



PFLAG GREENVILLE 20 YEAR HISTORY (1992-2012)

Mission: Support, Education and Advocacy

Below are some of the chapter activities over the past 20 years in support of the PFLAG Mission:

Activities of Support:

- Over 5,000 people have attended monthly meetings
- Over 400 contacts through website
- Over 400 contacts through telephone helpline
- Greenville parents supported startup of Spartanburg PFLAG Chapter by attending Spartanburg Chapter meeting for over a year.
- PFLAG parents participated in the startup of AFFIRM (gay youth group)
- Supported first gay prom held in Greenville
- Paid for development of upstate PFLAG website. Website is maintained by Rod Watkins, who has donated many of his services for the past 15 years
- Outside speakers at monthly meetings:
 1. Attorneys (Legal Issues)
 2. Sexual Trauma Center
 3. MCC church
 4. AID Upstate
 5. Mental Health Center
 6. Crisis Line
 7. Marc Adams, author of The Preacher's Son
 8. Debra Hawkins
 9. Triune Mercy Center
 10. Sean's Last Wish
- Participated in Alliance for Full Acceptance (AFFA) Seminar for mental health professionals in Greenville area
- Established relationships with counselors who refer clients to PFLAG for support
- Established list of Professionals (counselors, attorneys and churches) who are glbt friendly

Educational Activities:

- Spoke at colleges, churches and businesses as follows:
 1. Converse
 2. Lander
 3. Clemson
 4. USC Upstate
 5. Limestone
 6. Furman
 7. North Anderson Presbyterian Church

8. Universal Unitarian Church - Greenville & Spartanburg
9. Greenville Tech Foreign Students
10. Greenville Tech Counselors
11. Met Life
12. St. Francis Hospital
13. Police Dept.
14. Presbyterian Church - Clemson, SC
15. SC Pride Celebrations

- Provided training for Crisis Line volunteers
- Conducted all day training session for 30 Social Workers who received 3 credit hours for participation
- Seminar at Greenville Tech featuring Jimmy Creech, defrocked Methodist Minister from Omaha, NE, who was placed on trial for performing Civil Union services
- Developed a PFLAG Greenville brochure which is used for educational purposes
- Full page article in State Baptist Newspaper that went into 650,000 Baptist homes
- Made 3 presentations to senior adults at Furman Learning in Retirement Program
- Theater advertisement at Hollywood Cinema that ran for 10 weeks in all theaters
- Participated in 3 seminars at Greenville Tech, one that was for counselors and ministers (approx. 500 letters were mailed to churches and counselors). Participated in a second seminar that featured Jack Rogers, a Presbyterian minister, who had written a book about how he had changed his view about homosexuality from one of rejection to one of acceptance. Participated in a 3rd seminar sponsored by Mitchell Gold, a gay rights activist, and owner of a major furniture brand.

Advocacy:

- Members spoke at school board meeting in support of GSA at Mauldin High School (1st GSA in upstate if not state of SC)
- Conducted a billboard campaign on Interstate I-85
- Placed Ad on 5 TV stations against gay marriage amendment. Ads appeared on USA Network, Bravo and on WYFF TV 4 in primetime (6 pm News)
- Marched behind PFLAG banner in Gay Pride Parades in Greenville, Spartanburg, Myrtle Beach, Asheville, Columbia, and Atlanta
- Participated in meeting with 4th Congressional District Congressman, Bob Inglis, at County Square.
- Members spoke at County Council meetings against the anti-gay resolution
- Participated in formation of ProJustice Group in Greenville to oppose anti-gay resolution
- One of the original founders of the Statewide SC Equality Coalition (now SC Equality)
- Two chapter members served as Regional Directors for South Atlantic Region for PFLAG National
- One chapter member served on National PFLAG Board of Directors
- Lobbied State Senator Mike Fair and Senator Glenn McConnell, President of SC Senate
- Participated in nationwide "March on Washington"
- Lobbied Senator Hollings in Washington, DC
- Attended SC Senate Committee meeting to show support against gay marriage amendment
- Visited Bob Jones Museum of Art (on campus) to show support of former gay alumni. After several Sundays of protest the museum was closed temporarily.
- Marched behind PFLAG banner with Jesse Jackson in support of MLK, Jr. holiday in Greenville County
- TV appearance on local Fox News channel to counter reparative therapy treatment at First Baptist Church of North Spartanburg
- Numerous letters to the editor including recent Chick-fil-a controversy
- Two op-ed articles opposing marriage amendment

- Responded to calls from news media for comments about relevant issues
- Supported MCC Church during its battle to obtain a zoning permit for a church on Lloyd Street. Permit was finally granted
- Developed extensive email data base for contacting membership about key issues

Estimated Financial Expenditures:

Chapter dues, donations and a grant provided the funds necessary to support the chapter activities listed below and the approximate costs of each:

• I-85 Billboard Campaign	\$18,000
• TV Advertisements	\$10,000
• Theater advertisement	\$ 5,000
• Telephone Helpline	\$ 6,300
• Red Cross (use of building)	\$ 3,700
• Affirm, Literature, AID Upstate & other misc. expenses	\$12,500
• PFLAG National dues	\$ 6,500
TOTAL	\$62,000

Note: While a couple of the above items are estimates, it is reasonable to believe that the overall total is within an accuracy of plus or minus \$5,000

PFLAG Greenville has been in the forefront of the battle for equality for GLBT individuals in South Carolina for 20 years. We are thankful for our heritage and for two ladies (Leslie Johnson and Carole Lender) who had the courage to start the chapter at a time when it was not popular to talk about glbt issues. Much has been accomplished, but there is much more to do, particularly in Upstate South Carolina.



GREENVILLE The local chapter of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays joins 8,000 demonstrators demanding a Greenville County Martin Luther King holiday. "King was for equality and fairness and that's what we want for our gay and lesbian children," says Larry Candler (left). *Photo by Robert Stanley*