



Brought to you by Virginia's own  
Transgender Task Force

Volume 4, Issue 3

Winter 2010

# Transgender Health

## Building Local Trans Communities

To understand the process of building transgender communities, it is imperative to have an understanding of what we're talking about when we say "community." It turns out there are many definitions of this word. Of the twelve or so definitions found in Merriam-Webster's online dictionary, the most applicable for this context is: "a body of persons or nations having a common history or common social, economic, and political interests." Transgender folks share a common history not in the traditional sense, but in the personal histories of individuals' experience of conflicts around gender identity and expression with themselves and/or family members, friends, co-workers, acquaintances, societal institutions, and other members of society. However, this community of shared experience is often segmented into groups by social class, race, gender identity (e.g., drag kings, male-to-female transsexuals, gender-queers, etc.) and other categories. Most trans communities include non-trans members as well, people who have made themselves allies to those communities, supporting and participating in their activities.

With that definition in mind, we move on to the central question: Why build local transgender communities? What is

the value in having communities? Don't most people transition and cease being visibly trans? For many reasons, this is not true for a lot transgender people.

Many gender variant people never take steps to physically transition. Many of those who do are never able to pass well. Of those who do pass well, many find that they still benefit from involvement in a transgender community of some kind.

Blending in can also bring with it a kind of alienation. There are experiences prior to and during transition that people in one's post-transition life will never know if an individual does not disclose their trans status. Additionally, living a closeted life in which only a very few people know of one's history leaves open the ever-present threat of being discovered, and this fear can cause further strain and alienation. So what kind of benefits might outweigh the apparent safety and comfort of fitting in seamlessly with the larger gender-conforming society?

Having access to a group of people who share these same concerns makes those stresses more manageable. Obstacles are easier to overcome if peo-

ple like you can share their similar experiences. Even when they are not able to offer easier solutions, just knowing someone else got through a difficult challenge and came through okay can be very reassuring.

Safety is a factor that can't be underestimated for trans people. Having a community contributes to the safety of everyone involved. Going in groups to events makes it less likely that an individual will be attacked or singled out for discrimination. And for those times that it is not possible to do something with a group, just having people to call on if something goes wrong can help an individual to have confidence in a situation. The knowledge that people are looking out for you can be motivation to be more mindful of one's own safety, because knowing you matter to others is powerful.

### Positive Change Through Strong Communities

Another benefit to being part of a community can be discovering a collective desire of community members to improve their situation. Through each other, people become motivated to organize in order to make change. Groups might work on many different levels toward change. Just organizing a regular support group changes the dynamics of a community from within, setting the stage for members

Why build local transgender communities?  
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...knowing you matter to others is powerful...

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### Inside: 4 Different ways YOU can get involved:

- Join the Transgender Task Force! See p. 8 for contact info.
- Join the Virginia HIV Community Planning Group. Contact Cat Hulburt at (804) 864-7962 or [Cat.Hulburt@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:Cat.Hulburt@vdh.virginia.gov)
- Write a letter to the editor or an article for this newsletter! See **Announcements** on p. 7 for upcoming newsletter topics.
- Add your event to the to the Upcoming Events section on p. 7!

## Continued: Building Trans Communities

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to learn more about the issues they share, their own strengths, and how to better help themselves and each other. This can contribute to the development of leadership skills which then further strengthen the community.

Another kind of change might be that these groups choose to be more visible in the larger community by participating in community events like LGBT Pride celebrations and marches

or by advertising a support group in a local LGBT paper. A further more adventurous step might be to advocate for changes in the policies of local business or governmental organizations that impact the quality of life for members of the community. A group could also get involved with legislative advocacy to work for local ordinances, state laws, and federal laws that protect transgender people from discrimination and provide institutional recognition of legitimacy.

All of these actions, from the smallest to the most ambitious, contribute meaningfully to the improved health and wellbeing of a local transgender community.

### Elements of Successful Communities

So what has to come together to create a community? There are a number of elements that must be present for any community to develop, and this is true for transgender communities as well. First, people have to be able to find each other. For members of the same race or ethnic group, this may not be difficult, but for those who share characteristics that are not visible or otherwise easily identified this can be quite challenging, especially when there is stigma involved with being identified as a member of the group. The internet has been invaluable in helping people find each other, and its existence has

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contributed immeasurably to the progress made by the trans community over the last 15 years. Another way that trans people find each other is through service providers that cater to issues unique to a particular group. For exam-

ple, when the Fan Free Clinic started its TG Clinic in 2005, many trans people seeking medical services ended up meeting each other, which resulted in the eventual formation of three separate support groups.

Another necessary element in the formation of trans communities is the collective motivation of the group to address a problem or issue. As previously stated, this can be as simple as wanting to find comradeship and support or a more complex dilemma such as convincing medical providers to provide quality trans-specific services. Motivation doesn't just happen, however. Individuals must first recognize their own unmet needs, and then decide that the benefits of acting to meet those needs

outweigh the risks of taking action. Implicit in this decision is the belief that one is worthy of an improved life situation. Missing any of these three elements (a recognition of needs, benefits outweighing risks, and belief in one's own worth) can be a serious impediment to community building, just as it would be an impediment to any individual's personal growth.

Supporting infrastructure is also vital to the development of a community. Fan Free Clinic's TG clinic also serves as a good example of supporting infrastructure, as they provide free meeting space to support groups. Metropolitan Community Churches in both Virginia Beach and Richmond have provided similar support to trans people in their communities. Other organizations that have

traditionally served lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons (whether they deliberately included trans people or not) have often served as infrastructure for trans people to meet. Gay bars, for example, especially those which have regular drag performances, are places where trans people have found each other and even built communities for themselves such as drag houses or families within those settings.

Leadership can be one of the most challenging elements for community development. Groups or organizations without good leadership can struggle and even fall apart. This may be even more true in trans communities, where groups and individuals are faced with multiple stressors. These stressors can be due to societal stigma, especially if many of the group members also face other stress-inducing factors such as race, socioeconomic factors, disability, etc. While many people inherently possess qualities that contribute to being good leaders, it is nearly always true that to

be a really good leader, those skills need development and support. Trans communities can truly benefit from programs designed to build the leadership skills of transgender individuals.

### Trans Communities In Virginia

Just a few years ago, it was much harder to find Virginia's transgender communities. In 2004, there were no support groups with a public presence for FTM trans persons in the Commonwealth. Support groups for crossdressers and/or other MTF trans persons who were not participants in the drag culture had fleeting existences in many areas of the state, but often had not been stable enough to survive more than a few years at a time. Northern Virginia is the only exception to this, where at least one group, Transgender Educational Association (TGEA), has been going strong for over 25 years. There may be drag houses and families in some Virginia

*(Continued on page 3, Building Trans Communities).*

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(Continued from page 2, *Building Trans Communities*)

cities that have been organized and functioning for much longer, but their histories are not publicly accessible.

Today, a lot has changed. A quick look at the last page of this newsletter will show quite a different picture from that described in the paragraph above, with 15 different support and/or social groups listed from across the state. When Transgender Health newsletter began the Community Resources section in 2005, only six groups were listed, one of which is actually located in D.C. A couple others were known, but had not responded to requests for permission to publish their contact information and

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other information about their groups. Both the increase in the number of groups and their willingness to be publically listed are factors that demonstrate the change in climate for transgender people in Virginia.

There are still significant gaps in the trans communities around the state. Most smaller cities and rural areas have little or no community for trans folks. In these areas, folks often have to travel long distances

or rely on the internet for any kind of community involvement. People who do not have internet access or a vehicle can end up terribly isolated. FTM groups have been much less common in Virginia until very recently. There were no known groups until the Richmond Transformers started in 2004, and soon after, Roanoke Trans Guys Night Out. This year, an outgrowth of Gender Expression Movement (GEM) led to an FTM group starting in Hampton Roads.

Another significant gap can be found in the observation that among the support, social, and activist groups which are currently listed, only one is run by African Americans with membership mostly from that population (T.S. Ladies Talk in Norfolk). The rest are dominated by white

## Transgender Rights Virginia



<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/TransRightsVa/>

This is the logo for the Virginia Transgender Rights Coalition

membership and leadership. Many groups do have some people of color (POC) who participate, but blacks, Latinos, and other POC are significantly underrepresented. This suggests that POC in many areas either do not feel comfortable or do not feel welcome in existing groups with white leadership and primarily white membership. What ever the meaning of this lack of participation, it is clear that mostly white trans groups are not adequately serving trans POC, and if there are more underground communities for trans POC, they are not connected into established communication networks and are certain to be left out of important opportunities.

A final important gap in Virginia's trans communities is that there are very few lines of communication between existing groups. Except for the ball and pageant system, groups of Virginia trans people have not had ways of networking between population centers; while there have been national and regional networks in which some people have participated, there have not been Virginia-specific networks. This is changing with the use of email listservs and individuals' ongoing efforts to build formal and informal networks across the state. Groups like the statewide

(Continued on page 4, *Building Trans Communities*).

- Worried about Flu Season?
- Stressed about Transitioning?
- Dealing with new hormones?

### Chinese Medicine can help.



**Ki Ennes M. Ac., L. Ac.**  
**Acupuncture and Chinese Herbs**  
3122 W. Cary St. 2<sup>nd</sup> floor  
Richmond, VA 23221  
274-8002

[www.bluegreendragoninc.com](http://www.bluegreendragoninc.com)  
In The Cary Court Shopping Center in Carytown

## Group Spotlight: The Jim Collins Foundation is Taking Applications!

As of this October, the newly formed non-profit organization, the Jim Collins Foundation, is accepting applications for financial assistance to fund gender-confirming surgeries for those transgender people who need surgery to live a healthy life, but have no ability to pay for it themselves. The organization has undertaken a worthy mission to support healthy transitions through funding medical procedures that are inaccessible for most individuals. Their mission is assisted by an impressive advisory board including well known transgender advocates Marci Bowers, MD and Jamison Green, MFA, among others.

All those interested in requesting assistance should visit the organization's website which provides detailed

instructions about the application process: <http://jimcollinsfoundation.org/how-to-apply/>. People interested in supporting others in their transition process are encouraged to donate through the website via PayPal or by sending a check to the address provided here: <http://jimcollinsfoundation.org/donate/>. ♠



## Ms. Black Valentine 2010

The 2nd Annual  
Ms. Black Valentine  
honoring  
Avantis Ova King  
Saturday February 13, 2010  
Atlas Theatre  
1333 H Street NE  
Washington DC 20002  
202-399-7993

Showtime: 10:00pm  
Contestant must be there by 8:00  
Categories are:  
Presentation in **RED**  
Talent  
Sportswear  
Evening Gown

Prizes  
Winner: 700.00 and 37' Flat Screen TV  
1st Alternate: 26' Flat Screen TV  
2nd Alternate: 19' Flat Screen TV



also your newly  
crowned  
Ms. Black National



Ebony Sherry  
Ms. Models Inc. National



Janesia McCray  
Ms. National Icon

Special  
Guest

## Building Trans Communities

(Continued from page 3)

Virginia Transgender Rights Coalition continue to grow and allow intrastate networks to strengthen as people in different regions get to know each other and build relationships.

The current trends reveal increasing capacity in Virginia's transgender communities. This is encouraging, especially with the progress made just in the last decade. There remains a lot of work to be done to increase the stability of these communities, but there are more and more trans people and their allies becoming active and engaged in creating a healthier environment for themselves and others. ♠



## From the Editor: Reflections on the 2009 Transgender Day of Remembrance

On November 20<sup>th</sup>, I had the privilege of helping to organize the third annual Transgender Day of Remembrance event in Richmond, Virginia. This event joined hundreds of similar events around the world in memorializing people who were killed in the past year because of their gender identity or expression.

The first Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) was a candlelight vigil held in 1999 in San Francisco to commemorate the one-year anniversary of the death of Rita Hester and to remember all those who had lost their lives to anti-transgender violence in the intervening year. Ten years later, TDOR events are held in cities and towns around the country and world; here in Virginia, there were at least four events this year. In addition to the Richmond event, which was held at the Quaker Meetinghouse with over 60 people in attendance and the co-sponsorship of 23 organizations, there were observances in Williamsburg, Fairfax, and Norfolk, which even had a march as part of its commemoration. Even though TDOR is a somber event, it is inspiring that the level of participation has grown each year in Virginia, around the country, and internationally; this growth speaks to the cumulative power of grass roots organizing and the growing awareness of transgender people in our society.

This year's event was also remarkable because of the much larger number of people recorded as having been killed in the past year compared to previous years. In the past, the numbers of people killed per year ranged from 14 to 32. This year, the International Transgender Day of Remembrance website listed 161 people who were killed due to their gender identity or expression; Transgender Europe, which has a Trans Murder Monitoring Project, reported 162. These numbers are staggering, and unfortunately, hate motivated murders of trans people are certainly underreported, which means that many, many more happen around the world about which we never hear.

In looking at the list of names and the countries from which they are reported, it is worth taking note what parts of the

world are *not* represented. Only two people were listed for the whole African continent, both in Algeria, and, for Asia, there were only a few people from India and Malaysia on this year's list; it's hard to believe there is no anti-transgender violence in all of China, although that would be wonderful if it were true. Only one person was listed from Russia and two from Eastern European countries, Albania and Serbia.

The International TDOR website lists

many statistics about the deaths of trans people that have been recorded in the past 40 years, but there are no statistics on TDOR events and where they have happened. I would wager that the number and locations of such events has increased just as much as the number of reported deaths. Unsurprisingly, many cities in Western Europe, the US, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand are listed as having events, and there were events in Yogyakarta, In-

(Continued on page 6)

**Miss Models Inc National 2010**  
**"Ebonee Sherry"**  
**Appearances/Bookings**  
**January-March**

National Appearances

**Ebony International**  
Jan 23rd/24th

**National Sweetheart**  
Feb 21st

**Black America**  
March 13th/14th

Bookings

**Friday, Feb 12th**  
Rainbow Cactus  
Virginia Beach, Virginia

**Saturday, Feb 13th**  
Miss Black Valentine  
Washington, DC

**Sunday, Feb 14th**  
Perry's Morning Brunch  
Washington, DC



**"MMI 2010"**  
**JUNE 12TH**

MMI



## Reflections on 2009 Transgender DOR

(Continued from page 5)

donesia; Minsk, Belarus; Tel Aviv, Israel; Nairobi, Kenya; Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; and Ankara, Turkey. However, no events are listed in the vast majority of African countries, Asian countries, Eastern European countries, or South American countries. This does not mean events were not held, but it does suggest that if they were held, those involved did not feel it safe to publicize their events on the Web.

I have heard people speak about honoring the courage of those transgender people who are willing to be out publicly, educating folks about what it means to be trans, and thereby making themselves potential targets for ridicule, harassment, and even violence. Even so, I think it's also important to consider the context of the risks we take. Some people's life circumstances place them at much higher risk than others, and while all trans folks might be at a heightened risk for violence due to their gender variance, being in a lower income bracket, being a person of color, living in certain places, or just "looking trans" are all things that can contribute to making someone more of a target, more so if someone embodies multiple risk-enhancing factors.

In thinking about all the places around the world where TDOR events were held, I try and fail to imagine what it must be like to live there as trans. However, through my conversations with people from various locations it seems that trans people in many places are at even more risk of violence than here in Virginia. I remember the fear that I have felt at being discovered or targeted; this fear must be much more intense for trans people in many other places, and I am in awe of their courage

in organizing public events under much more challenging circumstances.

With that in mind, when I think about the fact that two of the trans women killed were noted as activists, one in Turkey and one in Honduras, I feel chills on my scalp. These are women who probably had multiple reasons to be concerned about violence, and yet they chose to take action because they believed they could help make things better. I have no doubt that many others on this list of dead trans people did courageous things just surviving each day, and every one of them should be honored. But those remembered as activists, have truly demonstrated a commitment to their transgender communities well beyond any I have ever personally witnessed. I believe we can honor their memory best by continuing to work, in our own ways and wherever possible, to build and strengthen our trans communities. ♠

### Some Web Resources On the Transgender Day of Remembrance and Anti-Trans Violence

#### International Transgender Day of Remembrance website

<http://www.transgenderdor.org/> This website is truly a labor of love, putting together information from many, often obscure, sources from around the world.

#### Behind the Mask article, "The World Remembers Fallen Trans People"

<http://www.mask.org.za/article.php?cat=allafrica&id=2406>

#### Transgender Europe article, "Transgender Europe's Trans Murder Monitoring Project reveals more than 160 murders of trans people in the last 12 months"

<http://www.tgeu.org/node/104>

#### From the National Center for Transgender Equality, "Responding to Hate Crimes: A Community Resource Manual"

[http://transequality.org/Resources/NCTE\\_Hate\\_Crimes\\_Manual.pdf](http://transequality.org/Resources/NCTE_Hate_Crimes_Manual.pdf)

#### Mondo Johnny Blog, "Shadows and Light" <http://mondojohnny.blogspot.com/2009/11/shadows-and-light.html> An excellent blog post by John Porter on this year's TDOR in Richmond

*Do You Have It?*

World National 2010

[www.myspace.com/jdeverreoux](http://www.myspace.com/jdeverreoux)

*I Got It!*

*Continue*  
*The Quest*  
2010 World National  
Itinerary

Diamond Nations  
Jan 31, 2010.  
Bachelors Mill...  
Washington, DC  
Info...202 489 7933

Florida Nations  
World National  
Newcomer  
Orlando Florida  
May 16, 2010

Atlanta International  
April 18..Club 708  
Atlanta, GA  
Contact 404-914-8799

New York Nations  
New York, NY  
Jun 20, 2010

## Announcements:

- **Upcoming Topics for the Transgender Health Newsletter:**  
**Spring** — **Trans Youth**, deadline for submissions is **March 15**.  
**Summer** — **Fitness**, deadline for submissions is **June 14, 2010**.  
**Fall** — **Healthy Housing**, deadline for submission is **September 13, 2010**.

Is there a topic related to transgender health that you'd like to see covered in an upcoming issue? Suggestions for topics, along with readers' input via letters to the editor & articles are wanted and needed! Please note, articles should be lim-

ited to 2 pages, single spaced, 12 pt font. Contact the editor, Ted Heck, via email at [Ted.Heck@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:Ted.Heck@vdh.virginia.gov) or phone at (804) 864-8012 if you'd like to contribute in any way.

- The Virginia Department of Health maintains a **Transgender Resource & Referral (R&R)**, listing resources for transgender people all over the state. Click [here](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/epidemiology/DiseasePrevention/Hotline/TransgenderRRList.pdf): [www.vdh.virginia.gov/epidemiology/DiseasePrevention/Hotline/TransgenderRRList.pdf](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/epidemiology/DiseasePrevention/Hotline/TransgenderRRList.pdf) to access the PDF. If you are a provider and you'd like to be added to the R&R listing, click [here](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/epidemiology/DiseasePrevention/documents/pdf/TrangenderRRForm.pdf) to download the form: [www.vdh.virginia.gov/epidemiology/DiseasePrevention/documents/pdf/TrangenderRRForm.pdf](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/epidemiology/DiseasePrevention/documents/pdf/TrangenderRRForm.pdf)

## Upcoming Events:

- February 20-21, 2010 - **In Translation: Clinical Dialogues Spanning the Transgender Spectrum conference** at NYU Kimmel Center, New York City. Sponsored by Gay and Lesbian Affirmative Psychotherapy (GLAP), a division of The Institute for Contemporary Psychotherapy (ICP). Register by Feb. 18. More information and the registration form can be found here: <http://www.glapnyc.org/conferences.html>
- April 17, 2010 - **4th Annual Transgender Lives: The Intersection of Health and Law Conference** at the UConn Health Center, Farmington, CT from 8 AM - 5 PM. This all day conference is geared towards community, service providers, medical and legal professionals, trans and gender non-conforming individuals, allies and all those interested in the health and law issues facing trans and gender non-conforming communities. Go to <http://www.TransgenderLives.org> or to register.
- April 22-25, 2010 - **The Capital Conference 2010**, IFGE's 24th Annual conference in Washington, D.C., will have two segments. A Providers Day will be held on April 22nd in collaboration with George Washington University's Department of Speech and Hearing Science with a theme of "Building Competencies for Serving TransPeople and their Families". The 3 days of the second segment will have the theme "Education For Action — Knowing Yourself, Knowing Your Community and Committing to Action". Included will be educational presentations, keynote speakers, meals, entertainment, plenty of activities and social time for everyone! Go to <http://www.ifge.org/> for more information or to register.
- May 14-15, 2010 - **2010 Minnesota Trans Health and Wellness Conference** to be held at Metropolitan State University in St. Paul, MN, hosted by the Minnesota Transgender Health Coalition. May 14th is Provider Day, offering CEUs, and May 15th is FREE and open to all, including trans and gender nonconforming people as well as partners, family, friends and allies. Also we will host a full Info Fair & Health Screenings. Cabaret entertainment will be

on Friday night this year. Lisa O'Connor, MD will be the keynote speaker for Provider Day, and Community Day will feature Yosenio Lewis as the keynote. For more info or to register, visit <http://www.mntranshealth.org/>.

- June 3-5, 2010 - **The Ninth Annual Mazzone Center Trans-Health Conference** in Philadelphia, PA. Focusing on issues, needs, and experiences of trans and gender-variant people with regard to the health of our bodies, lives, and communities. Everyone concerned is welcome to attend, including: members of the trans and gender variant communities, partners, allies, family members, healthcare and social service providers. Go to: [www.trans-health.org](http://www.trans-health.org) for more info.
- August 25-30 - **2010 National Gay Men's Health Summit**, at the Sheraton Fort Lauderdale Airport and Cruise Port Hotel, in Fort Lauderdale, FL. The mission of the National Gay Men's Health Summit is to create a stronger, more diverse, and increasingly visible grassroots movement among gay, bi and trans men, focused on strengthening our communities and tackling a range of health concerns including, but are not limited to, HIV/AIDS. Check <http://www.gmhs2010.com/> for more details as they become available.

### Ongoing Events

- **1<sup>st</sup> Friday** of every month: **TGIIFF** stands for **TransGendered Interested In Fielden's Friday** — Doors open at Fielden's (2033 West Broad St. in Richmond) at 11 pm. Email [fieldensva@aol.com](mailto:fieldensva@aol.com) for more information. Past TGIIFF nights have featured: TG theme movies, special guest speakers, personal stories, makeup workshops, feminization workshops, and a professional photographer.

Would you like to see an announcement or an upcoming event listed here? Contact Ted Heck at 804-864-8012 or [Ted.Heck@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:Ted.Heck@vdh.virginia.gov). The deadline for the next newsletter is April 28, 2008!

## Brought to you by Virginia's own Transgender Task Force

To be added to the newsletter email distribution list, or to get more info or get involved, contact Ted Heck:

109 Governor Street, Rm. 326  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Phone: 804.864.8012 - OR -  
▶ [Ted.Heck@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:Ted.Heck@vdh.virginia.gov)

The Virginia HIV Community Planning Group (CPG) identified transgender persons in Virginia as a priority population. To identify the health related needs of transgender persons, focus was turned to conducting research, increasing understanding and knowledge of transgender communities in Virginia and developing transgender sensitive and specific HIV interventions and health care. From this, the Transgender Health Initiative was born with leadership from the Transgender Task Force (comprised of CPG members, transgender individuals, community members and researchers). The goals of the Task Force are to:

- 1) Inform effective training to promote culturally competent health care to the transgender communities;
- 2) Develop and maintain a statewide resource guide to be distributed across the state to facilitate increased access to care for Transgender individuals;
- 3) Develop and implement HIV prevention programs for the transgender community.



Building healthy  
transgender communities!

The Virginia HIV Prevention Community Planning Group (CPG) includes people from various backgrounds, expertise, and life experiences coming together as one to aid in preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS in Virginia. Transgender persons are an essential part of the Virginia CPG. **Have your voices heard!** If you or anyone you know is interested in applying to the Virginia CPG or have any questions, please call Cat Hulburt at (804) 864-7962 or email at [Cat.Hulburt@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:Cat.Hulburt@vdh.virginia.gov)

## Community Resources

To have your resource listed here, contact the Transgender Health Newsletter at the number or email address listed above on this page.

**The Birdcage** — Richmond MCC's transgender support group. Meetings on 4th Friday of each month 6:30pm - 8pm in the Parish House, 2503 Park Ave., Richmond. We are here to help with all aspects of crossdressing, transgender, and transsexual issues. Contact us through the church at (804) 353-9477.

**DC Area Transmasculine Society (DCATS)** — A peer facilitated social and support group in the D.C. area for anyone on the FTM spectrum. For more info, go to <http://www.dcatsinfo.org/>. Meetings are 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month 5 pm — 7 pm at the Whitman-Walker Clinic, 1701 14<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. Call (202) 745-6171 for directions.

**Gender Expression Movement @ The Rainbow Bridge Connection** - A social, educational, and support group in Hampton Roads for all transgender people, friends, and family. We meet the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month at 7 PM. Call (757) 409-2568 for more info or email at [Info@RBCNLMCC.org](mailto:Info@RBCNLMCC.org).

**James River Transgender Society** — A peer-facilitated support group in the Richmond, Virginia area for anyone on the MTF spectrum. 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of each month, 6 pm — 8 pm. Call (804) 358-6343 or go to <http://www.jrts.org/> for directions or other info.

**MAGIC D.C. (Metro Area Gender Identity Connection of Washington D.C.)** - a peer-facilitated support group for transsexual, genderqueer and other gender identity questioning people living in the greater D.C. Metropolitan Area. Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of every month at 8 p.m. at the Falls Church Presbyterian Church, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, 225 E Broad St, Falls Church, VA. Email [info@magicdc.org](mailto:info@magicdc.org) or visit [www.magicdc.org](http://www.magicdc.org) for more info.

**PFLAG T\*Families Support Group** - A peer-facilitated support group for family and friends of both FTM and MTF trans persons in Northern VA. Meets 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month at Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street Fairfax, VA. Contact Libby at 703-691-2026 or [mcknyt@gmail.com](mailto:mcknyt@gmail.com) for more info.

**Richmond Transformers** — A peer-facilitated social and support group in the Richmond, Virginia area for anyone on the FTM spectrum. 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month, 7 pm — 8:50 pm at the Fan Free Clinic, 1010 N. Thompson St., Richmond, VA. Partners, relatives and supportive friends are welcome on alternate months. Call (804) 358-6343 for directions or other info.

**Roanoke Guys Night Out** — A social group for FTMs/Genderqueer/Masculine-ID'd persons assigned female at birth. For more information email [baselinerecordlabel@yahoo.com](mailto:baselinerecordlabel@yahoo.com) or go to: <http://www.myspace.com/transguysnightout>

**Roanoke TRANSformation** — A social support group for persons who no longer identify as the sex they were assigned at birth and have, are, or are consider-

ing transition. We meet on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of every month from 6pm-7:30pm at The Drop-In Center 369 Church Ave SW, Roanoke VA 24016. Meetings on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month are open to Significant/Supportive Others. For more information call (540) 982-2437 or email [dropcenter@aol.com](mailto:dropcenter@aol.com).

**Roanoke TRANSformation SOs** — A social support group for Significant/Supportive Others of persons who no longer identify as the sex they were assigned at birth and have, are, or are considering transitioning. We meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month from 6pm-7:30pm and with Roanoke TRANSformation on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month from 6pm-7:30pm, at The Drop-In Center 369 Church Ave SW Roanoke VA 24016. For more information on either group, call (540) 982-2437 or email [dropcenter@aol.com](mailto:dropcenter@aol.com).

**SW Virginia Transgender Support** — A peer-facilitated support group for MTF transsexual women in the Roanoke area. This group is specifically for those who have transitioned, those in transition, or for those wanting to start. Email [elbrke01@yahoo.com](mailto:elbrke01@yahoo.com) for more info.

**TG Clinic at the Fan Free Clinic** — Free transgender-specific healthcare for anyone in Virginia, including hormone therapy, HIV testing, and primary care services. Every Tuesday 6 pm to 9 pm, 1010 N. Thompson St., Richmond, VA, by appointment only. Call (804) 358-6343 and ask to speak to Linda Kendall or Reed Bohn for more info.

**TS Ladies Talk**— A peer-facilitated support group for MTF transsexual women in the Tidewater area. For more info, call Vega at (757) 575-7690 or Mocha at (757) 235-4874. Every Monday, 6 pm — 8 pm at Tidewater AIDS Community Task Force, 9229 Granby St., Norfolk, VA. Call (757) 583-1317 for directions or other info.

**Transgender Education Association (TGEA)** — Celebrating over 25 years of support to the D.C. area TG/TS/TV/CD communities. Meetings are the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month. Email [TGEA4U@yahoo.com](mailto:TGEA4U@yahoo.com) for more info or visit <http://www.tgea.net> on the web.

**Transition Your Life Clinic** — Free specialized transgender care, including health screenings, hormone therapy, and HIV testing, Fridays, 1 - 4pm, Park Place Medical Center, 3415 Granby Street, Norfolk, VA 23504. Appointments ONLY. Call (757)640-0929 or email [mmaster@accessaids.org](mailto:mmaster@accessaids.org).

**Trans Masculine Group @ Rainbow Bridge Connection** - A social, educational and support group in Hampton Roads for masculine identified people and their specific needs. Meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at 7 PM. For more information, please call (757) 409-2568 or email [Info@RBCNLMCC.org](mailto:Info@RBCNLMCC.org).