



Creating a caring, just, and affirming world
for LGBTQ+ people and those who love them.

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Dear PFLAG Cape Cod Supporter,

Hard to believe that fall has arrived and October is right around the corner, which means that PFLAG Cape Cod's 2025 fiscal year will soon begin! That said, I encourage you to join/renew your membership so we can continue "leading with love" in our support, education, and advocacy efforts on the Cape and Islands. For your convenience, an application and return envelope are enclosed, or you can easily join/renew online at www.pflagcapecod.org.

Every year we seem to get busier, and this past year was no different! In honor of Transgender Day of Visibility in March, we hosted a screening of the documentary film *The Freedom to Exist* at the Hyannis Public Library. Then in May, thanks to some extra-generous members, we once again awarded four \$2,500 scholarships to four high school seniors who have been advocates for equality, bringing the amount that we've awarded since 2003 to over \$95,000... wow!

Over the course of the year we attended a dozen community events, offering information, resources, and swag to those visiting our table, such as the Suicide Awareness Walk, a few performances of "tick, tick...BOOM" at The Cape Playhouse, and the International Festival, to name a few! We once again partnered with Highfield Hall for a Pride Month author event and Wequassett Resort for their fabulous "Out on the Bay" pride party, and our Speakers Bureau visited Falmouth Public Library and the Island Wide Youth Collaborative and Queerhub MV on the Vineyard. And to top it off, I participated in a health equity video for Cape Cod Healthcare, was interviewed by Dennis Center for Active Living for a community television program, and even did a segment on MVY Radio... how's that for getting our message out there?!

This past May, our Portuguese-language support meetings went hybrid and are being promoted to a wider audience with a commercial on Portuguese radio station WJFD in New Bedford. And in our ongoing effort to reach even more people, our website is now available in English, Portuguese, and Spanish, so check it out and help spread the word!

PFLAG Cape Cod is especially honored and humbled by the outpouring of generosity this past year, including our fourth Pride Month fundraiser with The Stand and Daily Brew which raised \$1,600, a donation from the Wequassett Resort for \$8,000, a grant for \$2,000 from the Donald C. McGraw Foundation of The Cape Cod Foundation, as well as donations from generous individuals. And when a local couple were recently married, rather than set up a wedding registry, they named PFLAG Cape Cod as a beneficiary of donations in honor of their nuptials, raising a total of \$10,000 for our organization! With these additional financial resources, PFLAG Cape Cod is exploring ways to increase our programming and outreach, some of which we've already begun, such as sending two campers to YMCA Cape Cod's Camp Firefly this past summer, supporting local Pride events, and airing the Portuguese-language radio commercial I mentioned.

And let's not forget our participation in the Oak Bluffs Martha's Vineyard Pride Parade in June and the Provincetown Carnival Parade in August! With "Renaissance & Revolution" as this year's Carnival theme, our float was decorated to reflect a "rebirth of the uprising" needed to fight back against the backlash on LGBTQ+ progress.

Finally, I'd like to invite you to our **2024 Annual Meeting & Social** on October 10th at the Osterville Village Library, with award-winning photographer, Julia Cumes, as our Guest Speaker (a flyer with more information is enclosed). In the meantime, please join/renew your membership with PFLAG Cape Cod... we couldn't do all of this without you!

Yours in unity and pride,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joe".

Joe Lima (he/him)
President, PFLAG Cape Cod