



glen's friends

The LOVE Report

2025

Table of Contents

3	Reflections from our Founder
4	Our Mission
5-6	Our Impact
7	Our Partners
8-12	Our Projects
13	Our Team
14	Connect with Us!





Dear Glen's Friends,

When we founded this organization, we could think of no better name than Glen's Friends because, just as Glen—and any true friend—would do, we are here for you. We're on a mission to share Glen's huge heart and his love for all by helping to meet the needs of the LGBTQIA+ community and beyond. And we're incredibly proud of the progress we've made so far.

Now over two years into our mission, our impact in the NW Suburbs has expanded, our roots have grown deeper, and the embrace of this community has been powerful. We feel the love, and we feel the need.

As the world shifts and leadership changes in ways that test our courage, our conviction only grows stronger. We stand steady, welcoming every person with the full warmth of Glen's heart. Through every challenge, one thing stays the same: LOVE always wins.

Glen's legacy continues in each life touched, each story shared, and each moment of connection created.

We welcome you with our whole heart.

YOU are a friend of Glen.

LOVE WINS.

Janet McCarthy

President & Founder



No matter who you are, no matter where you're from, you're home ...
you're a friend of Glen's.

Bill McCarthy, Glen's Brother-in-Law

Our Mission

Glen's Friends mission is to
nurture a world
where **all can love** and **be loved**.



2025 Buffalo Grove Pinta Pride Parade

At Glen's Friends, we wholeheartedly embrace the
transformative power of love, determined to cultivate a
world where every soul can experience the boundless joy of
loving and being loved.

Our Impact in 2025

Executed
over

25 PROGRAMS

supporting NW Chicago Suburbs
LGBTQIA+ community & allies

Led by

7 Board Members

each grounded in the
Community

Marched with
more than

50+ Friends

in Buffalo Grove's
Pride Parade

Grew Glen's Friends
Community Membership

+75% vs last year

Supported
by over

185 Unique Donors

Raised
More than

\$37,000

in funds to support
programming

29 Partners

Joined us in
our Mission

Organized

3

Inclusive and Celebratory Events

SOLD OUT

OUR
VERY
1ST

GAY-LA!

Countless
amounts of

LOVE

created and shared,
together

Our Impact

“

Glen's Friends' work supporting and uplifting our LGBTQIA+ community here in Arlington Heights truly embodies the spirit of love, inclusion, and connection that makes our Village so special.

- Carina Santa Maria, Village Trustee-Arlington Heights”

“WE ❤️ YOU GLEN'S FRIENDS.”

- Anne Friedman, Exective Director, Gay4Good

“Thank you for participating and for your work within our community!”

- Mary Beth Canty, IL-54 Representative

“

Thank you so much for your work in creating and leading Glen's Friends. Your work is essential, and our Arlington Heights Middle School is incredibly grateful for your partnership and valuable support.”

- Principal, Arlington Heights Middle School

“

Glen's Friends is doing beautiful work of spreading love and kindness, which is desperately needed at this time.”

- Brittany Issac, Lead Pastor

FUMCAH-First United Methodist Church Arlington Heights

“You have done and are doing so much to honor Glen and LOVE in general!!!! ❤️”

**- Carrie Estrada, Executive Director
Northwest Center Against Sexual Assault**



Our Partners

We **LOVE** our 2025 partner organizations:

Action Camp by The Alliance and Youth Services

And Sew On...a stitch studio

Arlington Heights Bicycle Club

Arlington Heights Memorial Library

Arlington Heights Parks District

Arlington Heights Social Services

Bottle & Bottega

Chicago Style Roller Derby

Coco & Blu

FUMCAH First United Methodist Church Arlington Heights

Free Mom Hugs

Gay for Good

Hell in a Handbag Productions

Highwood Public Library

HOME - House of Music & Entertainment

Kendall College

Kenneth Young Center/LGBTQ+ Center

Local Suburban Middle Schools

Mrs. Vittore's Book Clubs

NAMI Suburbs: National Alliance on Mental Illness

NWCASA (Northwest Center Against Sexual Assault)

OMNI 4 All

Pinta Pride Project

Public Health Institute of Metropolitan Chicago

St John's UCC

State Rep District 54 Rainbow Threads Donation Drive

Transformations

TransUpFront IL

Wheeling Township/State Rep District 54 Mental Health Fair



Our Projects

Community Impact



Creation of **Rainbow Threads, a free transgender pop-up boutique**, with support of a donation drive from **State Representative District 54 Mary Beth Canty's office** and hosted by a local **LGBTQ+ affirming church**



Programming with local libraries



Partnership and participation with OMNI Counseling in the Heart to Heart LGBTQ+ parent and family support group



Participated in a community mental health fair sponsored by state and local government reps



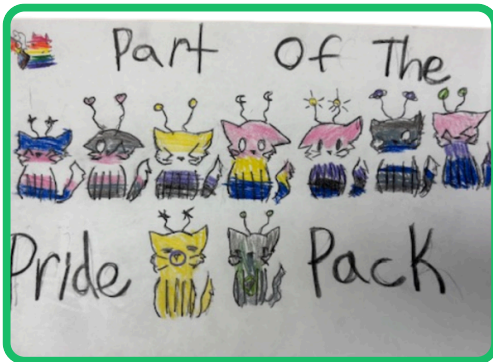
Our Projects

Student Impact

Student-Designed Display at Arlington Heights Memorial Library for Pride Month



Partnership and participation in local middle school LGBTQ+ clubs



Sponsored Action Camp, a 5-day summer camp for LGBTQIA+ youth in partnership with The Alliance and Public Health Institute of Metropolitan Chicago



Our Projects

Fundraising Impact



Partnered with **Coco & Blu** to create the **Froot Loops Matcha**, with proceeds donated to Glen's Friends during the month of June, Supporters received buttons and stickers to celebrate Pride!

We got crafty with **Botle and Bottega** to create chunky knit LOVE blankets



And created rainbow flower headbands with **And Sew On...** to prepare for Pride month



Hosted an inclusive **GAYM Night** with a local affirming church to raise programming funds



Our Projects

Pride Impact



Sponsorship of the first **Arlington Heights Pride Concert** in partnership of the **Arlington Heights Park District**, **The Village of Arlington Heights**, and the **Arlington Heights Memorial Library**

We thanked our neighbors flying the Pride flag during Pride month and invited them to join our movement with **GLEN'S FRIENDS!**



Donated copies of **Mason Funk's "Book of Pride"** throughout the year to our lucky Glen's Friends prize winners



Partnership and participation in the family-friendly **Buffalo Grove Pride Parade**

Our 3RD YEAR in the parade, we proudly marched with over **50 BIG hearts** from: **Chicago Style Roller Derby, Free Mom Hugs IL, Arlington Heights Bicycle Club & our Glen's Friends community!**

LATEST NEWS

Daily Herald
glen's friends

Marchers lead the way Sunday at the start of the Buffalo Grove Pride Parade. The seventh annual edition of the parade featured more than 100 entries. Patrick Kunzer for the Daily Herald

Religious group participating included St. John United Church of Christ in Arlington Heights, led by the Rev. Ken Jensen on his first day as pastor.

"One of the important tenets of our faith is that we welcome everyone, no matter who they are," Jensen said.

The church teamed with **Glen's Friends**, a charity founded by **Janet McCarthy** to honor her brother Glen Brown, who died in an accident while cycling in the 2022 AIDS/LifeCycle charity ride. They brought a 1955 International Harvester truck to the parade.

We are honored that Buffalo Grove stands behind this and stands behind pride," McCarthy said.

Our Inaugural GAY-LA!

We celebrated together in LOVING community

SOLD OUT EVENT!

16 FULL TABLES

125 ATTENDEES

6 VIP Community Leaders

**IN-KIND DONATIONS FROM
35 INDIVIDUALS AND
BUSINESSES**

**OVER \$20K RAISED FOR
PROGRAMMING**



“Such a beautiful evening celebrating the 1st Annual GAYLA with Glen's Friends. Here's to building a community where everyone belongs.”
- Carina Santa Maria, Village Trustee-Arlington Heights



Our Team



Janet McCarthy
Founder & President

Leading with LOVE



Diane Corbett
Secretary



Heidi Wolter
Treasurer



Juliet Kopulos



Kevin Allender



Leslie Bottcher



Sam Stewart

Join us!

 glensfriends.org

 info@glensfriends.org

 [@glensfriends](https://www.instagram.com/glensfriends)

 [@glensfriends](https://www.facebook.com/glensfriends)

Postal Address:

Glen's Friends

PO Box 293

Prospect Heights, IL 60070

Glen's Friends is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization

EIN 92-3698517

Donations are tax-deductible



In Loving Memory

“Love, above all else.”

Glen Patrick Brown





glen's friends