

The Welcoming Project

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MAY 2014

Helping increase the visibility of welcoming businesses since 2011.

ALL ARE WELCOME.®

www.thewelcomingproject.org

The Welcoming Project aims to increase the visibility of businesses welcoming of LGBTQ individuals and their allies through providing welcoming signs for businesses to display indicating "ALL ARE WELCOME."

Second Annual LGBTQ Activism Scholarships Awarded at 3rd Anniversary Party

\$500 awarded to each student

The Welcoming Project was proud to award a \$500 scholarship to the University of Oklahoma Political Science undergraduate student Skyler Elliot and a \$500 scholarship to Johns Hopkins University Biotechnology graduate student Lauren McMahon for their outstanding contributions to LGBTQ activism.

Elliot is a Sexpert peer educator and member of the LGBTQ Program Advisory Board at OU. In these capacities, he educates other students about safer sex practices and the importance of supporting sexual and gender diversity in the classroom and beyond. Elliot is a dedicated student who strives to improve the lives of LGBTQ students and make OU more inclusive.

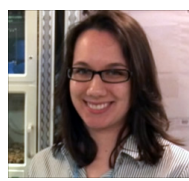
McMahon is a member of Out & Allied Resource Group for LGBTQ and ally

employees at NASA Johnson Space Center. McMahon helped create the NASA center It Gets Better Video while working full-time as a spaceflight microbiologist and studying biotechnology at Johns Hopkins University. She encourages LGBTQ students to become involved in science and technology by reaching out to student organizations across the country.

The Welcoming Project thanks all of the students who applied for the awards and applaud their LGBTQ activist work. The third annual scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students will be awarded in 2015.



Skyler Elliot
with MaryLou Worthen



Lauren McMahon

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Current Number of
Welcoming Places:



248

Would you like to obtain
a FREE Welcoming Sign for
your establishment or business?

Contact us!

contact@thewelcomingproject.org



TheWelcomingProject



@thewelcomingpro

Letter from the President

In 2014, The Welcoming Project has continued to celebrate diversity with our message. With close to 250 Welcoming Places across the globe, we have been busy this year. We hosted a Teacher Training Workshop about LGBTQ issues for Norman Public School teachers, we participated in the TEN Institute College Summit, and we celebrated our 3rd anniversary! We also revealed our newest project, Featured Friday, thanks to our undergraduate intern Amberleigh Jewart. Ty McCarthy, creator of Nazarene Ally, also featured TWP in his Huffington Post article.

In addition, it has been our pleasure to award two very deserving students with \$500 scholarships. University of Oklahoma student Skyler Elliott received the undergraduate award for his work with the Sexperts and the LGBTQ Advisory Board. Johns Hopkins University student Lauren McMahon received the graduate award for her work with the NASA It Gets Better Program and her advocacy with student organizations across the country.

Check out our website to learn more about these and other exciting things going on with TWP!



Meredith G. F. Worthen, Ph.D.
President of The Welcoming Project, Inc.



Thank You!

We appreciate the contributions of our newest generous supporters

Charlie Adams
Stephen Ashmore
Ann Beutel
Debbie Eddins
Jackie Farley
Cindy Foor
Lisa Frey
Marilyn Korhonen
Once Upon a Silver Moon
JoAnnA Wall

WebWeaverWoman.com
Women's and Gender Studies
Program at the University of
Oklahoma

And many, many, many anonymous
donors



Meredith with
Flaming Tassels Pipes
and Drums at the
TWP Anniversary
Party



TWP Celebrates their 3rd Anniversary with Flaming Tassels!

The Welcoming Project's 3rd Anniversary Party was a great success, in part to the repeat appearance of the Flaming Tassels Pipes and Drums! In addition, Little Caesar's in Norman generously donated pizza for our guests again.

In addition to the entertainment and food, TWP awarded the second annual scholarships, reviewed the events of the past year, and raffled off prizes that included cross-stitched rainbow WELCOME signs, a quilt, a watch from Modify Watches, and a TWP-themed iPhone case.

Thank you to all who attended and helped us celebrate our third year!



Undergraduate
and
Graduate



www.thewelcomingproject.org

The Welcoming Project 3rd Annual Scholarships

The Welcoming Project will award a \$500 scholarship to one undergraduate student and a \$500 scholarship to one graduate student who provide outstanding contributions to LGBTQ Activism. Applicants must be enrolled in degree-granting institutions in August 2015.

The winners of The Welcoming Project Scholarship Awards will be announced at our anniversary event in Spring 2015 in Norman, Oklahoma.

The application and more details can be found on The Welcoming Project website:
www.thewelcomingproject.org

Applications are due March 1, 2015

Use promo code ModifyTWP at checkout and 10% of your purchase is donated to The Welcoming Project

FREE SHIPPING
Promo Code:
ModifyTWP



We need your support!

Donate online at www.thewelcomingproject.org

Donation Boxes

We have donation boxes available to help raise funds for The Welcoming Project, Inc. If you run a business, organization, or church and are willing to place an official Welcoming Project clear donation box near your cash register, please contact us. We will get your box to you ASAP.

The donation boxes are approximately 5" wide, 3.5" deep, and 8" tall and has a lock to keep donations secure. Boxes also include a sign holder and business card holder to display our "All Are Welcome" message.



**Your donations are
Tax-Deductible
TWP is a 501(c)(4) non-profit**



Donation Certificates

We now offer donation certificates to all donors. The certificate is hand signed by the President and Vice President of The Welcoming Project, Inc. If you would like to display your support for The Welcoming Project, Inc. by hanging a donation certificate in your business or establishment, please contact us. We will mail a certificate to you at no charge.

If you would like to donate to The Welcoming Project, Inc. as a gift, we also offer donation certificates to give as gifts to others. Certificates are bronze, silver, and gold depending on the donation amount.

MERCHANDISE AVAILABLE NOW!

You can donate for these products by contacting us

Rainbow Pride Beaded Earrings, \$5 Donation per Pair
These earrings can be custom ordered to your specifications. Choose the length (1-5 beads per earring) for a custom fit. We offer french hook style (goldtone and silvertone) as well as post style (goldtone and silvertone) earrings.



The Welcoming Project Window Clings, \$5 Donation Each

These window clings are great for accenting your home, business, or car windows. The opaque static window clings are 4"x3.5" and can be placed inside or outside of a window.



The Welcoming Project Mini Buttons, \$3 each or 2 for \$5 Donation

These 1"x1" buttons are a great way to show your support for TWP. Place them on your lapel, your bag - anywhere!



"I am honored to be a part of The Welcoming Project. As a lesbian myself, I know it can be scary to walk into businesses or email a potential provider without knowing if I will be accepted for who I am. I will proudly display the graphic image on my website. Thank you again for including my business in this wonderful program!" - Debra L. Stang, Freelance Writer

A
TWP
Tribute

You can check out The Welcoming Project products on Cafe

www.cafepress.com/thewelcomingprojectinc



Donation Opportunities

As a non-profit organization, The Welcoming Project counts on donations from supporters to meet our fundraising goals and give back to the community. We greatly appreciate any and all donations in any amount.

When you make a donation to TWP, you can help in the following ways:

- For as little as \$3, you can display our mini-button and share TWP and our message.
- For as little as \$5, you can help TWP to achieve visibility in Norman by helping us pay for membership fees to be a part of Norman Downtowners Association, Norman Chamber of Commerce, Norman Next Community Activism Group, PFLAG Norman, and Gay & Lesbian Rainbow Pages.
- For just \$20, you can provide 100 Welcoming Signs for businesses, organizations and churches to post in their windows.
- For just \$60, you can help us keep our website up-to-date and keep the community informed about TWP by contributing toward our monthly website maintenance fee.
- You can contribute to The Welcoming Project Annual \$500 Scholarship Awards to provide outstanding undergraduate students who are energetic LGBTQ activists with financial awards to help them complete their college education.



How to donate

By Mail

You may mail a check, made payable to *The Welcoming Project, Inc.* to:

The Welcoming Project
c/o Meredith Worthen
780 Van Vleet Oval
Kaufman Hall Room 331
Norman, OK 73019

On PayPal

You may make a donation to TWP on PayPal and are not required to have a PayPal account to do so.

A link to the PayPal donation page can be found on www.thewelcomingproject.org



Handmade couture jewelry

The Welcoming Project, Inc. is now selling handmade, stylish couture jewelry at its events.

You can also donate for the jewelry by e-mailing contact@thewelcomingproject.org. We would be happy to send it to you if you see something you like!

The earrings are a \$5 donation per pair and necklaces are \$5 donation each.



S
A
L
E



TWP at OKC Pride 2014

Join The Welcoming Project at OKC Pride! We will be walking in the Pride parade on Sunday, June 22. If you would like to accompany us, please send us an email or post on our Facebook wall.



Teacher Training Workshop

The Welcoming Project and PFLAG Norman co-sponsored a teacher training workshop on LGBTQ issues on February 17 at Bridges in Norman. The workshop was designed to educate teachers about LGBTQ issues with students both in and outside of the classroom. The event, which provided professional development credit for Norman Public School System educators, was well-received by attendees. School systems interested in having a similar workshop can contact Meredith at The Welcoming Project for more information:

contact@thewelcomingproject.org

Featured Welcoming Place



Once Upon A Silver Moon

Once Upon A Silver Moon is a Metaphysical Gifts and Ritual Supply shop in Oklahoma City. They carry incense, crystals, candles, silver jewelry, handmade soap, body care products, tarot cards, and more. In addition, they are also available for candle blessings, readings, spiritual counseling, and confession services. Find out more at www.onceuponasilvermoon.com or visit their storefront at 3124 N. Classen Blvd. in Oklahoma City from 11 am - 7 pm, Tuesdays through Sundays.

FEATURED FRIDAY!

Check out The Welcoming Project website for FEATURED FRIDAY where we highlight welcoming places and give you more information about certain locales and why they are a part of The Welcoming Project!

Welcoming in the United States, Canada, Europe, and South Africa!



Visit www.thewelcomingproject.org to find a Welcoming Place near you!



Colored Bean Productions
Norman, OK



**Congregation
Agudat Achim**
Schenectady, NY



Engage Life Institute
Tulsa, OK



**First Presbyterian
Church of Union**
Union, MO



Freeman Insurance Group
Norman, OK



Fusion Tag Agency
Norman, OK



Irving Middle School Library
Norman, OK



NaturalPace Sailing
Gabriola Island, British Columbia

ALL
ARE
WELCOME
HERE



Newest Welcoming Places

Newest Welcoming Places

ALL
ARE
WELCOME
HERE



Peninsula
Family Service

Peninsula Family Service
San Mateo, CA



Prestige Wine & Spirits
Des Plaines, IL

 SOUTH WIND WOMEN'S CENTER, LLC
5107 E. Kellogg Ave. Wichita, KS 67218 316.260.6934

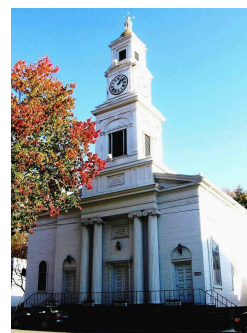
South Wind Women's Center
Wichita, KS



The Green Grove
Norman, OK

 THUNDERBIRD LIQUORS
spirits wine beer
Est. 1986 Locally Owned and Operated

Thunderbird Liquors
Norman, OK



United Ministry of Delhi
Delhi, NY



Vernuft at The Woodmill
Stellenbosch, South Africa

eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca

YWCA of OKC
Oklahoma City, OK

Do you know a business, organization, or church
that would like to become a Welcoming Place?

Do you need a new "All Are Welcome" sign?

Let us know: contact@thewelcomingproject.org

Upcoming Events

The Welcoming Project will be participating at the following events

June

22
OKC Pride
Parade



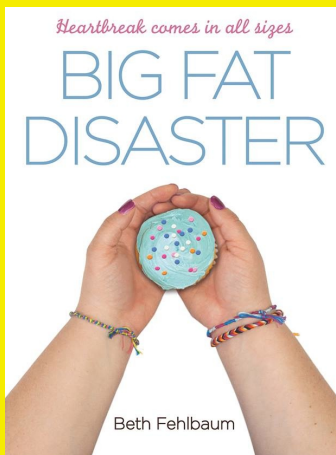
October

16
Laramie Project
Screening and
Panel Discussion



October

25
Mobilization Day!



Colby Denton's family is a "package deal." That's what her dad, a candidate for the U.S. Senate running on a "Family Values" platform, calls his wife, a former Miss Texas, and three daughters: Rachel, Colby, and Drew. Rachel and Drew inherited their mother's traditional beauty, but Colby takes after her father, a linebacker on his college football team. Colby's already difficult life gets worse after she finds a photo of her father kissing another woman and an embarrassing video of Colby is posted to Facebook. How will she cope with all these changes... aside from eating copious amounts of cupcakes?

Fans of young adult contemporary realistic fiction will want to check out *Big Fat Disaster* by Beth Fehlbaum. Read a synopsis and the first chapter at www.bethfehlbaumbooks.com. Available at Barnes & Noble, independent book stores, and on Amazon.

Featured Welcoming Place

Norman Oklahoma Real Estate



brian@doncies.com
405-887-7000

As a realtor with Don Cies Real Estate, it is my goal to provide you with superior service at all times. I am dedicated to making the buying or selling process as easy as possible.

Please feel free to contact me if you are looking to buy or sell property in OKC, Norman, Moore, and surrounding areas!





ALL ARE WELCOME®

www.thewelcomingproject.org

The Welcoming Project Team

Meredith G. F. Worthen, Ph.D.
President and Co-Creator of TWP

Brian Eddins
Vice President and Co-Creator of TWP

Mandy Fehlbaum
Chief Administrative Officer

News Briefs

TWP in Huffington Post

Ty McCarthy of Nazarene Ally wrote about The Welcoming Project for Huffington Post Gay Voices, noting that The Welcoming Project "is pouring water on the 'right to refuse' prairie fire that is spreading across the United States." We would like to thank Ty for drawing attention to our non-profit!

TEN College Summit

The Welcoming Project's Spring intern, Amberleigh Jewart, attended The Equality Network (TEN)'s 2014 Oklahoma LGBTQQIA College Summit on March 1 at Oklahoma City Community College. The one-day meeting gave college students from across the state information on advocating LGBT issues and sustaining gay-straight alliances.

Be a featured business

Would you like to be a featured business in our next newsletter? Let us know! Our newsletters are distributed via PDF to all welcoming places and TWP supporters.

We need your support!



Fundraising idea? Event TWP should attend? Tell us.

If you have a fundraising idea, tell us.

If you think TWP needs to have a table at an event to spread our message, tell us.

If there is a festival where you think local vendors and businesses would like to increase their visibility as welcoming places, tell us.

We appreciate any and all tips our supporters can share. We could not succeed without your financial and emotional support of our mission.



Looking Ahead:



Fall Peace Festival

In November, the Peace Festival celebrates the efforts of Oklahoma groups working for social justice, human service, civil rights, environmental sustainability and peace.



LGBTQ History Month

October is LGBTQ History Month in Norman, OK, and The Welcoming Project will be participating in a number of events, including Spirit Day and OU's Coming Out Day Resource Fair.

THE WELCOMING PROJECT INC.
C/O MEREDITH WORTHEN
780 VAN VLEET OVAL
KAUFMAN HALL 331
NORMAN, OK 73019

THEWELCOMINGPROJECT.ORG

The Welcoming Project is a registered 501(c)(4) non-profit organization. All gifts are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

Questions?

Comments?

Concerns?

[contact@](mailto:contact@thewelcomingproject.org)

thewelcomingproject.org