**June 2019**

**Q Youth Resources**

**What is Q Youth Resources?**

Q Youth Resources is a non-profit based in Kitsap County that is dedicated to serving LGBTQ+ youth and their families through a range of local programming. Q Youth Resources is an all-volunteer run organization governed by a working board of local community members. Our community also knows us as The Q Center.

**I heard The Q Center is ending drop-in. Is that true?**

In order to best address the needs of LGBTQ+ youth and adults in our community, we are ending our weekly drop-in to focus on indirect programs that better accommodates our community’s needs.

**Does that mean Q Youth Resources is closing?**

Rest assured--we are not closing! We are ending one program as we look to beginning programs we believe will have incredible impact on local LGBTQ+ youth, adults, and the folks who seek to serve them. **Our last drop in date will be July 26th, 2019.**

**So..what new programming is Q Youth Resources going to do?**

We are so glad you asked! We are going to focus on two branches of programming:

1. **Community events** **for LGBTQ+ youth and their families will continue this year and into the future**. This will include the maintenance of our existing programming like youth field trips, as well as the addition of new programming like brunch for parents of LGBTQ+ youth. We look forward to providing spaces for LGBTQ+ and their families to enjoy our community and build relationships with each other.
2. **Grant funding for LGBTQ+ people in Kitsap County.** We plan to provide the following financial support starting in 2020:
	1. Local LGBTQ+ students in pursuing their educational and employment goals
	2. Transgender and gender non-conforming youth, adults and families in seeking gender-related care or legal services, and
	3. Educators, medical professionals and other service professionals seeking to better serve LGBTQ+ youth and adults through professional development opportunities.

**Why did you decide to focus on grant support?**

Transgender and gender non-conforming people in Kitsap seeking therapeutic or medical services related to their gender are often burdened with the cost of travel to doctors in the Seattle area because they cannot find care in Kitsap County. Many local LGBTQ+ youth are facing financial barriers to seeking education or certification they need to achieve their goals. And there is a lack of local educators and service providers who are trained in how to effectively serve LGBTQ+ youth and adults. While we have passionate and self-motivated professionals in Kitsap County, many face financial barriers to attending additional training or certifications.

The cumulative impact of these challenges creates a very real burden on LGBTQ+ youth, adults, and families in Kitsap County.

Q Youth Resources has always been responsive to the needs of our community and is no stranger to adapting as our community and organization changes. We value making bold changes that ensure we are addressing the most pressing needs of LGBTQ + young people and their families in our community.

**Wait! What about Pink Prom?**

Don’t worry! We will still provide Pink Prom-- QYR’s annual prom event for LGBTQ+ young people-- every year.

**How do I get involved?**

Q Youth Resources is made possible by dedicated community members who volunteer to support our programming. If you are interested in getting involved, please email theqcenter@qouthresources.org and our volunteer coordinator will be in touch about opportunities as our programming changes and develops.

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