





IOWA SAFE SCHOOLS

ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018

A YEAR OF GROWTH & OPPORTUNITY

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iowa

safe
schools

Mission

Provide safe, supportive, and nurturing learning environments and communities for LGBTQ & Allied youth through education, outreach, and advocacy.

Vision

To prepare Iowa's LGBTQ youth for the future, in safe and inclusive communities by implementing programs and lifesaving direct services across the state.



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Welcome

Dear Friends & Allies,

Philanthropy is a vital tool with the ability to drastically change lives. When we work together, united under a common goal of providing safe, supportive and nurturing learning environments and communities for LGBTQ youth, we have the opportunity to make a huge impact across Iowa. Every child deserves access to a quality education without fear of bullying or discrimination. And, while our extraordinary staff works hard to create safe spaces in every community, your philanthropic support directly impacts the amount of resources, services, and outreach efforts for LGBTQ youth across Iowa.

We are proud to report to you, our friends and allies, that we made a significant impact for LGBTQ youth last year. The results speak for themselves: a record number of 1,456 donors joined the Iowa Safe Schools family making one-time gifts. Additionally, we successfully launched a sustaining donor program with 100 new monthly donors.

The programs and services provided by Iowa Safe Schools include the Iowa GSA Network, Pride Camp, LGBTQ Youth Advocacy, Safe Schools Academy, Student Day at the Capitol, the Governor's Conference on LGBTQ Youth, the Rainbow Forum, Iowa Bullying Symposium, Iowa Transgender Education Summit, the Iowa Campus Coalition, #FOURinTEN, the Midwest Title IX Summit, Affirming Resource Library, lifesaving health resources and direct support services.

We are proud to say 100% of your gifts benefit the programs and services you choose to support. Iowa Safe Schools would not be where it is today without the generosity and compassion of people like you! Please accept our deepest appreciation for your very gracious support last year—you made a huge impact for LGBTQ youth across Iowa!



Scott Heldt

Director of Development
Iowa Safe Schools

Leadership & Staff

Board of Directors

Jan Reinicke, President
Miriam Woods, Vice-President
Dr. Bill Morain, Secretary
Jake Auliff, Treasurer
Dr. Patti Woodward-Young
Cindy Swanson
Lee Stafford
Zachary Bales-Henry
Jean Hessburg



Nate Monson

Executive Director



Scott Heldt

*Director of Development &
Communications*



Becky Smith

GSA Network Coordinator



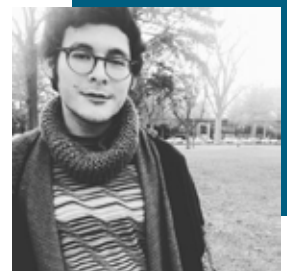
Joshua Merritt

LGBTQ Youth Advocate



Mark Turnage

Registrar



Ric Tennenbaum

Campus Coordinator

Our History

2002- Present

Iowa Safe Schools was founded in 2002, with assistance from the Iowa Civil Rights Commission, to address the needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, and queer (LGBTQ) youth in the state of Iowa. All students need a safe, supportive atmosphere in which they can learn, including students that identify as LGBTQ. Unfortunately, bullying, harassment, and discrimination against LGBTQ students occurs often in our schools. As these students face verbal and physical harassment, educators, policy makers, parents, and other students are hampered by the lack of quality information and resources to protect LGBTQ students.

However, over the past several years, Iowa has made significant progress in helping create safer schools for LGBT students. Iowa became the 10th state in the nation to pass a comprehensive Safe Schools Law that protects ALL students in 2007. Including the Safe Schools Law was the expansion of the Civil Rights law which protects LGBTQ school staff members from discrimination.

Governor Culver, Lt. Governor Judge, and legislative leaders all made historic passage of these laws a reality.

Safe Schools Law- 2007

The fight for the Safe Schools Law was not an easy battle. Iowa Safe Schools worked for five years hosting community forums across the state and talking to leaders one on one about the importance of protecting all students. These forums led to movements in many Iowa communities to pass protections on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

After years of lobbying, Governor Culver and Lt. Governor Judge made it a priority in their first two months in office to pass this important bill. With their help and that of floor managers State Representative Roger Wendt and State Senator Mike Connolly – the Safe Schools Law became a reality. The bipartisan vote on SF 61 made protecting students in schools not only an ethical, professional, and moral obligation – but a legal one.



Commitment to LGBTQ Youth & Iowa

Protect Kids, Stop Bullying is the simple, but powerful motto we use to describe the programs and direct services of Iowa Safe Schools. Because we believe every child has the right to a quality education without fear of discrimination or harassment, our organization is rooted in the drive to create safe & inclusive schools and communities for LGBTQ youth. What sets us apart from other groups is that our commitment to LGBTQ youth doesn't stop with our work, but extends into the the community through philanthropic support and volunteer leadership.

Through the support of our community, businesses, and partners, LGBTQ youth have the resources, tools, and support needed to pursue their dreams. We have developed a well-rounded repertoire of programs and services, including training for educators, counselors, and other professionals. Our commitment to LGBTQ youth requires building a sustainable cast of support, to ensure safety and inclusion across Iowa.

There are very few organizations that exist to serve LGBTQ youth and even fewer that integrate so many aspects of the post-modern queer youth experience. We're proud to say through our fantastic staff, board, philanthropic support and community involvement, we have impacted the lives of thousands of LGBTQ youth across Iowa each year!

Many thanks to all who make our work possible!

IMPACT of Philanthropy

At Iowa Safe Schools, gifts from donors help to advance and enhance the programs and services provided to LGBTQ youth. Each year donors are invited to support the Scholarship, GSA, and Direct Services Funds and with these gifts, the lives of LGBTQ youth are significantly impacted.

Scholarship Fund

LGBTQ youth are disproportionately faced with challenges and barriers that result in at-risk behaviors and increased mental health issues. By providing LGBTQ students with scholarships to Pride Camp, the Governor's Conference on LGBTQ youth, and other lifesaving programs, our donors actively save thousands of lives each year while providing ladders to success and growth! In 2017-2018 we saw a record number of supporters provide scholarships for LGBTQ youth across Iowa.

GSA Fund

In 2017-2018 our GSA Network (Gay-Straight Alliance) grew to 100+ GSAs across Iowa-- 75% of those are housed in rural Iowa schools. GSAs are student-led clubs with all the same protections as any other extra-curricular activity. By providing a safe space for LGBTQ youth and allies to meet and receive training and resources, we are actively shaping the next generation of leadership in Iowa schools. The GSA fund supports affirming resources, pride packs, and several other tools for students to utilize. Through the gracious support of our donors, we have continued to expand our GSA network and resources for LGBTQ youth.

Direct Service Fund

Mental and sexual health, homelessness, human trafficking, safety planning-- these are all critical conversations and topics for LGBTQ youth. As a group who is committed to lifting up all students, we recognize not everybody travels on the same path. That is why we continue to enhance our programs and services, so every child we serve has the resources they need to live a happy and healthy life. Our donors see the impact we're making and see the vision of a stronger, more unified Iowa, where every child is looked out for. In 2017-2018, they helped us serve over 3,000 LGBTQ youth across Iowa!

It takes gifts of all sizes to support these funds at Iowa Safe Schools. When you add them all together, the impact can be seen on the countless faces of LGBTQ youth, parents, and families we have the opportunity to serve!

Year in Review

..A Year of Growth & Opportunity..

With the addition of new staff, new programming, expanded services, and increased philanthropic support, we are celebrating a paramount year for Iowa Safe Schools. Check out what we have been able to accomplish this year:



13th Annual Governors Conference on LGBTQ Youth

A record 1500+ LGBTQ youth swarmed the Iowa Events Center to spend a day learning, connecting with other LGBTQ youth, and meeting inspiring celebrities like Jonathan Van Ness, Elegance Bratton, Miz Cracker, SSG Patricia King, Mark Pampanin, Troy Price, Rep. Liz Bennett, and Senator Matt McCoy.



GSA Network and the Iowa Campus Coalition

The GSA Network is now home to 100+ GSAs across Iowa, this expansion reflects our hard work and commitment to serving LGBTQ youth in Iowa. With the addition of the Iowa Campus Coalition this year, we will be connecting young LGBTQ adults with the resources, services, and tools they need! We already have representation for 16 community colleges, private and public institutions!



Direct Services & Advocacy

The hallmark of our organization is the ability to directly serve and advocate for LGBTQ youth. In 2017-2018 we served 3000+ LGBTQ youth in Iowa. By taking on homelessness, human trafficking awareness, and increasing our focus on mental health, we are dedicated to ensuring every student has the tools and resources they need to be successful.

"At the end of the day, its all about the kids"

-Nate Monson, Executive Director

2017-2018 Giving

We recognize the following donors, organizations, and businesses who have demonstrated a dedication to supporting LGBTQ youth across Iowa. Thank you for your gracious support and for championing the future of LGBTQ rights in Iowa!

ACLU of Iowa	AFSCME/ Iowa Public Employees	Kelley Dhont
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention	Annette Allender	Joseph Diver
American Lung Association	Marti Anderson	Heidi Dolphin
Axne for Congress	Robert Anderson	Brian Douglas
Boulton for Governor	Christopher Arnold	Ellery Duke
Burlington Community School District	Jake Auliff	Robert Eikleberry
Cathy Glasson for Governor	Doug Aupperle	Sandra Eskin
Central College	Lee Ann Bakros	Megan Evans
CVAD	Zachary Bales-Henry	Troy Fadiga
Des Moines Gay Men's Chorus	Pedro Baltar	Christopher Farabaugh
Des Moines Pride Center	Christopher Barker	Eric Faust
DMACC	Jacob Barker	Abel Fincher
Eyes Open Iowa	Wayne Bauman	Peggy Fitch
First Friday Breakfast Club	George Belitsos	Cornelia Flora
Glasson for Governor	Amy Beumer	Taylor Frame
Grinnell College	Monica Biddix	Austin Frerick
Iowa Conference United Church of Christ	Brad Biren	Julianne Frosolone
Iowa Campus Coalition (store)	Penny Bisignano	Betty Fuller
Iowa Civil Rights Commission	Blain Custom Painting, Inc.	Elizabeth Garst
Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence	Blazing Saddle	Cassie Gerst
Iowa Dept of Human Rights	Connie Boesen	Debbie Gitchell
Iowa Victim Service Call Center	Nate Boulton	Bridget Godes
ISEA	Andrew Brau	Jay Gold
ISU	William Brauch	Elizabeth Goodwin
Job Corps	Eric Brockob	Susan Green
Kansas State University	Joshua Bruett	Greg Gross
Maharishi School	Barry Bruner	Katrina Guest
McGuire for Governor	John Cacciatore	Amber Gustafson
Mercy College of Health Sciences	Nancy Cadmus	Hair By Brianne
NAMI Iowa	Capital City Pride	Suzanne Hall Stout
Nate Boulton for Governor	Claire Celsi	Molly Hanson
Nationwide	John Chaplin	Quinlin Hanson
Norris for the People	Jay Chapman	Mark Harris
One Iowa	Chad Chase	Danielle Heefner
Optimae LifeServices	Brian Chestelso	Colleen Heinz
Planned Parenthood	Teresa Choi	Katie Heldt
Please Pass The Love	Kevin Chorniak	Scott Heldt
Plymouth Church	Chrysalis Foundation	Aaron Herman
Polk County Crisis and Advocacy Services	Lynette Claeys	Jean Hessburg
Polk County Health	John Cleasby	Susan Hirschmann
RESPECT	Cain Clefisch	Rob Hogg
Scholten4Iowa	Anna Clevenger	Joseph Holbrook
Sampson Family Therapy Services	Mary Jane J. Cobb	Joby Holcomb
Stepping Stone Family Services	Cole-Belin Education Foundation	Samantha Holstein
Synergy Clinical Services of Central Iowa	Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa	John Holveck
The Crisis Center of Johnson County	Margaret Conrad	Carol Horner
The Project of Primary Health Care	Judy Cordle	Diane Howe
Transcend North Iowa	Cornhaulers	Kate Howe
TRY Therapy	Jeffery Couch	Hubbell for Governor
UnityPoint Health Des Moines	Ryan Crane	Donn Hutchins
University of Northern Iowa	Danfoss Matching Gifts Program	IHCC Allies for Equality
Urbandale UCC	Rose Daugherty-Rudd	Kyle James
USDA	John Davis	Dan Jansen
Walnut Hills United Methodist Church	Erin Davison-Rippey	Sarah Jarnagin
Wells Fargo	Harold DeLaria	Misti Johnson
Youth Emergency Services & Shelter	J.M. Dell	Katharine Johnson Suski

Giving Continued

Jacqui Kalin
Alan Kaplan
Cory R. Keasey
Kemin Industries
Barbara Kirk
Julianne Klampe
Jessica Koch
Suzanne Koch
Kollan Kolthoff
Zachary Kouri
Diane Krell
Mitchell Kunnert
La Tapatia
Donna Lane
Susan Langan
Charles Lapham
Tiffany Larson
Bailey Little
Pat Lloyd
Barbara S. Lounsberry
William Lounsbery
Brenda Lowery
Heather Matson
Edward Mauro
Kenneth McCann
Matt Mccoy
Natalie McFarland
Andy Mcguire
Christine Merritt
John Merritt
Joshua Merritt
Jane Metcalf
Kristen Meyers
Joan Middleton
Morgan Miller
David Minehart
Nate Monson
Sheryl Moore
Hugo Mora
Bill Morain
Lorie Murphy
Jessica Neal
Timothy Negrete
Jon Neiderbach
Jamie Nelson

Stephanie Nemmers-Bello
Network for Good
Elisabeth P. Norwood
Nyemaster Goode, P.C.
Scott Olson
Angela Onwuachi-Willig
Cythnia Paschen
Patricia Perry
Susan Perry
Thomas Phillips
Please Pass the Love
Cindy and Jim Pottebaum
Ron Parker
Robert Powell
Lizabeth Price
Kathryn Propstein
Herman Quirmbach
Rafinvestments
RAYGUN
Charles Read
Scott Regenwether
Heather Reimers
Jan Reinicke
Linda Reinicke
Riley Family Fund
Robert Riley
Ryan Riley
Amy Ritland
Cody Ritz
Madeline Robel
Michael Robertson
Lisa J. Rock
Sam Roecker
Charles Rohm
Roswell & Elizabeth Garst Foundation
Bethany Ruby
David Ruhe
Rob Sand
Christie Scase
Claudia M. Schabel
Sam Scheidler
Ashlee R. Schuling
Brittany Schuling
Christy Schuling
Christopher Schwartz

Zane Scott-Tunkin
James Seger
Michelle Kell Shannon
Joshua Sheridan
Kate Simonson
Amanda Skellenger
Bryan Smith
Diana Smith
Shawn Smith Jones
Matthew Smith
Susan Snook
Lee Stafford
Kristen Stanford
Andrew Stefani
Mazie Stilwell
Jennifer Suchan
Cindy Swanson
Greg Tew
Karen Theunick
Douglas Thomas
Ricky Thornburg
Robert Timmins
Donald Towne
Trikos International
Sarah Trone Garriott
Kristin Turk
Mark Turnage
Scott Valbert
Peri Van Tassel
Jonathan VanNess
Erica Warren
Anne Webber
Jennifer Wells
Jack Wertzberger
Chris Weyer
Westminster Prebyterian Church
Ninette M. Whitney
Deeann Wilson
Wink
Martha Wolf
Landon Wood
Miriam Woods
Allison Wynes
Ryan Yeager
Timothy Young

To the thousands of individuals who support Iowa Safe Schools through our store and online academy, we thank you for supporting LGBTQ youth! To request more information about your gift or if you have any questions please contact Scott@IowaSafeSchools.org or by calling (515) 669-3476.

Join Our Family

You are invited to become part of the Iowa Safe Schools family!
Join us and support LGBTQ youth in Iowa!

Monthly Giving

Becoming a monthly donor with Iowa Safe Schools provides reliable and consistent support and sustainability for our programs and services. Spread out your giving and help make an impact!

Choose your level:

\$5/month provides a student with an affirming resource from our extensive library of over 35 titles

\$10/month sends a Pride Pack to a GSA in Iowa

\$20/month allows our GSA Coordinator to visit students in all 99 counties

\$25/month sends an entire GSA to the Governor's Conference on LGBTQ Youth

\$31/month (one dollar per day) provides thousands of LGBTQ youth with direct services through our Youth Advocate.

\$42.50/month supports 2 scholarships for students to attend Pride Camp

Follow this link to get started:

<http://www.iowasafeschools.org/monthly/>

Planned Giving

Making a one-time planned donation affords our organization with the opportunity to reach kids in all 99 counties. To start planning your next gift or series of gifts, please contact Scott@IowaSafeSchools.org call (515) 669-3476

Follow this link to get started:

<http://www.iowasafeschools.org/contribute/>



Disclaimer

This 2017-2018 Iowa Safe Schools Annual Report is published to provide information about Iowa Safe Schools for philanthropic friends, community, volunteers, staff, partners, and board members. It highlights the programs, services, and thousands of individuals who have benefited from the philanthropic gifts, grants and bequests to Iowa Safe Schools.

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Please write to us at our address, call at the above number, or email scott@iowasafeschools.org if you wish to have your name removed from the list to receive future fundraising requests supporting Iowa Safe Schools.



