

CHILDREN & FAMILIES FIRST KALEIDOSCOPE

THE VIEWS, VOICES, & VISION OF OUR CFF FAMILY

AWARENESS

June is LGBTQ+ PRIDE Month, a time stamped with rainbows flags and parades; the fun side of the LGBTQ+ community. PRIDE, however, is a major act of resistance to the oppression LGBTQ+ people endure. It is a reminder that as a community, LGBTQ+ people are strong, resilient, and deserving of human rights.

Unfortunately, rights protected by Federal law is not the case around the globe, nor in the U.S. for LGBTQ+ people. The Human Rights Campaign recently reported that "in 29 U.S. states basic freedoms are missing for LGBTQ+ Americans" and the push for the Equality Act, which would grant and protect basic freedoms for this community has met strong Senate opposition.

According to the UCLA Williams Institute Demographic Report, 5% of the adult population in Delaware identifies as LGBTQ+; 35% of these adults are parents raising children. UD's Center for Drug & Health Studies 2017 Youth Behavior Survey states that 11% of high schoolers identify as gay, lesbian or bisexual, and 3% reported that they are questioning or unsure.

Attacks on the LGBTQ+ community are many times violent and murderous at the hands of LGBTQ+ phobic people, and widely systemic at all levels of government, as seen recently with the Don't Say Gay Bill passed into law in Florida which strips LGBTQ+ supportive services within schools. The reality is - the rights LGBTQ+ do have, can be taken away at any time.

Lack of supportive services puts LGBTQ+ youth at even higher risk for mental, emotional, and physical abuse within what should be safe havens: their schools, homes, and communities. In fact, per UD's survey, "nearly one-fifth of LGBQ high school students in Delaware report attempting suicide in the past year, compared to 7% of straight students." If government, schools, families, and communities don't defend LGBTQ+ youth, who will?

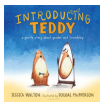
As human service workers, the root of our work is about human rights and equity. In all we do, let us remember to protect the LGBTQ+ community and their fundamental rights, just as with other marginalized peoples. When you attend a Pride event or see Rainbow flags flying high in your community, remember what it's about. Have fun at the party, but more importantly join the LGBTQ+ liberation movement and resist oppression.

Written by: **Edgard Martinez**

UNDERSTANDING

Here are some resources to better your understanding.

LGBTQIAA+ Pride Month



Children's Book
Introducing Teddy: A Gentle Story about Gender and Friendship



Book
Tomorrow Will Be Different: Love, Loss, and the Fight for Trans Equality



Event - Delaware Pride Parade
25th Anniversary of Delaware Pride on June 4, 2022 in Dover, DE



Article
Pride: What is the Progress Pride Flag?



Article
For LGBTQ People Of Color, Discrimination Compounds

ACTION

Ways to Support

- Support an LGBTQ+ event
- Participate in CFF's June 9th virtual training "More Than An Ally" at 3pm
- Join CFF's 4Cs virtual conversation June 22nd at 4pm titled "Breaking the Silence"
- Support LGBTQ+ owned businesses
- Rock a Rainbow Flag in front of your house
- Support LGBTQ affirming organizations such as the Human Rights Campaign and PFLAG
- Keep your eyes open, see any anti-LGBTQ+ bills presented in DE and call your representative to declare disapproval
- When in conversation, speak out against offensive and defamatory comments against LGBTQ+ people

TERMS & FAQs

What does EDI stand for?

EDI stands for Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion

What is the purpose of this newsletter?

To bring awareness on EDI practices and efforts within and outside of CFF and to allow readers to explore EDI topics and values that may sometimes be overlooked or unknown. A great guide that connects you the reader to more in-depth resources.

HOLIDAYS & OBSERVANCES

LGBTQIAA+ Pride Month	
Men's Health Month	6/12 Children's Day
National PTSD Month	
Black Music Month	
AIDS Awareness Month	6/19 Juneteenth
Alzheimer's & Brain Awareness Month	
National Caribbean American Heritage Month	