

Fostering Empowerment in LGBTQ+ Family Formation:

Illuminating Paths to Parenthood Through Community-Building, Education, and Resource-Sharing

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PHILADELPHIA FAMILY PRIDE

Philadelphia Family Pride (PFP) is a Philly-based non-profit organization created by LGBTQ+ people for LGBTQ+ people with the mission of building community, sharing resources, and initiating educational dialogue and advocacy for queer-led families and prospective parents. Initiatives are spearheaded by the Executive and Assistant Directors and PFP's Board of Directors, made up entirely of LGBTQ+ community members.

Mission: "To build community for LGBTQ+ parents, prospective parents, grandparents and our kids of all ages – including adults, youth, kids, toddlers and infants. We support our families in the greater Philadelphia region through advocacy, education and family-centered events."

<https://www.philadelphiafamilypride.org/>



BACKGROUND / CONTEXT

- Over 60,000 Philadelphia residents identify as LGBTQ+¹
- Within the LGBTQ+ community in Philadelphia, individuals experience discrimination on the basis of race, class, and gender identity²
- An estimated 29% of LGBTQ+ adults nationwide are raising a child who is under the age of 18 and approximately 2 million to 3.7 million children under the age of 18 have at least one LGBTQ+ parent³
- Growing number of same-sex couples are planning and creating their families through assisted reproduction with 63% of LGBTQ+ millennials considering starting or expanding their families⁴
- Same-sex couples are 7x more likely to foster / adopt than different-sex couples⁵
- When in supportive environments, LGBTQ+ families are more likely to thrive⁶

¹Hikes, A. (2017, December 4). *City of Philadelphia action guide: Philadelphia's LGBTQ+ protections*. City of Philadelphia. <https://www.phila.gov/2017-12-04-philadelphias-lgbtq-protections/#:~:text=More%20than%2060%2C000%20Philadelphia%20residents.city%20for%20at%20least%20one%20lgbtq%20parent>

²Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations. (2016). *Addressing racism & discrimination in Philadelphia's LGBTQ+ community*. <https://cchri.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/LGBTQ-Families-2020-Sheet-Final-clean-version.pdf>

³Family Equality Council. (2020, June). *LGBTQ+ family fact sheet*. <https://www.familyequality.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/LGBTQ-Families-2020-Sheet-Final-clean-version.pdf>

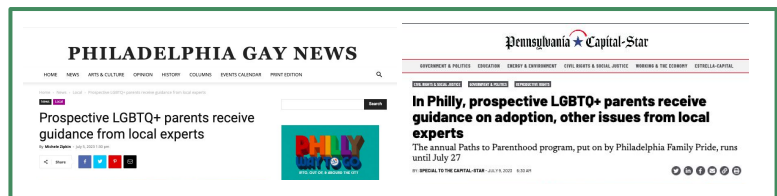
⁴Family Equality. (2019). *LGBTQ+ family building survey*. <https://www.familyequality.org/resources/lgbtq-family-building-survey/>

⁵Patterson, C. J., Ph.D., Fair, R. H., Ph.D., & Goldberg, A. E., Ph.D. (2021). *LGBTQ+ parents and their children*. National Council on Family Relations. <https://www.ncfr.org/policy-research-and-policy-briefs/lgbtq-parents-and-their-children>

TEAM'S EXPERIENCE

- Coordinated and facilitated PFP's annual *Paths to Parenthood* summer series
 - 7 in-person hour and a half long sessions sharing both institutional and experiential knowledge, as well as support, to prospective LGBTQ+ parents
 - Topics: adoption, foster care, sperm donation, and surrogacy, emotional and legal considerations of family building
- Planned multiple social events in the community
- Logistical coordination (space reservations, speaker scheduling, social media graphic creation and dissemination, soliciting feedback from attendees, etc.)
- Organized large-scale program raffle
- Assisted with annual Prideteenth picnic
- Created digital content to celebrate notable events such as International Non-Binary People's Day

PATHS TO PARENTHOOD



This year's series garnered significant positive feedback, as sessions shifted back in person following a two-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The new and improved opportunities for community building were further bolstered by the program's focus on interactive, discussion-based sessions and attendee engagement. Locations for each event were selected to accommodate the geographic diversity of PFP's members and varied week to week. One session was attended by a local journalist and the program was featured in multiple publications city and state-wide.

REFLECTION

There is a real gap in LGBTQ+ support networks nationwide when it comes specifically to queer-led families. Hearing individual testimony about parents' experiences navigating the complexities of LGBTQ+ family building was particularly impactful for me, both personally and professionally. Their stories especially highlighted the urgency around intersectionality as it relates to the community resources used to family-build. Systemic issues of homophobia, transphobia, fatphobia, racism, and sexism exert a unique and interconnected influence over the family building process and need to be considered in tandem when engaging in this work. It is exactly the kind of holistic perspective I aim to bring with me into my career as a clinical social worker.

DEMISTIFYING SURROGACY
PHILADELPHIA FAMILY PRIDE'S FREE SUMMER SERIES

DATE: Thursday, 7/6
TIME: 5:30-7pm
LOCATION: William Way Center, 1315 Spruce St Philadelphia, PA 19107

FEATURED GUEST: Andrea McAfee, Surrogacy Center of Philadelphia

CHOOSING A SPERM DONOR
PHILADELPHIA FAMILY PRIDE'S FREE SUMMER SERIES

DATE: Tuesday, 7/18
TIME: 5:30-7pm
LOCATION: Penn LGBT Center, 3907 Spruce St Philadelphia, PA 19104

FEATURED GUEST: PFP Parents

PATHS TO PARENTHOOD

ALL CLASSES WILL TAKE PLACE FROM 5:30-7PM

6/29	Welcome Session	WILLIAM WAY CENTER 1315 Spruce St Philadelphia, PA 19107
7/6	Demystifying Surrogacy	
7/11	Achieving Pregnancy with Donor Sperm	GALAEI 118 Fountain St. Philadelphia, PA 19122
7/13	Adoption Options	
7/18	Choosing a Sperm Donor	PENN LGBT CENTER 3907 Spruce St. Philadelphia, PA 19104
7/20	Legal Considerations for Building Your LGBTQ+ Family	
7/25	Becoming an LGBTQ+ Foster Parent	SUMMIT PRESBYTERIAN 6757 Greene St. Philadelphia, PA 19119
7/27	End of Summer Party/Debrief	THE WINE GARDEN 5019 Baltimore Avenue Philadelphia, PA 19143