



**EDUCATE. ADVOCATE.  
SUPPORT. COMMUNITY.**

**Volume 2, Issue 4**

**January 2008**

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**Coming Next Month**

**More Symposium Information**

**TransOhio Board Information**

**And more!**

## **TransOhio Receives Grant from The Legacy Fund**

TransOhio has been awarded a \$2500 grant from The Legacy Fund of The Columbus Foundation. The grant money will be used for administrative and operational expenses and the first TransOhio Transgender and Ally Symposium to be held March 7-9, 2008.

Two-thousand dollars has been allocated for administrative and operational expenses which will allow continued growth of the TransOhio organization, including office space at The Center on High. The remaining \$500 has been allocated for promotional materials and resources for their March symposium. Additionally, The Legacy Fund will match dollar-for-dollar funds raised by TransOhio for their Transgender and Ally Symposium, up to \$1500.

TransOhio is an organization that serves the Ohio transgender and ally communities by providing services, education, support and advocacy which promotes and improves the health, safety and life experience of the Ohio transgender individual and community.

Over the last eighteen months, TransOhio has provided referrals and support for transgender and gender questioning Central Ohio individuals and their families, published a consecutive monthly newsletter since October 2006, held their first annual TransOhio Unity Picnic in June 2007 to coincide with Pride month, sponsored (2) 6 week self-defense workshops targeted for the GLBTQIA community, provided transgender identified speakers to various Columbus area universities and organizations, published an informational pamphlet called Transgender 101, sponsored the 9th Transgender Day of Remembrance in Columbus, gained fiscal agency with Stonewall Columbus, partnered with The Apothecary Shop and TruVoice and hosted a Thanksgiving Community Dinner.

"We're excited that The Legacy Fund believes in TransOhio and has awarded us some funding that will help with our growth and outreach to the transgender community," says Shane Morgan, Director of TransOhio. "There is a large transgender community here and it's important that people have access to resources and services that are going to promote physical and emotional well-being for transgender people. Our voice is being heard."

On March 8, 2008, TransOhio and Stonewall Columbus will be hosting the first TransOhio Transgender and Ally Symposium. "The Symposium is going to be fantastic. We've been working hard to plan an amazing weekend for everybody. Friday night, we're going to have a meet and greet where attendees will be able to mingle and network with facilitators and other attendees. Saturday, we'll have sessions about employment and legal issues in Ohio, coming out as transgender, transgender youth, and transgender health and safety. Saturday night we have entertainment by first class transgender performers and a leadership and attendee brunch the next morning," says Morgan.

The Symposium will be held at the newly renovated Center on High. Morgan also says that "Stonewall Columbus has been an integral part of our mission, our vision - our success. They've provided us with a home and a firm hand of support and family love. TransOhio truly appreciates the collaboration and support."

Congratulations TransOhio!



# Local & National Calendar of Events

## January 2008

- **TransOhio TG Support Group, 7pm. Wednesday, January 2 at The Center on High. See below for more info.**
- Tiffany Club of New England's First Event 2008. January 16-20, 2008. Peabody, MA. Info: <http://www.tcne.org/FE2007.html>
- **TransOhio Monthly Meeting, Sunday, January 20, 2008, 3pm. The Center on High. Columbus.** Jack Miner from OSU will be speaking about GLBT Alumni Scholarships available.
- LaGarou's Bar Night, Saturday, January 26, 2008, at The Ripcord in Toledo. Email [LaGarou@hotmail.com](mailto:LaGarou@hotmail.com) for more info.
- CD Support Group Meeting, Saturday, January 26, 2008. 6pm. Email [Cd-talk@crossohio.org](mailto:Cd-talk@crossohio.org) for location information.
- FTMI-Ohio Monthly Meeting, Saturday, January 26, 2008, Toledo.

## February 2008

- **TransOhio TG Support Group, 7pm. Wednesday, February 6 at The Center on High. See below for more info.**
- Creating Change Conference 2008, Feb. 6-10, Detroit, MI. The National Gay & Lesbian Task Force. For registration and conference information, visit: [http://www.thetaskforce.org/events/creating\\_change](http://www.thetaskforce.org/events/creating_change)
- **TransOhio Monthly Meeting, Sunday, February 17, 2008, 3pm. The Center on High. Columbus**
- 2008 Gold Rush. February 21-24, 2008. Denver, Colorado. Info: <http://www.gicofcolo.org/cgr>

## March 2008

- **TransOhio Transgender and Ally Symposium. March 7-9, 2008. For info email [TransOhio@wowway.com](mailto:TransOhio@wowway.com)**
- **TransOhio Monthly Meeting, Sunday, March 16, 2008, 3pm. The Center on High. Columbus**

## April 2008

- IFGE 2008. April 1-5, 2008. Tucson, Arizona. Info: <http://www.transeventsusa.org/ifge/index.shtml>

### TransOhio TG Support Group

This is a peer led support group that meets at The Center on High (1160 N. High Street, Columbus, Ohio, 43201) on the 1st Wednesday of every month. Open to all - FtM, MtF, Cross Dressers, Gender Queer, Intersexed, etc. Drop-ins welcome!

Facilitated by TransOhio staff.

Questions? Email [TransOhio@wowway.com](mailto:TransOhio@wowway.com).

### TransOhio Transgender & Ally Symposium

March 7-9, 2008 ~ Columbus, Ohio

**Registration  
Opens Soon!**

**Registration  
Opens Soon!**

*Keynote speaker and performer to be announced!*

#### Friday, March 7th

Meet & Greet with facilitators & other attendees

#### Saturday, March 8th

Coming Out, Youth & Outreach  
Legal & Employment Rights in Ohio  
Transgender Health & Safety

#### Sunday, March 9th

Leadership meeting  
Attendee Brunch

*Evening Performers to be announced!*

*Symposium and events are open to all individuals, members, groups and organizations of the GLBTQI and Ally community.*

*Would you like to add your event to our calendar? Email event information to [transohio@wowway.com](mailto:transohio@wowway.com)*

## SOFFA Corner: A Moment of Normalcy, Please...

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I'm the spouse of a fully-transitioned transsexual male-to-female, a mother of a 4 year-old, an entrepreneur and an activist. As a couple, Monica and I envision that one day, being transgender is no more notable than being left-handed.

After about ten minutes with me (on any topic), many people comment on my energy level or my articulate speaking. Maybe that's a kind way of telling me that I talk too much? But, my passions are rooted in love. Love for my family, my spouse and my daughter. That love has always been there, but my outspokenness for the transgender community has not. That developed slowly.

As a couple, Monica and I went through a lot of discomfort, fear, anxiety, anger and sadness during our transition. Yes, I said OUR transition, because we maintain that the transition of a transsexual is not only for that person. It is for those around them in various ways, and varying degrees. For her, it was a painful, but very freeing emergence from a miserable mask and living a lie every waking moment.

For me, it was watching the one that I love take off like a bullet train, leaving me alone, in shock, at the station (an image borrowed from author Jennifer Finney Boylan's book, *She's Not There*. (This is an awesome book, I highly recommend it.) What for her was the culmination of over thirty years of contemplation, research and analysis was only a matter of months for me to absorb. I am grateful that Monica recognized this, and, as hard as it was for her, she slowed down and gave me time to adjust before bolting down the tracks.

After a while, our family joke was, "It's all about me!" (in reference to Monica). Even our conversations that weren't about transgender issues *became* discussions centered on transgender analysis or debate.

*"Hey, did you notice Meijers has Kleenex on sale?"*

*"Yeah, I need more, now that the hormones have made me more emotional. Do you think if I wear a blouse, the cashier will call me Ma'am?"*

And so it went. Not just the "How shall we tell your sister?", but an unconscious continuous thread of it-is-all-about-being-transgender. Have you ever been around a bride-to-be in the weeks before the wedding? Yeah, that.

I share all of this for a couple of reasons. First, this is a plea for moments of normalcy for your family and friends if you're transitioning. What you may perceive as 'resistance' or 'discomfort' about the transition may be someone just tired of the bride-to-be syndrome. Consider that, once they get over the shock, your loved ones may indeed want to support you and be with you. Despite the horrid stories some transgender people have, there are spouses that want to stay or parents whose love is stronger than their political affiliations! Did I mention Monica's parents are staunch right-wing Republicans?

Finally, if you meet me, know that my ferocious stand for transgender people to be fully self-expressed and loved for who they are comes from walking a rocky path. That any eloquence I have comes from knowing the impact of speaking out and sharing my story. If you are ready to, stand with me in speaking out, share your own story or just listen to others - get involved through TransOhio. Get involved in our community; write for the newsletter, show your support for the transgender community and help behind the scenes.

I move forward knowing that change is possible and that what was once was seen as "horrific" can become mundane. So, this story was written by a left-handed person... Do you care?

Would you like to share your experience as a SOFFA (significant other, friend, family or ally) of a transgender person?

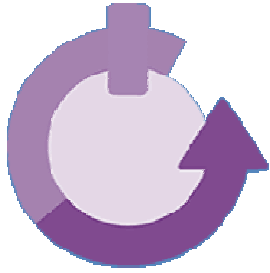
If so, please email Christelie at [Christelie@transohio.org](mailto:Christelie@transohio.org)

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**The National Conference  
on LGBT Equality**  
Creating Change

**February 6-10, 2008**  
**Detroit, Michigan**

## 7th Annual Mazzoni Center Trans-Health Conference



The Seventh Annual Mazzoni Center Trans-Health Conference will be held in Philadelphia on May 29-31, 2008. Join us! This year's theme is: "Honoring Our Past, Envisioning Our Future".

This conference focuses on the specific issues, needs, and experiences of trans and gender-variant people with regard to the health of our bodies, lives, and communities. Everyone concerned about these issues is welcome to attend, including but not limited to: members of the trans and gender variant communities, partners, allies, family members, healthcare and social service providers.

Providers may especially want to attend on Thursday for Provider's Day, when the workshops will focus on educating providers about the needs of our communities. Members of the community are, of course, welcome to attend on Thursday.

Community members may have greater interest in attending Friday and Saturday, when we will offer workshops focusing specifically on our health needs, related to mind, body, spirit, and community.

For more information about this conference, please visit their website at: [www.trans-health.org](http://www.trans-health.org)

## Voting For Change: The Midwest Bisexual Lesbian Gay Transgender Ally College Conference 2008

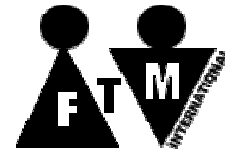
University of Illinois, Champaign/Urbana  
February 22-24, 2008

<http://www.mblgtacc2008.org/>

## FTM-I Ohio Dr. M. Edward Walker Chapter News

### January 2008 Meeting:

Saturday, Jan 26, 2008, Toledo  
This meeting will either take place on the campus of the University of Toledo, or at a nearby cafe called Maxwell's. Location TBA!



[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FTM-I\\_Ohio](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FTM-I_Ohio)

## TransOhio Call for Writers & Artists

We're interested in the following:

- poetry & short stories (fiction & non-fiction)
- reviews and narratives about workshops & conferences
- opinion essays
- coming out letters to family & friends
- photos & artwork (drawings, paintings)
- local and national workshops and events
- book and movie reviews or recommendations
- online resources
- transgender friendly doctors, services, support groups, counselors
- GLBTQI identities in the transgender world
- SOFFA's experiences and observations

Please send your submissions to:  
[TransOhio@wowway.com](mailto:TransOhio@wowway.com)

## TruVoice

### Voice Communication and Therapy

**Sessions begin on January 15, 2008!**

To schedule your appointments, contact Aly Rivero at 614-746-8987 or email Aly at [VoiceOfTomorrow@gmail.com](mailto:VoiceOfTomorrow@gmail.com)!

## TransOhio and The Apothecary Shop

Don't forget to check out the fantastic prices available on hormones from The Apothecary Shop.

See their ad on page 7 for their location and hours. If you have questions about your specific prescription, you can email David at: [dbrandebura@theapothecaryshop.com](mailto:dbrandebura@theapothecaryshop.com)

## The Stephanie Chaffin Fund

Please consider a donation to The **Stephanie Chaffin Fund** through TransOhio and Stonewall Columbus. This is another symbolic way of keeping Stephanie's name alive. This goal is deemed more meaningful in light of the way Stephanie's estranged and rejecting family chose to have a funeral where she was shown as a man. Your contribution no matter how small will be very welcome. At the end of each Stonewall TG support group meeting, we typically pass around an envelope to collect donations to help Stonewall. Stephanie, whose funds were clearly limited as a result of which she neglected and could not afford to take her heart medication, used to always empty her pockets of the change she had on her, which was at times as little as a few cents. Thus please contribute what you can as Stephanie did. Our goal is to have The Stephanie Chaffin Fund be used for a medical emergency for a transgender person, such as the kind of medical help Stephanie could have benefited from.

Donations for The Stephanie Chaffin Fund can now be made online through the TransOhio and Stonewall Columbus website. To donate to The Stephanie Chaffin Fund, visit <http://www.transohio.org/donate.html>. Donations made to this fund are tax-deductible through Stonewall Columbus.

For additional questions about making donations to The Stephanie Fund, please email us at [TransOhio@wowway.com](mailto:TransOhio@wowway.com).

## Upcoming Center on High Events

### Stonewall Health Check

Saturday, January 12 & 26

This program offers a free nurse-run wellness clinic. Offers Blood Pressure Screening, Nutrition Check, Glucose Screening, Legal Help and referrals. Craig Ferguson, RN will be on hand to help and answer questions. Often also includes various guest speakers or panels on health issues, fitness walks, etc. Clinics are held on every 2nd and 4th Saturday of every month from 10am-12pm at The Center on High.

## The TransOhio Logo— DC Jackson Design!

TransOhio would like to thank graphic designer Claire Jackson, owner of DC Jackson Design, for her work on redesigning the TransOhio logo.

In early 2006, TransOhio was using this logo and tagline:



As we evolved as a group and as an organization, it was necessary for us to rebrand and create a visual identity which would represent TransOhio and its mission. With the graphic design talent (and patience) of Claire Jackson, you now see TransOhio with a fantastic visual representation and identity!



If you'd like to contact Claire or see some of her work, visit her website at [www.dcjacksondesign.com](http://www.dcjacksondesign.com).

Again, thanks Claire! We appreciate your time and patience!

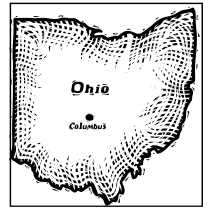
## *It's Coming! Save these dates!*

TransOhio Transgender &  
Ally Symposium  
March 7-9, 2008

To volunteer or receive updates on this conference email us at [TransOhio@wowway.com](mailto:TransOhio@wowway.com)

## Ohio Local Resources

- BRAVO (Buckeye Region Anti-Violence Organization): [www.bravo-ohio.org](http://www.bravo-ohio.org)
- Columbus AIDS Task Force: [www.catf.net](http://www.catf.net)
- Central Ohio CD Support: [www.crossohio.org](http://www.crossohio.org)
- Chi Lambda Epsilon, a Chapter of Tri Ess (Ohio & Western PA.): [www.triess-cle.org](http://www.triess-cle.org)
- CrossPort Cincinnati: [www.transgender.org/crossprt](http://www.transgender.org/crossprt)
- Equality Ohio: [www.equalityohio.org](http://www.equalityohio.org)
- FTMI-Ohio: [groups.yahoo.com/group/FTM-I\\_Ohio](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FTM-I_Ohio)
- Gay People's Chronicle: [www.gaypeopleschronicle.com](http://www.gaypeopleschronicle.com)
- Gender Dysphoria Program of Central Ohio: [www.genderprogram.com](http://www.genderprogram.com)
- GenderBloc: [www.GenderBloc.org](http://www.GenderBloc.org)
- Kaleidoscope Youth Center: [www.kaleidoscope.org](http://www.kaleidoscope.org)
- Outlook News: [www.outlooknews.com](http://www.outlooknews.com)
- PFLAG Columbus: [www.pflagcolumbus.org](http://www.pflagcolumbus.org)
- PFLAG Dayton: [www.pflagdayton.org](http://www.pflagdayton.org)
- SpeakOUT: [www.speakoutcols.org](http://www.speakoutcols.org)
- Stonewall Columbus: [www.stonewallcolumbus.org](http://www.stonewallcolumbus.org)
- The Apothecary Shop: [www.theapothecaryshop.com](http://www.theapothecaryshop.com)
- The Alpha Omega Society: [www.aosoc.org](http://www.aosoc.org)
- The Crystal Club: [www.thecrystalclub.org](http://www.thecrystalclub.org)
- Transcendence: [www.transbg.org](http://www.transbg.org)
- TransFamily of Cleveland: [www.transfamily.org](http://www.transfamily.org)



### Donate to TransOhio!

TransOhio operates under the umbrella of the Stonewall Columbus 501(c)3 status, which makes your monetary donation to TransOhio tax-deductible!

To make an online donation to TransOhio, visit our website at [www.transohio.org/donate.html](http://www.transohio.org/donate.html)

Thank you for your support!

## National Resources

- American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU): [www.aclu.org/lgbt](http://www.aclu.org/lgbt)
- FTMI International: [www.ftmi.org](http://www.ftmi.org)
- Hudson's FTM Resource Guide: [www.ftmguide.org](http://www.ftmguide.org)
- Human Rights Campaign (HRC): [www.hrc.org](http://www.hrc.org)
- InterPride: [www.interpride.org/12/2007\\_Events.htm](http://www.interpride.org/12/2007_Events.htm)
- Out & Equal Workplace Advocates: [www.outandequal.org](http://www.outandequal.org)
- National Center for Transgender Equality (NCTE): [www.nctequality.org](http://www.nctequality.org)
- National Gay & Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF): [www.theTaskForce.org](http://www.theTaskForce.org)
- PFLAG: [www.pflag.org](http://www.pflag.org)
- PFLAG's Transgender Network (TNET): [www.pflag.org/tnet.html](http://www.pflag.org/tnet.html)
- Queertransmen.org: [www.queertransmen.org](http://www.queertransmen.org)
- Tgcrossroads: [www.tgcrossroads.org](http://www.tgcrossroads.org)
- Transster.com: [www.transster.com](http://www.transster.com)
- World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH): [www.wpath.org](http://www.wpath.org)



Do you have a local or national resource that you'd like listed in the TransOhio newsletter?  
Please email your listing to [TransOhio@wowway.com](mailto:TransOhio@wowway.com)!

## Transgender-Friendly Shopping & Services

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(In the Columbus Eye Center)

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Fax: 614.360.2801



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Member Chicago Gender Society, Chi-Chapter Tri-Ess

Annual Participant Be-All, Chicago's Transgender Convention



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