

# OUTspoken

servicing Amarillo and the Texas Panhandle since 1997



www.outstandingamarillo.org

## Designate your United Way Donation to OUTstanding Amarillo!

For those of you in corporate America, you may be aware that it's almost time for United Way Rallies to begin.

United Way is a great organization and is very diligent in its distribution of non-designated funds to twenty-one partner agencies. However, since we are not yet a partner agency, we don't get a piece of that pie. It is not commonly known that you can designate your United Way contribution to OUTstanding Amarillo. We are on file at United Way of Amarillo as a designated-donor agency.

Donor-Designation Cards should be made available when you make your pledge, but you may have to request one from your rally leader or corporate contact.

The more we grow our donor designations, the closer we get to this becoming a United Way partner agency.



A United Way Member Agency

OUTstanding Amarillo:

- provides outreach and support to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered young people coming to terms with their sexual orientation. provides support and education for individuals and the community at large on sexual orientation and gender identification issues, especially as they relate to young people.
- provides access to services for the GLBT community of the Texas Panhandle.

## Our First Annual Campaign

You should have recently received the letter for our first annual campaign. We have the entire letter inside, but in case you tossed it out with all of the other solicitations you receive, here is the gist of the letter:

OUTstanding Amarillo needs regular income to support the Community House, hire a part-time director, and provide continuous programs.



We have been successful in the past because of dedicated volunteers, no overhead, and limited programs.

Although we continue to have dedicated volunteers, we now have a facility, a laundry list of possible programs, and people who need predictable, regular hours for our house. Take a minute to put your pledge in the mail: a monthly donation of \$25 would pay the electric bill!

We still are asking for your time, but we are getting desperate for your money! See page 2 for more information.

## Our First Hand-fasting



We congratulate Kay and Maggie as they join their lives together in a hand-fasting ceremony in Las Vegas, New Mexico. We look forward to publishing their anniversary pictures as well!

## New Board Members

OUTstanding Amarillo is proud to announce the addition of Chip Chandler, Mary Davidson, Jennifer Hinkle, Terre Moore, Dee Prigmore, Kim McGill, and Rene Ramirez to the board of directors.

For a complete listing of board members, see page 2. If you are interested in serving on a committee or the board, contact a board member.

## Coming OUT Party!

October 11

## National Coming Out Day

OUTstanding Amarillo will host an open house and coming out celebration on October 11, 2003.

Come by the Community House 5-8 pm for music, beer, wine, food, and coming out stories.

We'll be expecting you!

## Our First Annual Campaign

Times are changing in Amarillo. Five years ago, a handful of gay and lesbian people met to address concerns for gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender youth in the Panhandle because of the incredibly high suicide rate. Those meetings led to the formation of OUTstanding Amarillo, an organization whose mission remains focused on service to youth but has expanded to serve the GLBT community overall.

In addition to the PRIDEfest activities and bi-monthly newsletter, *OUTspoken*, OUTstanding Amarillo has coordinated efforts for the creation of a community center. Thanks to a cooperative effort with Planned Parenthood, the support of local donors, and grants from the Gill Foundation, the Community House is now a reality. OUTstanding Amarillo, Live and Let Live, the Texas Panhandle Chapter of PFLAG, Hepatitis C Support Group, and the Panhandle AIDS Support Organization (PASO) share facilities with the Planned Parenthood HIV Outreach Program.

Now OUTstanding Amarillo faces a new and wonderful dilemma: The demand for services exceeds the ability to administer the Community House and community programs with an all-volunteer organization.

We need you to provide the support needed to hire staff, pay operating expenses (e.g. utilities, rent), maintain and expand existing programs (e.g. youth socials, education seminars, newsletter), and establish new programs as needed.

Become an active part of an exciting future for the GLBT community of the Texas Panhandle. Complete and return the enclosed form with your tax-deductible gift or pledge.

For additional information, visit our website, [www.outstandingamarillo.org](http://www.outstandingamarillo.org), contact any of the board or committee members, or leave a message at the Community House, 337-1688 (337-1OUT).

### The Annual Campaign Committee

Michael Timcisko  
 Bekki McQuay  
 Mary Davidson  
 Jennifer Hinkle  
 Terre Moore  
 Whitney Kelly

### OUTstanding Amarillo Board of Directors:

Michael Timcisko Bekki McQuay Dyanne Kuster Chip Chandler John Hintz  
 Rene Ramirez Mary Davidson Terre Moore Cyndy Walton Kay Peck  
 Jennifer Hinkle Dee Prigmore Kim McGill

#### Amarillo Churches Welcoming the GLBT Community

<p><b>Amarillo Unitarian Universalist Fellowship</b>                  4901 Cornell                  Amarillo, Texas 79109</p> <p>Phone: 806.355.9351</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:email@auuf.org">email@auuf.org</a> or <a href="mailto:newsletter@auuf.org">newsletter@auuf.org</a></p> <p>Services:                  Summer Sunday 10 am                  Non-Summer Sunday 11 am</p> <p>Adult Religious Education:                  Summer Sunday 9 am                  Non-Summer Sunday 10 am</p> <p>Children Religious Education:                  During services</p>	<p><b>Metropolitan Community Church of Amarillo</b>                  2123 S. Polk Street                  Amarillo, Texas 79109</p> <p>Phone: 806.372.4557</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:mccamarillo@hotmail.com">mccamarillo@hotmail.com</a> or <a href="mailto:RevBelle@aol.com">RevBelle@aol.com</a></p> <p>Services:                  Sunday 10:30 am</p> <p>Children's Service:                  Sunday 10:30 am</p>	<p><b>St. Andrew's Episcopal Church</b>                  1601 S. Georgia                  Amarillo, Texas 79102</p> <p>Phone: 806.376.6316                  Fax: 806.376.6075</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:saec@arn.net">saec@arn.net</a></p> <p>Sevices:                  Sunday 8 and 10:30 am                  Wednesday 5:30 pm</p> <p>Religious Education:                  Sunday: Spiritual Awakenings 9:15 am                  St. Alban Room, Lowndes Hall</p>	<p><b>Souljourners</b>                  1212 W. 15th Avenue                  Amarillo, Texas 79102</p> <p>Phone: 806.355.4566</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:Souljourners99@aol.com">Souljourners99@aol.com</a></p> <p>Services:                  Sunday: Sunday School noon                  Sunday: Worship 1 pm</p>
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### A Letter from the Perpetually Late Editor

This week fall is beginning. Maybe it's still warm outside, but I can feel a change in the morning air, and I see October creeping up on the calendar.

However, I'm already receiving Christmas catalogs and seeing Halloween decorations in stores.

This summer was extraordinary. PRIDEfest was bigger and better than ever, the film festival brought in more people than ever, and we had t-shirts for the first time ever. We started having regular youth activities at our new Community House. Oh, and the Supreme Court ruled Texas' sodomy law was illegal. Yeah, it was a good summer.

This fall will be good, too. We will have a reception on National Coming Out Day (November 11th), we have the LGRL Halloween party (October 25th), and we'll continue to have youth socials and regular Friday night get togethers at our Community House.

I do have some sad news to relate: both our PFLAG and Live and Let Live AA chapters have closed. I know we need both of the organizations and hope we will find leaders for them.

In this edition, we also are publishing our first "marriage" announcement (page 1). Congratulations to Maggie and Kay! Even if we can't get married legally **yet**, we will continue to celebrate the ceremonies that are no less meaningful or noteworthy.

I look forward to publishing births and anniversaries as well! Ah, the changing of the seasons: from summer brides to fall drag queens! It's good to be gay!

Whitney

## ***Be the First on Your Block to Contribute to OUTstanding Amarillo's Annual Campaign!***

Name:

Address:

Email and Telephone:

City

State & Zip

I would like to pledge \$\_\_\_\_\_ as a monthly donation.

My gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

Draft my checking acct. in the amount of \$\_\_\_ each month. (Voided check attached.)

Routing and Account Numbers

Bill my Visa or Mastercard \$\_\_\_\_\_ each month.

Number and Expiration Date

Contact me for volunteer opportunities.

All donations are tax deductible as donations to a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization.

# September 2003

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5 OUT House 6-10	6
7	8	9	10	11 OUTstanding board meeting 5:30 pm	12 OUT House 6-10	13 Dinner club 7 pm Bring a dish!
14	15	16	17	18	19 OUT House 6-10 Youth Social 7 pm	20
21	22	23	24	25	26 OUT House 6-10	27
28	29	30				

# October 2003

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 OUTstanding board meeting 5:30 pm	3 OUT House 6-10	4
5	6	7	8	9	10 OUT House 6-10	11 Coming OUT party 5-8
12	13	14	15	16	17 OUT House 6-10 Youth Social 7 pm	18
19	20	21	22	23	24 OUT House 6-10	25 LGRL Halloween Party
26	27	28	29	30	31 OUT House 6-10	

### Every Friday at the Community House!

Every Friday 6-10 pm, the Community House is open for you! Drop by, play some cards, watch a movie, meet some friends. Check the website for more information, or show up and see what's happening! Tell your friends you're going to the OUT House!

### Dinner Club

2nd Friday of every month  
7 pm  
Bring a dish or contribute \$5  
Everyone is welcome!

## **A Letter from Our President**

### **A New Lease on Life**

You should have received a letter from us recently. It was a great looking letter, and it was asking for you to support OUTstanding Amarillo financially. You know the kind, “we need your help”, and “without your help we may not survive”. You probably receive one of these letters at least once a week. Never from us though. Until now.

You may have read our letter. You perhaps, threw it away. That is why I am taking this opportunity to ask you once again, to consider giving to OUTstanding Amarillo. If you are still unsure about giving, or asking yourself why you should, I shall explain. It's easy.

We are the ONLY organization of its type here in the Texas Panhandle. We've been in existence for five years now, referring individuals to necessary services, or providing those services ourselves. We have been a refuge for young GLBTs and their families. We have worked with other non-profits to provide a gathering place, library, and a haven for those needing some reassurance and support.

We have produced and coordinated PRIDEfest, and the OUTstanding Amarillo's GLBT Film Festival for five years. We are available to the news media for public and community comment. We constantly seek out people's needs and question ourselves concerning how we may be able to meet our community's needs now, and in the future.

We have done these things and more. We have done these things and never before asked you for your ongoing support of our organization. We have done these things strictly through volunteers, gifts, and grants.

We have come to the stage in our development that unless we have community support, we will no longer grow, and our services could diminish. We can no longer expect to find continuous support through grants. Those grants will most likely be to provide a specific service or program. We now need general operating funds. We have rent to pay and other things like utilities, telephone, insurance, internet fees, maintenance, and more.

We need to hire a Director, at least part-time. Volunteers can no longer run this organization day-in and day-out. We have to have someone at the helm.

To do this, we need to raise approximately **\$35,000**. We will still apply for grants. We have to. We need \$10,000 just to meet our basic needs, like rent and such. We need at least \$20,000 for salary and benefits to pay a part-time director. We need another \$5,000 to help us provide our services.

This can be accomplished quite simply. We need at least 100 people to give \$25 a month. That equates to \$300.00 per year per person. That would bring into us a total of \$30,000.00.

If another 100 people give a one-time gift of \$50, that brings in an additional \$5,000.00. Now we have a grand total of \$35,000.00. That's not a whole lot of money for an organization whose outreach extends to parts of the tri-state area.

Won't you join us in our efforts? Someday even you, or someone you know may need OUTstanding Amarillo's services. Please help ensure our future by considering either a one-time or monthly donation. We wouldn't ask you for your help if we didn't need it.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call us at the OUTstanding Amarillo office, and leave a message. We will be happy to return your call as soon as possible with an answer for you. We will also be happy to send you a detailed operating budget; to better help you understand our very basic needs.

All of us at OUTstanding Amarillo would appreciate your consideration.

Michael Timcisko  
OUTstanding Amarillo Board President