



Friends of Sandhills PRIDE
marched in Durham Pride to
support our LGBTQ+ community,
both in the Sandhills and beyond.

THANK YOU!

You have made advocacy and programming for the LGBTQ+ and ally community a reality in the Sandhills.
Please continue your support at www.sandhillspride.org/donate.

Meet Our Executive Director



Sandhills PRIDE introduces its first executive director: Michael Bleggi.

Michael brings experience from both non-profit and for-profit sectors. He worked at Duke University's Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity, where he led community

events and a mentorship program for first-year LGBTQ+ students. After graduating, Michael worked in media analytics for Fortune 500 companies and non-profits. He also helped manage and lead restoration and repurpose projects, developments and commercial properties in the Moore County area. He began his time with Sandhills PRIDE in February 2019 as its youngest board member.

Michael graduated from Pinecrest High School as its 2013 valedictorian and graduated with distinction from Duke University, majoring in Political Science and minoring in Economics and Statistical Science.



Get to know us!

-  We were **founded in 2012** in response to North Carolina Amendment 1.
-  We have professional partnerships with **20 different organizations**, including LGBTQ+-inclusive programming with FirstHealth of the Carolinas.
-  Nearly **\$40,000 in scholarships** have been awarded to 15 local high school graduates who are advocates of the LGBTQ+ community.
-  We support **5 LGBTQ+ student groups** and aim to support more.
-  **Safe Zones**, our new program to train educators and professionals how to best tackle LGBTQ+ issues, is being rolled out in schools and businesses throughout the Sandhills.



2019 Board of Directors

Chair - Charles Oldham
He/Him | Charlotte
Vice-Chair - Michael Edwards
He/Him | Pinehurst
Secretary - Julia Latham
She/Her | Aberdeen
Treasurer - Neil Ward
He/Him | Robbins
Kevin Brewer
He/Him | Star
Robert Canida
He/Him | Pembroke
Frank Roque
He/Him | Southern Pines
Jo Yurcaba
They/Them | Southern Pines
John Zopatti
He/Him | Pinehurst

Letter from the Chair *Charles Oldham*

Since taking the reins as Chair, I have felt a great sense of duty—toward our community at large, and toward the mission of Sandhills PRIDE. I am very grateful to work with people who have passionately overseen this group since it was created, and who will continue to serve in the coming year: Michael Edwards as Vice-Chair, Jules Latham as Secretary, and Neil Ward as Treasurer.

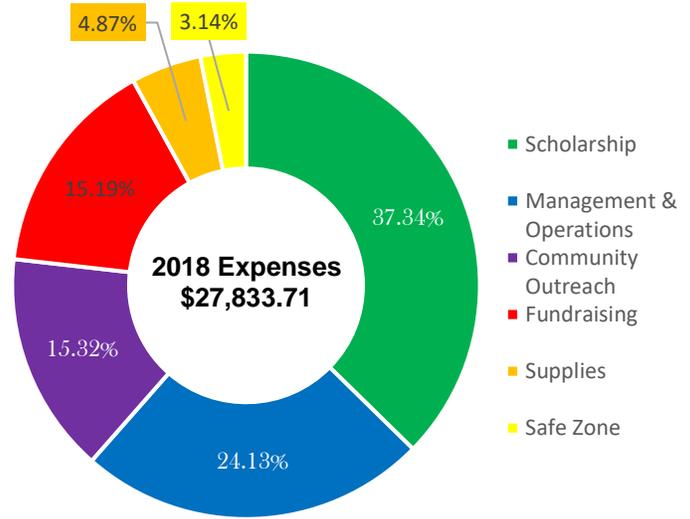
Our mission is consistent through all the work we do, whether it is financial support of student advocates, or community outreach at events like Springfest or the Holly Arts Festival. We are spreading the word that LGBTQ folks are a real and vibrant part of the Sandhills community and are making the Sandhills a better and brighter place for all. Thank you to everyone who contributed to improving equality in the Sandhills!





Martina Litty, Jimmy Cooley, Connor Jenkins, Brooke Sikora

Winning a total of \$10,000 in scholarships, our 2018 winners are student advocates for LGBTQ+ people and represent the strength of the Sandhills community.



A Year of Growth

Sandhills PRIDE invested in its infrastructure in 2018 as we prepared to increase LGBTQ+ visibility and community building in our home counties. We successfully completed our very first leadership giving campaign and have now hired our first full-time executive director. In line with uplifting future leaders, we expanded our youth-centered programming to include our Safe Zone training program, for which we received support from the Starbucks Foundation and Women of the Pines. Our goal for 2019 and beyond is to make our mission as visible as possible in all counties of the Sandhills.

Our mission is to unite, celebrate, and serve LGBTQ+ people, their allies, and sister organizations by providing social engagement, service, education, and leadership in the Sandhills region of North Carolina. Sandhills PRIDE is 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Friends and board members volunteering at the Holly Arts & Crafts Festival in Pinehurst.



ROI that Keeps on Giving



After winning our scholarship, awardee Madelaine Bradley (2019) worked hand-in-hand with Sandhills PRIDE to create an LGBTQ+ library section in Pinehurst High School's permanent collection. Bradley's Girl Scouts Gold Award project, the collection includes young adult and nonfiction books and creates yet another pocket of visibility. We are incredibly proud of you, Madelaine!



The Sandhills PRIDE community bonds in the sun at Thagard Lake, Whispering Pines, where we host an annual potluck in August with badminton, bubbles, and more!



Our volunteers go above and beyond!

A moment of glamour during the 4th of July parade. We hope to see you next year marching with us!

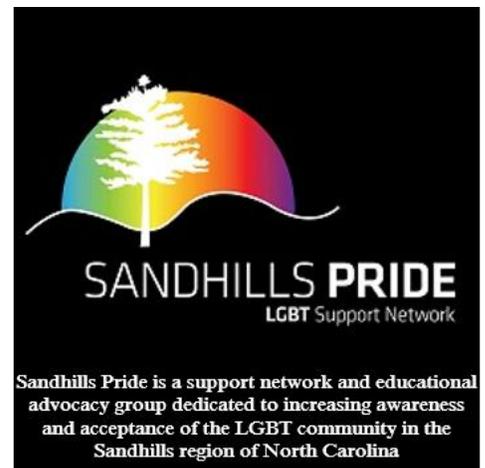


Thank you, Team PRIDE!

Together, we accomplished so much over the 2018 year. You have quite a bit to be proud of:

- 🌈 3,540 volunteer hours
- 🌈 16 miles of highway cleaned
- 🌈 30 community events
- 🌈 1st Safe Zone training held at the O'Neil School in Southern Pines
- 🌈 >\$20,000 raised for scholarships for LGBTQ+ and ally young people.

You, our volunteers and supporters, make visibility for the LGBTQ+ community a reality in the Sandhills. We would also like to extend a special thank you to our donors, without whom we would not be here today. With your support and energy, there is nothing we cannot do!



Please Connect with Us!



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