

## 2010: The Year in LGBT Richmond

Progress toward equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people comes slowly, particularly in Virginia. While it is important to recognize the challenges we all face, we must also celebrate our accomplishments. In 2010, Central Virginia's LGBT people made real progress through the efforts of many people and groups. Several of these groups have written brief descriptions of their accomplishments over the past year. The Gay Community Center of Richmond is pleased to sponsor this year-end message.

2010 was a better year than many in the past. 2011 will be better still.

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### Gay Community Center of Richmond



GCCR completed our third year of full-service community center operations in 2010. More than twenty groups – including each of those in this message – hosted events and meetings at GCCR, and none incurred a charge. Diversity Thrift celebrated its tenth anniversary, and returned to the Fan with the opening of DT2 on West Main St. We brought the community together to oppose Westboro Baptist Church, to coordinate joint action through the Central Virginia

Rainbow Partnership, to educate with the exhibit Nazi Persecution of the Homosexuals, and to obtain the recognition from our leaders we deserve when Mayor Dwight Jones named November 21 Transgender Day of Remembrance in Richmond.

In 2011 GCCR will expand its growing programming for seniors and young adults. Our array of cultural and entertainment programming will grow. And, as always, we will work hard every day to represent our people and the groups that serve us all. In 2010 GCCR devoted more than \$500,000 toward making Central Virginia a better place – money raised with your help. Today, GCCR is a resource our community relies on to make progress every day toward our goal of fairness and equality. Happy New Year!

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### Equality Virginia



As is often the case in advocating GLBT rights in Virginia, 2010 has been a year of wins and “opportunities.” During the first quarter, we waged our most important battle against workplace discrimination. A bill adding sexual orientation to the Commonwealth's non-discrimination policy passed in the Senate (our most significant GLBT-specific win to date) but failed to get out of committee in the House.

Attorney General Cuccinelli insisted that state universities remove sexual orientation protection from their non-discrimination policies. The response from our community — led both by protestors at VCU and fair-minded allies — was swift and specific. Governor McDonnell countered Cuccinelli's statement with a directive against discrimination, including against GLBT Virginians.

Galvanized by our opportunities and strengthened by those of you who have stood with us, we have re-doubled our work to end workplace discrimination, establish an advance health care registry to help GLBT families protect their wishes, bolster anti-bullying resolutions in our schools, and pursue marriage equality in town halls and forums throughout Central Virginia. As with every coordinated effort, we've made new friends and built new alliances. In sharing our holidays with our families and other loved ones, we are reminded both of what we deserve and what we will continue to fight for in the coming year.

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## **GLSEN Richmond**



As 2010 winds down, GLSEN Richmond looks forward to continuing and improving community efforts to make schools safe for all students. We hope that everyone has a safe holiday season and enters 2011 renewed.

Our educational events in 2010 included a screening of *On the Downlow* for MLK, Jr. organizing weekend, partnering with Fan Free Clinic for a presentation on HIV/AIDS and the African American MSM Community. We also educated future social workers and teachers at local universities, talking about the LGBT community, emphasizing the challenges LGBT youth face. GLSEN Richmond also participated in EV's Lobby Day, the Transgender Day of Remembrance, and in counter protests of Westboro Baptist Church's protests aimed at our student groups, schools, and community.

In 2011, GLSEN Richmond is continuing our Middle School Outreach Project, providing information and Safe Space Kits to regional middle schools; our library enhancement project providing LGBT oriented books to local high schools; and a GSA Summit in the spring of 2011. We also look forward to continuing partnering with other groups in the area coordinating a forum on bullying and keeping students safer; we also appreciate GCCR's efforts in helping provide funding for several of our recent initiatives.

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## MCC Richmond: An Amazing 2010



MCC Richmond enjoyed an amazing 2010—engaging in spiritual and organizational renewal within the congregation while the pastor was away on a three-month renewal (sabbatical). We hired two new part-time staff members—

one to develop new programs and the other to strengthen the music program. We also began re-engaging community partners, including co-sponsoring, with the Gay Community Center of Richmond (GCCR), a Love Equality Weekend in February and the Equality for All Festival in May (coming again in 2011). In addition, aided by a grant from GCCR, we began a significant outreach to LGBT students at VCU.

We continue to serve the community through a bi-weekly food pantry, as well as powerful weekly Sunday worship, spiritual guidance for individuals, and Living Wednesdays (a new program of worship, dinner, and education). As we continue to grow our programming, we also are refreshing our 100-year-old building through a capital campaign.

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## Richmond Triangle Players



In less than one year, Richmond Triangle Players has gone from being an itinerant company without a home to opening its own acclaimed new theater space; producing five plays in its annual subscription season, and collaborating on a sixth play with Henley Street Theater; providing a home for the new Cadence Theater Company and performances by the Richmond Men's and Women's Chorus; presenting nationally and internationally-known cabaret performers; and screening area premieres of several films,

with a film series to premiere in January.

This remarkable transformation is a result of our planning, which has confirmed RTP's 18-year mission to serve the LGBT community and its friends, and refined our vision and goals; but certainly is because of the ongoing support of RTP's audiences, artists, donors and volunteers, without whom none of this transformation would have been possible. Thank you! We look forward to serving you for many years to come!

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## People of Faith for Equality in Virginia



People of Faith for Equality in Virginia (POFEV) was active in 2011 in the successful campaign to repeal Don't Ask Don't Tell, in building support for

Employment Non-Discrimination legislation at the state and federal levels, and in promoting equality for LGBT people through local faith communities. We sponsored interfaith worship, in conjunction with Pride celebrations, in Northern Virginia and Richmond. We also co-partnered with the Human Rights Campaign in presenting a Gender Identity workshop for people of faith.

We upgraded our website and began sending the POFEV Post to more than 1,000 Virginians. We sought guidance from national and Virginia leaders during the year in how best to grow stronger, and have begun to shift our focus to encompass the entire Commonwealth. In October, we adopted a comprehensive statewide work plan for 2011—which we believe will lead a different, and better, Virginia in 2012.

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## PFLAG



Our main focus at PFLAG Richmond is to give support to families who have a member in the GLBT community and we do that through monthly meetings, personal meetings, email and phone calls.

Our projects and activities for the year include the following programs: Donnie Conner LPC, Transformation Retreats, Transgender panel, film 'Fish Out Of Water', speaker Marc Adams, Jaime Curtis - National PFLAG Field Representative, information on gender issues and terminology, and Holiday dinner with new attendees as guests.

We also participated in Richmond PRIDE festival, Fredericksburg PRIDE festival, planted a magnolia tree at GCCR for Transgender Day of Remembrance planning the dedication ceremony, attended Equality Virginia's yearly conference and Town Hall meetings, attended the PFLAG North Carolina Regional Conference, attended Equality Virginia Annual Awards Night, attended CVRP meetings, held fundraiser evening for our scholarship fund, supplied desserts for the ROSMY Prom, attended local Rally at Capitol Building for workplace equality and the right of Virginia universities to uphold nondiscrimination policies, and presented two \$500 scholarships to deserving young people active in the GLBT community.

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## ROSMY



It has been a terrific year at ROSMY - our youth support groups in Richmond and Charlottesville continue to grow and another group of young leaders completed our Youth Engaged in Leadership Program (YEL). The Art's Initiative is flourishing as we collaborate with Art 180 to offer a weekly drama program. And, in January we will launch a weekly transgender support group.

ROSMY responded to the tragic epidemic of teen suicides last fall by providing additional direct support to youth, enhancing our suicide prevention work, and increasing our outreach and training within the community through the Institute for Equality. Recently, ROSMY trained 130 in-school counselors and all of the high school counselors in Henrico County. With the support of the LGBT community, ROSMY has met the direct needs of hundreds of youth this year educated the larger community about how to end bullying and harassment to make our schools and community safe for all young people.

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