VOL. 5(1) MARCH 2015 Helping increase the visibility of welcoming businesses since 2011.

ALL ARE WELCOME.

www.thewelcomingproject.org

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

The Welcoming Project turns four!

3rd annual scholarships to be awarded at party

This April, The Welcoming Project will celebrate its fourth anniversary and begin its fifth year of increasing the visibility of places welcoming of LGBTQ individuals and their allies. The Welcoming Project was started by Meredith Worthen and Brian Eddins in 2011 because they desired to make Norman, Oklahoma, a more welcoming place. The idea has spread beyond Norman as well as beyond the initial target of businesses. Over two hundred places - nationally and internationally - are a part of The Welcoming Project.

As The Welcoming Project has grown, many things have changed. An annual scholarship was started in 2013 to award one undergraduate student and one graduate student who are activists for LGBTQ

Current Number of Welcoming Places:



274



causes. In addition, Oklahoma has become one of many states that has full marriage equality.

Of course, The Welcoming Project would not be successful without its supporters and the places that volunteer to proudly state that ALL ARE WELCOME.

Please come celebrate with us at our fourth anniversary party this May from 2-4 pm at Sandalwood and Sage in Norman, OK.

Would you like to obtain a FREE Welcoming Sign for your establishment or business? Contact us! contact@thewelcomingproject.org

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@thewelcomingpro

Letter from the Director of Philanthropy

From your newest Welcoming Project Team Member...

Hello! My name is Sam Wallace, and I officially joined the Welcoming Project as the Director of Philanthropy in the fall of 2014. I joined in order to support the missions of equality, and being involved allows me to provide an opportunity to educate and encourage LGBTQ equality, in an otherwise conservative part of the country. With years of retail training experience, an academic background in sexuality, and previous work as an LGBTQ advocate in Las Vegas, Nevada, I hope to transfer this skill set towards advocacy and fundraising efforts in my new home, Norman, Oklahoma.



Samantha Wallace Director of Philanthropy

ALL ARE WELCOME.

BAR

ALL ARE WELCOME.

211 E. Main St. Norman, OK Write "TWP" on your Bison Witches receipt on March 28th (from 6pm-12am) and 15% of your purchase will be donated to The Welcoming Project!

DINE FOR A CAUSE!

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





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 on May 2, 2015 from 2-4 pm at Sandalwood and Sage in Norman, OK.

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

DEADLINE EXTENDED: April 1, 2015



We need your support! Donate online at <u>www.thewelcomingproject.org</u>

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!



You're Invited To:

Welcoming Project

4th Anniversary Party

Celebrate The Welcoming Project's achievements over the past year and check out our plans for the future!

We will award our 3rd annual scholarships to undergraduate and graduate LGBTQ activists!

May 2, 2015 2 - 4 pm

Join us at:

ALL ARE WELCOME



322 E. Main St. Norman, Oklahoma "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



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

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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 <u>contact@thewelcomingproject.org</u>. 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.



Thank You!

We appreciate the contributions of our newest generous supporters:

WebWeaverWoman.com Steven Ashmore JoAnna Wall Women's and Gender Studies Program at OU Charlie Adams Ann Beutel Phllip Bothwell and Leslie Bohon-Bothwell Debbie Eddins Jackey Farley Lisa Frey Marilyn Korhonen Men's Hair Forum Modify Watches Once Upon a Silver Moon Rick Riebhoff

Check out The Welcoming Project

we highlight welcoming places and

give you more information about

part of The Welcoming Project!

certain locales and why they are a

website for FEATURED FRIDAY where



OKC

PRIDF

Featured Welcoming Place



Bison Witches Bar & Deli of Norman, Oklahoma, describes itself as a nontraditional bar without the traditional "bar food." Customers often rave about its fun atmosphere and great wait staff. Check out their menu at <u>www.bisonwitches.com</u> and stop by sometime to try them out. The Welcoming Project is very grateful to Daxon at Bison Witches for generously offering to donate 15% of food and drink purchases from receipts that say "TWP" on March 28 from 6pm to 12 am.

TWP at OKC Pride 2015

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

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



Visit <u>www.thewelcomingproject.org</u> to find a Welcoming Place near you!



123barefootClinic/RSFX

Oklahoma City, OK



2 Green Chicks, LLC Norman, OK



Amore Destinations Sanford, FL

Amylakes

AAAWebstore

Southfield, MI

Amy Cakes Norman, OK



Bare Oaks Family Naturist Park East Gwillimbury, Ontario



Barbara Flor Counseling, LLC Mechanicsville, PA



Bark on Main Pet Salon Norman, OK



ALL ARE WELCOME.





David Greer Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist Sacramento, CA



Dust Covenant Church Blacksburg, VA



Family Crisis Center Harlingen, TX



Franklin Private Investigations Intelligence & Security, LLC _{Tulsa}, OK



Gabriella's Italian Grill and Pizzeria Oklahoma City, OK



Finding Hope Tulsa, OK



Fresh Harvest Eureka Springs, AR



GoWebBaby North Wales, PA





Health Energy Advice Team Koto Japanese Steakhouse Liverpool, United Kingdom Norman, OK



Meg Max, RMT Ontario, Canada

Mental Health Vitality Mental Health Vitality Broken Arrow, OK

NEW LEAF

New Leaf Florist Oklahoma City, OK



Pin-Up Salon Norman, OK

River City Advocacy Mental Health Recovery, Support & Advocacy New Braunfels | 830.643.0200

River City Advocacy New Braunfels, TX

Seven47 Photography Norman, OK









University Quakers





Waving Wheat Bakery Norman, OK



The Spice Boat Eureka Springs, AR



Uptown 23 Imports Oklahoma City, OK



Wall Law Office Norman, OK



Whidbey Residential Rentals, Inc. Oak Harbor, WA

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: <u>contact@thewelcomingproject.org</u>



"You never really know for sure how people feel about you or your relationships. Especially in the sometimes hostile political climate of our state, as a member of the LGBTQ community, it's easy to feel defensive when I'm out in public. Every time I see one of the Welcoming signs, it puts me at ease and makes me really happy. I really can't even put into words how much I appreciate seeing the signs around town and knowing that my community is more inclusive and accepting with each new sign I see. Thank you Welcoming Project for making me feel truly at home!"

- Ruth Mayo, TWP Undergraduate Intern



Featured Welcoming Place



TWP Tribute

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!











www.thewelcomingproject.org

News Briefs Sam Wallace as Director of Philanthropy

Sam, a frequent attendee of Welcoming Project events, found she had a skill for acquiring donations and assisting in business mobilization. She is a grad student in the Sociology department at the University of Oklahoma and her research focuses on social inequality.

Fehlbaum to Youngstown, OH

Mandy Fehlbaum, Chief Administrative Officer of The Welcoming Project, accepted a position at Youngstown State University in Youngstown, Ohio, as an Assistant Professor of Sociology. She plans to expand The Welcoming Project to the Mahoning Valley Area in the near future.

New Intern Ruth Mayo

The Welcoming Project team would like to announce the addition of our Spring 2015 Intern, Ruth Mayo. Ruth is a junior in Psychology. We are glad to have her help this semester!

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.

Questions? Comments? Concerns? <u>contact@</u> <u>thewelcomingproject.org</u>

We need your support!

The

Welcoming

Project

Team



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.



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

Samantha Wallace Director of Philanthropy

Looking Ahead:



PFLAG Regional Training

The Welcoming Project will participate in the PFLAG Regional Training for the area that includes Oklahoma. Stop by our table and say hello!



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.