



True Colors

Sexual Minority Youth and Family Services

July 18, 2016

Dear True Colors Donor, Friend and Supporter,

I am delighted to share this True Colors' quarterly update. As a donor, you make our work possible and we are very grateful.

Our work this quarter was made even more poignant by the recent events in the US – the murder of 49 innocents at Pulse in Orlando; the murder of two unarmed Black men in Minnesota and Baton Rouge; and the murder of police officers in Dallas and Baton Rouge. Each of these tragedies impacts the LGBTQ youth we serve.

True Colors' organizational theme is intersectionality – the recognition that each of us carries different social identities. We believe it a core part of our work to respect, reflect and honor the different lens, privileges and experiences of everyone with whom we work.

- Last year, our Board of Directors took on anti-racism as a strategic initiative. This year, we are working on board and staff objectives related to overcoming personal and systemic biases within our organization and our work as organizers and advocates.
- True Colors and our board/staff and volunteers are active participants in the Black Lives Matter movement across Connecticut. <http://we-ha.com/black-lives-matter-hashtag-west-hartford-monday/>
- True Colors collaborated with the Islamic Community in CT after Orlando to host a rally and a teach-in exploring the ways in which homo/trans phobia and Islamophobia are connected. We are now part of an on-going LGBTQ, Islamic, Christian and Jewish initiative to continue this work. <https://www.facebook.com/m.imrang/videos/2912098716589/>

This theme of intersectionality plays out in all the work your support allows us to do. In the second quarter of the year, in part because of you, we were able to provide:

- **Youth Leadership and Mentoring:** From April – June, we worked with 492 youth in 38 different activities. Imagine how many kids were impacted because you care.
- **Training for professionals** to more effectively meet the needs of the LGBTQ youth and families we serve. In this quarter alone we provided 48 trainings to over 1,540 youth serving professionals – in CT and nationally. Imagine how many lives were changed in part because of you.

Thank you for your support. We know we couldn't do what we do without YOU! And we are very grateful.

Warmly and gratefully yours,

Robin P. McHaelen, MSW
Executive Director