



PFLAG Founder, Jeanne Manford marching with her son Morty in 1972 in support of gay rights.

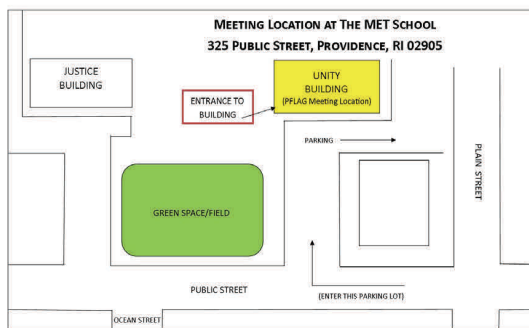
**HISTORY SNAPSHOT.** The idea for PFLAG began in 1972 when Jeanne Manford marched with her son, Morty, in New York's Christopher Street Liberation Day March, the precursor to today's Pride parade. After many gay and lesbian people ran up to Jeanne during the parade and begged her to talk to their parents, she decided to begin a support group. Her single voice, which called on society to treat all of its citizens with understanding and respect, has been joined by tens of thousands of voices over the years—both straight and gay—to make PFLAG the foremost family voice on issues crucial to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and gender non-conforming people, and their parents, families and friends.

- PFLAG helps parents to understand and accept their LGBTQ children;
- PFLAG helps LGBTQ people—of all ages—understand and come out into honest relationships with their parents;
- PFLAG helps society understand and respect people of all orientations and gender identities.
- Physicians, clergy and therapists often refer clients to PFLAG.

**ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND OUR MEETINGS WITHOUT CHARGE.**

**Meetings**  
**6:45 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.**  
 First Wednesday of each month

**THE MET SCHOOL**  
 Unity Building  
 325 Public Street  
 Providence, RI 02905



**PFLAG Greater Providence**  
 P. O. Box 41344  
 Providence, RI 02940

(401) 307-1802  
 Email: [pflagprovidence@gmail.com](mailto:pflagprovidence@gmail.com)  
[www.pflagprovidence.org](http://www.pflagprovidence.org)



**Parents, Families, Friends,  
 Allies & Members of the  
 Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual,  
 Transgender and Gender  
 Non-Conforming  
 Community Giving Caring,  
 Confidential Support When  
 You Need It Most**

**Call our Help Line:  
 (401) 307-1802**

# PFLAG Greater Providence Chapter

## OUR VISION

PFLAG envisions a world where diversity is celebrated and all people are respected, valued, and affirmed inclusive of their sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression.

We are Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Gender Non-conforming people. We are committed to helping other families learn what we have learned, and to help change attitudes and create an environment of understanding so that all LGBTQ people can live with dignity and respect.

## Our Mission

Through our core values of meeting people where they are and collaborating with others, PFLAG seeks to realize our vision through:

- Support for families, allies and people who are LGBTQ.
- Education for ourselves and others about the unique issues and challenges that people who are LGBTQ face.
- Advocacy in our communities to change attitudes and create policies and laws that achieve full equality for people who are LGBTQ.

## How do people know they are LGBTQ?

Some people say they “felt different” or knew they were attracted to people of the same sex from the time they were very young. Some transgender people talk about feeling from an early age that their own personal gender identity did not match the physical gender they were assigned at birth. Others may not discover and understand their sexual orientation or gender identity until they are adolescents or adults.

## What is my role as a parent, family member or friend?

When someone “comes out,” parents, family and friends are often understandably consumed with their own concerns and need time to adjust. Nevertheless, it’s important to remember the critical role they play in their child’s or friend’s adjustment and ultimate happiness.

A recent study indicates that when families show support for their loved one who comes out—by listening carefully, openly discussing sexual orientation or gender identity, attending events, or taking other supportive action—the LGBTQ person will have greater self-esteem and be more likely to be happy and well-adjusted.

## What is Transgender?

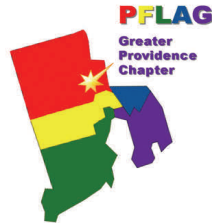
The American Psychological Association defines **transgender** as someone whose gender identity, gender expression, or behavior does not conform to that commonly associated with the gender they were assigned at birth. **Gender identity** refers to a person’s internal sense of being male, female, or something else; **gender expression** refers to a way a person communicates gender identity to others through behavior, clothing, hairstyles, voice or body characteristics.

## Monthly Meetings

Our meetings are relaxed, safe, and non-judgmental. Everyone has an opportunity to speak, if they wish to do so; and discussions are confidential. Participants often find others with similar issues, and discussion helps relieve feelings of confusion, isolation, anger, or helplessness. A lending library and other resource materials are available. On alternate months, we also devote a portion of these meetings to speakers. PFLAG offers a wonderful opportunity for families, friends and LGBTQ people to learn and grow together.

## Greater Providence Chapter

With 200,000 members and supporters, and local affiliates in more than 350 communities across the U.S. and abroad, PFLAG is the largest grassroots-based family organization of its kind. Founded in 1981, PFLAG is a non-profit organization and is not affiliated with any religious or political institutions.



The **Greater Providence Chapter** was founded in 1998. The chapter serves as a life-line to hundreds of parents and families, guiding them through the journey to understand their LGBTQ children and eventually come to full acceptance of the gift they are to their families.

When you become a supporting Household or Individual Member of Greater Providence PFLAG, you automatically get a PFLAG National membership too and receive the PFLAGPole Newsletter from PFLAG National. Join or donate today using the attached membership form or go to our website: [www.pflagprovidence.org](http://www.pflagprovidence.org) to join or donate online.



**PFLAG/Greater Providence Chapter  
Membership Application Form**  
YES! I would like to become a supporting member of PFLAG. Enclosed is my donation.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Household \$36  Individual \$24  Student/Limited Income \$16 Additional Contribution: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

in Honor  or in Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Apt.No.: \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP Code: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide the information requested above and make your check payable to PFLAG/Greater Providence and mail to: PFLAG/Greater Providence, P. O. Box 41344 Providence, RI 02940. You may also pay by credit card by going to [www.PFLAGprovidence.org](http://www.PFLAGprovidence.org) and click on “Donate.” PFLAG Greater Providence is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization. Your contribution is tax deductible in accordance with IRS regulations. All information is confidential. PFLAG does not sell, lease or lend mailing lists to any person or group.