn ceremonies and candlelit vigils, it compels communities, policymakers, and individuals to actively work towards a future where transgender individuals can exist free from fear and violence.

In a world where transgender individuals continue to face disproportionate challenges, TDOR stands as an annual reminder of our collective responsibility to advocate, educate, and foster a society that celebrates and protects every individual, regardless of their gender identity.

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## Featured Resource

### **Faith In Our Families**

Discovering that a loved one is LGBTQ+ can pose new questions about your faith and may prompt you to re-evaluate beliefs that you previously took for granted. By using personal experiences from families of faith as well as faith leaders from a broad variety of traditions, this publication, updated in 2021, provides examples for reconciling your faith with the knowledge that a loved one is LGBTQ+, and broad resources to help you on the path.

[Get It Here](#)

## FAITH IN OUR FAMILIES:

TALKING ABOUT FAITH, SEXUAL ORIENTATION,  
GENDER IDENTITY, AND GENDER EXPRESSION



THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU....WE APPRECIATE YOU!!!

## Donors & Sponsors

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