

Honoring equity heroes from the LGBTQ Community



Barbara Gittings

Barbara was a leader of the Daughters of Bilitus, USA's first lesbian civil rights organization. She was a prominent activist in the fight to remove homosexuality from the list of psychiatric disorders.

"Equality means more than passing laws. The struggle is really won in the hearts and minds of many."



Billy Porter

Billy is an actor, singer, writer, director, and advocate for Black, gender nonconforming, and trans people.

"As Black people, we risk our lives every time we leave our homes. As queer people of color that risk is doubled."



Angelica Ross

Angelica is an actress and founder of TransTech Social Enterprises, an organization empowering trans and gender nonconforming people through on-the-job training in leadership and workplace skills.

"My mission is to prove that everyone has the right to pursue their dreams."



Jose Sarria

Jose was a WW II veteran, drag performer, and activist who became the first openly gay candidate for public office in the United States in 1961. He also helped found several organizations, such as the League for Civil Education that became the Society for Individual Rights.

"You don't have to conform, you are what you are and that's it. I am what I am, and that's it."



Kim Coco Iwamoto

Kim Coco is an activist and advocate who became the highest-ranking openly transgender elected official in the United States when she was elected to the Hawaii Board of Education in 2006. She also served as commissioner on the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission.

"I recognize the inequities and inequalities of our daily lives, and this awareness drives my commitment to social justice."



Supporting Organizations

Scan the QR codes for more information about each organization.



Advocates for Youth partners with youth leaders, adult allies, and youth-serving organizations to advocate for policies and champion programs that recognize young people's rights to honest sexual health information; accessible, confidential, and affordable sexual health services; and the resources and opportunities necessary to create sexual health equity for all youth.



Equality Illinois builds a better Illinois by advancing equal treatment and full acceptance of the LGBTQ community.



GLSEN works to ensure that LGBTQ students are able to learn and grow in a school environment free from bullying and harassment. Together we can transform our nation's schools into safe and affirming environments all youth deserve.



The Illinois Safe Schools Alliance's mission is to promote safety, support, and healthy development for LGBTQ youth in Illinois schools and communities through advocacy, education, youth organizing, and research.



PFLAG envisions a world where diversity is celebrated and all people are respected, valued, and affirmed inclusive of their sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression.



What can you do?

- Educate yourself on terminology and issues.
- Use others' preferred pronouns and names.
- Wear or display LGBTQ friendly/ally buttons, stickers, posters.
- Support your school or district's Gender and Sexuality Alliance.
- Support provision of books and other resources to libraries by LGBTQ authors, with LGBTQ characters, and about LGBTQ issues and history.
- Create safe spaces and listen.
- Be a role model for kindness and inclusion.
- Donate time or funds to activist and advocacy groups/causes.