



## 2014 Annual Newsletter

### About Us

The Orlando Youth Alliance (OYA) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization founded in 1990 which provides a safe space for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered, and Questioning (GLBTQ) youth to gather, talk about issues and concerns that are important in their lives, as well as meet other gay youth. OYA is a peer based youth group with members ranging from the ages of 13 to 24.

#### Board of Directors members in 2014

Michael Slaymaker, *President*  
Andrea Sheldon, LMHC, *Secretary*  
Wesley Howell, CPA, *Treasurer*

#### Members at Large

Ginger Malcom  
Roger Watkins  
Patrick Howell  
Floyd Benfield  
Nay Burton  
Brien Smith  
Thomas Jacobson  
Russ Kasim  
Tim Stahl  
Nidmarie Gonzalez-Lopez



#### Babes in Bonnets at The Parliament House

OYA was once again the recipient of this highly successful event. Coordinated by Darcel Stevens, area business & organizations create an Easter bonnet to be auctioned off to a packed house in the Footlight Theatre at The Parliament House. Don & Susan start off the evening with desserts and refreshments. The emcees this year were Baby Blue Star and Michael Wanzie. Thank you to all who donated, volunteered, or purchased a bonnet and/or auction prize. The event generated over \$9,000 for OYA!



### OYA Annual Family Reunion

Each year we gather the youth from our three chapters and enjoy a day at Walt Disney World's Magic Kingdom. Our friends at WDW PRIDE sponsor the activity. On June 7, we took 75 into the park. For some of the youth, this was the first time they had experienced the Magic Kingdom. More importantly, this first Saturday in June had tens of thousands of LGBT visitors. It is a memorable day for our youth to be in a very large crowd and not be the minority. It truly is life changing for our youth to see same sex couples walking hand in hand down Main Street or an LGBT family spinning in the tea cups. Thank you Walt Disney World PRIDE for creating this memory for our youth.



OYA participated in the first Orlando Youth Empowerment Summit (O-YES). Over 70 youth and adults from Tampa to Orlando met at Orlando City Hall for meetings to learn and share.

### Being Brandon

Tori, an OYA member and student at Full Sail University created a documentary about fellow OYA member, Brandon. The short film Being Brandon interviews Brandon and his family about his transition from female to male.



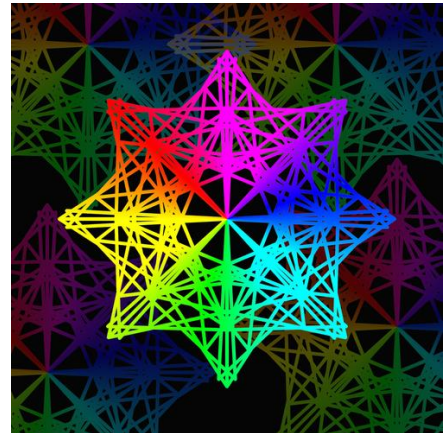


## LYA in Lakeland Christmas Parade

Lakeland Youth Alliance is partnering with PFLAG of Polk County to sponsor the Polk County Pride event in downtown Lakeland in June 2015. People wishing to get involved can contact [info@lakelandyouthalliance.org](mailto:info@lakelandyouthalliance.org).

## Holiday Party

Most of the youth had never seen the original Frosty the Snowman, so we showed it at our Annual OYA Holiday Party. OYA is all about new experiences. Even fun things like Frosty. The winners of the ugly sweater contest were awarded prizes.



## Expansion into Lake County

Slowly but surely OYA has been working in Lake County to improve the lives of the youth in that area. Recruitment of volunteers for the Triangle Youth Alliance is ongoing. Volunteers and a meeting location are being created for South Lake County. Michael Slaymaker spoke to the Allies for Equality Club at Umatilla High School to help them with their Gay Straight Alliance. If you live or know of someone in Lake County who would like to help with these efforts, please email [info@orlandoyouthalliance.org](mailto:info@orlandoyouthalliance.org).



## Miscellaneous Happenings

The City of Orlando Liaison to the LGBT community, the City Attorney, and the Liaison to the Orlando Police Department came to speak to the youth at OYA.

Each year the Orlando Gay Chorus donates tickets to their shows. The youth enjoy seeing another positive expression from this talented LGBT group.

Ripley's Believe It or Not gave our youth a back stage tour and dinner. The shrunken heads were a big hit!

## OYA Donors

### Over \$1,000

Don Granatstein & Susan Unger  
Stan Hannan  
Kenny Howard  
Let's Go Play!  
Sandy Neubarth  
Eddie Nickell & Nicholas Olivier  
Ranger's Pet Outpost and Retreat  
Tobie Plaisance  
Ripley Entertainment Inc  
Jim Savko  
Joe Seagle & Philip Richardson  
Greg Skeen  
The Parliament House  
Universal Orlando Foundation  
Virtual Fleet Supervisor  
Jamie von Schaumburg  
Walt Disney World  
Jimi Ziehr & Charles McGee

### \$500 - \$999

Manny Agon  
Jim Bowden  
Karen Brown  
Raymond Burton  
Amy Cantley  
First Unitarian Church of Orlando  
Benjamin Johansen  
Richard Kowalczyk & Timothy Barr  
Billy Looper  
Matt McKnight  
Lindsay Pettite & Megan Widhalm  
SeaWorld Orlando  
Michael Slaymaker & George Bridges  
The Orlando Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence

### \$250 - \$499

AllStar The Continental Pageantry System  
Barcodes Orlando  
Keven Callahan  
Club Orlando  
Jamie Clute  
Mendi Cowles  
D Squared Productions, Inc.  
Embellish FX  
Funky Monkey Wine Company  
Hamburger Mary Orlando  
Hard Rock LIVE  
Hardrive Production  
Dan Henderson  
Brandon Llewellyn  
Pulse Orlando  
RBARR Nightclub  
SAVOY Orlando  
Baby Blue Starr  
Darcel Stevens  
Stonewall Bar Orlando  
The Abbey  
The Brink Lounge & Nightclub  
The Center  
The Orlando Fringe Festival  
The Venue  
The Walt Disney Company Foundation  
Michael Wanzie  
Drew Weinbrenner

### \$100 - \$249

Hendrik Alma  
Chris Harvey  
Jeffrey Scott

### Up to \$99

Javier Araya  
Debra Booth  
Alana Brenner  
Gary Lambert Salon  
Nidmarie Gonzalez-Lopez  
Tim Gough  
Marc Gutierrez  
Guadalupe Howell  
Amy Iennaco  
Ginger Malcom  
Michael Moriarty  
Simone Novaes-Card  
William Stevens, Jr.  
The Alford Inn  
Mrs. Marilyn Williams & Ms.  
Shane Williams



**Some of our members at  
Come Out with Pride 2014**

## JOIN VOLUNTEER DONATE

Learn more about us on our website  
[www.orlandoyouthalliance.org](http://www.orlandoyouthalliance.org)

To see a snapshot of all the programs and financial information of OYA, log onto our Knowledge Base portrait at the Central Florida Foundation at <http://cffound.guidestar.org/> and type in **Orlando Youth Alliance**.



**Orlando Youth Alliance**  
PO. Box 536944  
Orlando, FL 32853-6944

Phone: 407-244-1222  
E-mail: [info@orlandoyouthalliance.org](mailto:info@orlandoyouthalliance.org)

[orlandoyouthalliance.org](http://orlandoyouthalliance.org)  
[lakelandyouthalliance.org](http://lakelandyouthalliance.org)  
[seminoleyouthalliance.org](http://seminoleyouthalliance.org)

