



The Gala Pride & Diversity Center
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September 30, 2024

Beloved Community,

My name is Julia. I am a mother of two, a wife, a queer woman, and I've been part of this community for 35 years. I grew up in Morro Bay, worked at several local schools, and even spent two years as a foster parent. I care deeply about this community, which is why I volunteered to join the Board of The Gala Pride & Diversity Center in January 2023.

Today, I am reaching out to you with an urgent plea. The Gala Pride & Diversity Center is facing a critical financial situation that threatens our ability to continue the essential work we do for the San Luis Obispo and Northern Santa Barbara County communities. We are at a crossroads, and without immediate support, we risk losing the lifeline that this center provides to so many.

You may know The Pride & Diversity Center for our incredible Pride celebrations, family-friendly events, and vibrant community gatherings. But beyond the festivities, there is vital, life-saving work happening quietly behind the scenes. Our two staff members—yes, just two—Serrin and Jbird, are tirelessly dedicated to serving the most vulnerable among us. They provide support to unhoused individuals, those escaping domestic violence, and community members facing workplace discrimination. They train volunteers to lead support groups, advocate for LGBTQ+ individuals in hospitals and government agencies, and create connections that strengthen the fabric of our community.

But we cannot continue this work alone. We need your help now more than ever. In California alone, an estimated 1.6 million adults identify as LGBTQ+. We are your coworkers, your neighbors, your family members, and your friends. We are part of the very fabric of this community. And right now, that fabric is fraying.

If you can make a financial contribution, please do so today. If you're passionate about our cause and want to take an active role, consider joining our fundraising committee. If you know someone who might be empathetic to our situation, please share our story with them. And if you have any questions or need more information, I'm here to talk.

I love this community, and I want to make it better for everyone. But we can only do that with your support.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

In Gratitude,

Julia Thompson | President, Board of Directors