

# Newsletter

## About ET

EqualityToledo works for equality for all Ohioans regardless of their marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression through education, anti-defamation efforts, and activism.

## Our Work

### SAFE SCHOOLS PROJECT

The Safe Schools Project strives, through education and advocacy, to create a culture of safety that will make Ohio schools free from harassment, bullying, and other forms of violence against any student or group of students.

### FAITH & FAIRNESS INITIATIVE

EqualityToledo created the Faith and Fairness Initiative to promote understanding and empower fair-minded people of faith to speak from their rich faith traditions about lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender equality.

### EQUALITY @ WORK PROJECT

The Equality@Work Project educates area businesses and individuals and advocates for all employers in Toledo and the surrounding geographical area to implement full and inclusive LGBT non-discrimination and non-harassment policies and practices in their workplaces.

**EDUCATING** our community about issues affecting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and unmarried persons.

**BUILDING COALITIONS** of individuals and groups in Northwest Ohio who share our mission.

**NETWORKING** and cooperating with other local, state, and national non-profit groups that are dedicated to working for equality.

## Board of Directors

Kurt Erichsen  
Shannon R. Frye  
Pat Groves  
Ed Heilman  
Melissa C. Jeter  
Cindy Kirby  
Eugenio Mollo, Jr.  
Rob Salem  
Bill Takacs  
Jami Taylor  
Paul Valdez  
Gina Vidal  
Amy Zawacki

## Executive Director

Sherry Tripepi

## Contact Us

P.O. Box 2659  
Toledo, Ohio 43606  
Phone: 419-531-2110  
Email: [info@equalitytoledo.org](mailto:info@equalitytoledo.org)

## EqualityToledo is Celebrating Five Years!

Can you believe it? EqualityToledo is celebrating five years! We're having a party and you're invited. Please join us for our celebration and annual meeting.

When: **Sunday November 14, 2010**  
Time: **2:00pm – 4:00pm**  
Where: **Mansion View Inn  
2035 Collingwood Blvd.  
Toledo, Ohio 43620**

We will be reflecting on our past five years and looking ahead to our future. We've experienced many accomplishments but there is still so much more to do and we need your support to continue the work.

We will also recognize this year's Equality Award recipients who have worked diligently to advance LGBT rights in Northwest Ohio and given so much to our community.

We hope to see you on the 14th!



## Toledoans Stand Up to Bullies by Wearing Purple

Love is Stronger than Hate. Stand Up to Bullying! Love One Another: No Fine Print. These were some of the signs on display at a recent Stop the Hate Rally and Vigil.

On October 20, the Village Church, in partnership with EqualityToledo and Equality Ohio, hosted the rally and vigil. The Northwest Ohio event was part of a nationwide effort to remember the recent deaths of LGBTQ youth. These young people took their lives due to the harassment, bullying, hate, and violence they faced because of their actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity. Unified by wearing purple, more than 100 people attended the rally and countless drivers honked and cheered in support. The visible display of purple sent a strong message to LGBTQ youth that there is a vast community of people who support them. The Board of Lucas County Commissioners recognized the event with a proclamation.

Speakers included Cheri Holdridge, Pastor of the Village Church; Eugenio Mollo, local attorney and Board Chairperson of EqualityToledo; and Ed Heilman, Pastor at Park Church United Church of Christ, Convener of the Faith Leaders Coalition, and Board Member of EqualityToledo. In his remarks, Eugenio asked the adults to make time for the LGBT and questioning youths in their lives. "I had the support of a wonderful teacher and mentor during high school, and she helped me see that life gets better." Eugenio stated, "Going out for a meal, writing a short note, or giving a hug really goes a long way. Believe me."

~ Eugenio Mollo, Jr.

If you missed the rally but would like to view part of the event check it out at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Be4QbBljF1g>



## Upcoming Community Events

### Holiday With Heart Charity Gayla Presents 33rd Annual Dinner & Dance for GLBT Community & Friends

For the 33rd year the Holiday with Heart Charity Gayla will be presenting their annual dinner and dance to raise funds for the GLBT community. The gayla will be returning to the beautiful and historic Toledo Club, at 14th and Madison St. on **Friday, December 3rd**, from 6:30 to 11:30 PM.

This year the charity will benefit AIDS Resource Center Ohio, Rainbow Area Youth and the Ryan White Center at the University of Toledo. The event is dedicated in the memory of Ann Locher, Gregg Knott and Joe Wicks.

We are featuring a fashion show by Steve Brown's City Boyz Fashions in addition to performances by Ma Kayla Sin Claire Styles and Twila Starr. DJ Bob Norris will be rocking the house as we offer a 50/50 raffle, door prizes, Photo Opts with Tom Brooks Photography and more.

A cocktail reception will kick off the evening, dinner in the grand dining room, desserts, coffee and dancing in the ball room as we socialize with fellow members and friends of the local GLBT community.

Tickets are \$65 each and reservations close on November 30th. Send payments to: Holiday With Hearty Charity, 2815 Collingwood, Toledo, Ohio 43610.

For additional information please call committee member Rick Cornett at (419) 470-3937 or visit us at our official web site at: [www.Holidaywithheart.org](http://www.Holidaywithheart.org)

### People Called Women's 17th Anniversary Party!

People Called Women will be hosting their annual potluck and auction on **Saturday, December 4th**. The potluck begins at 6pm, and the auction gets loud at 7pm! If you can't make it Saturday evening please stop by anytime after 11 am on Saturday to place some bids on our incredible auction items. But if you can make it, please join us! This event is lots of fun, helps keep Ohio's only feminist bookstore afloat, and has been known to provide bidders with that perfect gift they didn't even know existed. All welcome!

People Called Women feminist bookstore is located at 6060 Renaissance Place, Ste. F, Toledo, Ohio, 43623. For additional information, call: (419) 469-8983 or email: [pcwtoledo@yahoo.com](mailto:pcwtoledo@yahoo.com).

## Introducing our new MSW Intern

Hello, my name is Krystina Strimpel. I am a student attending the University of Toledo working on obtaining a Master's degree in Social Work. Currently, I am interning with Equality Toledo, approximately 24 hours a week through April 2011.

In May 2010, I received a Bachelor's of Arts in Social Work, from the University of Findlay and am a Licensed Social Worker. I am originally from Monroe, Michigan, but I now reside in Findlay, Ohio. My passion for social work formulated in 2003, when I received my first job that involved working with individuals with mental disabilities. I also work with the elderly population. In addition to attending school, I work in a nursing home and in an assisted living facility.

After graduation in May of 2011, I am still unsure with what population I would like to specialize but have appreciated the work with Equality Toledo and the LGBT community.

Krystina Strimpel



## Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October

This past summer I was invited as Executive Director of Equality Toledo to be part of a Statewide LGBTQI Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Task Force. This LGBTQI Task Force was formed through the collaborative efforts of The Buckeye Region Anti-Violence Organization (BRAVO), the Ohio Domestic Violence Network (ODVN), and the Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence (OAESV). The Task Force is a statewide, multi-disciplinary group of direct service providers, community-based agencies, advocates, educators, policy makers, funders, and their allies who are working on behalf of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Intersex (LGBTQI) communities affected by domestic violence and sexual assault. The Task Force's mission is to raise awareness of and improve response to domestic violence and sexual assault impacting LGBTQI communities throughout the state. In addition, the Task Force seeks to support service providers, advocates, policy makers and others by providing education and advocacy, fostering collaboration, and identifying and working towards needed systems change for the LGBTQI communities.



Domestic violence is defined as a pattern of behaviors utilized by one partner (the batter or abuser) to exert and maintain control over another person (the survivor or victim) where there exists an intimate and/or dependent relationship. Research suggests Domestic Violence occurs in the LGBT community with the same amount of frequency and severity as in the heterosexual community. Society's long history of entrenched racism, sexism, homophobia and transphobia inhibits LGBT victims of domestic or interpersonal violence from seeking the assistance they need from police, legal and court systems and shelters for fear of discrimination or bias ([www.ncavp.org](http://www.ncavp.org)).

On October 20th the LGBTQI Task Force presented a statewide training entitled Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault in LGBTQI Communities. We had approximately 20 attendees from all over the state. This was a small but important representation of those working to end domestic and interpersonal violence and to provide services in our community. If you'd like to schedule a training or learn more about this task force or domestic violence in the LGBTQI community please contact me at [info@equalitytoledo.org](mailto:info@equalitytoledo.org).

~ Sherry Tripepi

## Community Building: Toledo Pride 2010

The Toledo LGBT community celebrated a significant milestone in the summer of 2010. The first ever Toledo Pride was organized by Outskirts the bar, Equality Toledo and other passionate community members on Saturday, August 28, 2010 at the Erie Street Market from 3 p.m. - 1 a.m. The turnout for this event was monumental! Over 1600 people of all ages attended throughout the day and made this the largest LGBT event to ever occur in Toledo. The day was packed with a Community Connection Carnival, local performance artists, drag queens and kings, and even the roller derby. The Community Connection Carnival featured over 30 local supportive non-profit groups, businesses, churches and organizations. There were local performers on stage throughout the day and evening. It was a day filled with fun and pride for our community.

If you missed the 2010 event, no worries. EqualityToledo and the Toledo Pride Planning Committee are busy working on next year's event! Mark your calendars for Saturday, August 27, 2011 for Toledo Pride 2011. To keep up to date on all the excitement for 2011 please visit the Toledo Pride Facebook page at: <http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100001009710110&ref=ts>

~ Paul Valdez

