The Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley is a Champion for LGBTQ Life and Culture.

We envision a future where all members of the greater Rochester LGBTQ communities, at all stages of their lives, are free to be fully participating citizens, celebrating their lives in which they are safe, stable and fully respected.
2016 will go down as a year of great change for the Gay Alliance. Considering the changes that the Alliance has seen in its 44 years, 2016 brought new powerful and exciting changes.

At the top of that long list of changes is our move into a new home in the Neighborhood of the Arts. The Rochester LGBTQ Resource Center is much more than just new offices, it is a home for members of our communities as well as our friends and allies.

The LGBTQ Resource Center provides The James Moran Community Room; David Bohnett Cyber Center; a library of over 10,000 books, magazines and DVD’s; Gallery Q and our Education Center which hosts trainings, movies, youth and senior activities, classes and space for community gatherings.

The new space brought the Alliance a 1400% increase in visitors over the previous year! In January and February 2016, the Library checked out more items than had been checked out in all of 2014 & 2015 combined!

While the Resource Center and our community programs were busy, the LGBTQ Academy, our Education Program, also saw extraordinary growth. In 2016 our staff and volunteer educators presented 276 sessions, in 17 states, reaching over 10,000 participants! College campuses, medical centers, corporations, K-12 schools and a wide variety of social service organizations have become more welcoming to members of the LGBTQ communities because of the Gay Alliance.

While taking on the move and program expansions, we also made major changes to the annual ROC Pride Fest that were met with near universal applause! In 2016, the ROC Pride Fest had 7,000 attendees and according to the Rochester Police Department 30,000 people watched the Pride Parade.

2017 shows no indication of slowing down. This year will bring more changes for our youth and senior programs, as well as for the Empty Closet which is the oldest LGBTQ publication in New York State. You’ll also see expanding programming for women, veterans, and rural participants.

Best Wishes,

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The Rochester LGBTQ Resource Center is the home to Gallery Q, the LGBTQ Library & Archives, the James Moran Community room and our Education Center, which are all available for community organizations to use to hold meetings and receptions. Also housed at the Center is the David Bohnett Cyber Center, which is comprised of 6 computers that are accessible to the general public. These computers have access to the internet, Microsoft Office, Adobe reader, and printer access. The LGBTQ Resource Center is where weekly SAGE lunches are held, Pride is planned, and we hold First Friday Gallery Q exhibit opening receptions. These are just a few of the many things that happen at the LGBTQ Resource Center. We welcome guests to explore the LGBTQ Resource Center any time.

The Gay Alliance and its team of volunteers made “Magic” happen last summer with its ROC Pride Celebrations, and the common themes all week long were GROWTH and CHANGE. The ten-day event drew over 40,000 people of all ages and background, spread of over a dozen events through out the City of Rochester. A change of venue for ROC Pride Fest proved to be challenging, but was received by the community with great enthusiasm: over 7,000 people attended the festival during its two days, more than twice the attendance of previous years’ festivals. This expansion of the festival site allowed for more programming opportunities, and the addition of activities for all intersections of our LGBTQ+ community. The Pride Parade also had record-setting numbers, with over 115 units marching down Park Avenue, and with close to 30,000 people observing from the sidelines! The ROC Pride 5k Run moved to Cobbs Hill and grew in participation tremendously. We also saw our first Pride Volleyball, Tennis, Video Gaymes, and Euchre tournaments.
SAGE (Services & Advocacy for GLBT Seniors) Rochester is an affiliate of the national SAGE organization. 2016 saw significant growth in the size of the SAGE program. The number of SAGE activities offered more than doubled, increasing from 141 in 2015 to 291 in 2016. Attendance at these activities more than doubled, going from 1715 in 2015 to 4133 in 2016. Program offerings include Senior yoga, Tuesday catered lunches with educational programs & crafts, Coffee Hour, Bingo & Euchre, Denny’s Breakfast Club, Fabulous Fish Fry, Happy Hours, Theater and Movie Meetups, dances, picnics, and more.

In 2016, programming also included outreach to veterans as a new SAGEVets affiliate and the launch of rural “OUT in the Sticks” activities.

Ride For Pride, the Gay Alliance bike ride fundraiser, has become one of the largest fundraisers for the Gay Alliance. Organized by our Education Director, Jeannie Gainsburg, this event continually brings in new donors and supporters from the LGBTQ communities as well as from our straight/cisgender allies. In 2016 Ride For Pride raised a record breaking $43,000 with 60 riders on the road! As always, we had one honored rider dressed in white to help us all remember LGBTQ people everywhere who are not able to show their true colors.

Our InQueery programming provides learning opportunities on special topics and skills for personal and professional development in safe, inclusive classrooms. InQueery classes are taught by people with a particular expertise, not necessarily a degree. Like traditional “Adult Education,” InQueery sessions are not offered for “credit,” but for the experience and the fun of learning. InQueery sessions meet one or more of these goals:

- Focus on issues of interest and importance for LGBTQ-identified community members, and their friends and allies.
- Provide information or training about LGBTQ identity or the LGBT communities.
- Be a safe place for LGBTQ people, their families, and friends to fully and authentically participate in the activity and learning process.

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Looking Back
For over 40 years the Education Program at the Gay Alliance (now known as the LGBTQ Academy) has been changing hearts and minds: sharing real stories and experiences, breaking down LGBTQ myths, stereotypes and misunderstandings, and facilitating genuine, non-judgmental conversations in K-12 schools, colleges, corporations, faith communities, hospitals, social service agencies, and more. This past year the LGBTQ Academy provided over 275 trainings and presentations, to over 10,000 participants, in 17 different states, that included our SafeZone Training, our SpeakOUT Training, and our nationally acclaimed SafeZone Train-The-Trainer Certification Program.

The Empty Closet is one of the oldest continuously published LGBTQ newspapers in the United States and is New York State’s oldest LGBTQ newspaper. It was begun at the University of Rochester by Bob Osborn and Larry Fine, the founders of the UR student group, Gay Liberation Front, and later transferred to the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley. It has been published by the Gay Alliance since 1972. Originally a four-page mimeographed newsletter, the EC is now a monthly publication. In 2017 The Empty Closet began the process of updating its look and content, modernizing the look of the paper while streamlining content to be more interactive with our readers. There will be a much stronger online presence as well as social media presence, making the paper more relevant to a broader audience.
The **Gay Alliance Library** is a circulating and reference collection with over 10,000 fiction and non-fiction books, 800 magazine and journal titles, and video and audio recordings related to gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and queer issues.

The **Gay Alliance Archives** house a historic collection of copies of *The Empty Closet* newspaper, as well as vital paper records and ephemera of the events, organizations, and people important to the Rochester LGBTQ community.

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- Rachel Krutchen
- Tim McGukin
- Nicole Pease
- Gerry Szymanski
- Bob Pease
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**Gallery Q**

Gallery Q opened in January 2016 and provides community members the opportunity to experience art by LGBTQ-identified and allied artists. In 2016, the Gallery held nine exhibitions featuring the work of over thirty artists from the greater Rochester area. Attendance at openings is steadily increasing and now averages over two hundred visitors at each First Friday. For many, a Gallery Q opening is their first visit to the LGBTQ Resource Center.

**Lead Gallery Volunteers:**

- Jamie Allen
- Ron Cook
- Alice Carver Kubik
- Erica Sanko
- Ralph Henderson

**Shoulders To Stand On**

The Shoulders To Stand On program of the Gay Alliance is committed to documenting, preserving, and archiving the history of the LGBTQ Community in the Rochester region and its impact on New York state and the nation in advancing the cause for justice and equal rights. Shoulders To Stand On gives credibility to our community and culture. You can learn about the seven program initiatives of Shoulders To Stand On visiting www.gayalliance.org/shouldertostandon

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We offer our gratitude to those who so value our work that they have included us in their estates or planned giving. By making a legacy gift, these individuals ensure the Gay Alliance will continue to be a strong Champion for LGBTQ Life and Culture for generations to come.

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Legacy Society

Without our many Volunteers we couldn’t do it all!

Carolyn Abare
Jason Robert Ballard
Jamie Ackerman
Anthony Alexander
Stefan Baer
Jacqueline Ball
Jessica Barlow
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Matt Burns
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Alice Carver-Kubik & Jamie Allen
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Cille Haley
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Sabata Harley
Juanita Harvey
Dustin Hayes
Dustin Hayes
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Nika Hilton
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Brianna James
Karen James
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Melody Kohut
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Anne Tischer
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Robyn Trotman
Deborah Trubatch
Nellie Wagner
Noah Wagoner
Matt Wakeman
Anne Wakeman
Bess Watts
Jonathan Wetherbee
Kat Wiggall
Sam Wiggall
Dwain Wilder
Carolyn Wisniewski
Jim Zicarri
**REVENUE**

- Contributions & Grants: $152,536
- Earned Income: $202,610
- Events & Other Income: $197,748
- **Total Income**: $552,894

**Expenses**

- Salaries & Services: $276,846
- Facilities & Operating: $167,953
- Events & Conferences: $107,908
- **Total Expenses**: $552,707

**Net Income**: $187

*Unaudited financial information*