



The Pride in the Hills Fund was launched in June 2018 to celebrate and improve the lives of LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer/questioning) people in the 21 towns served by the Connecticut Community Foundation (stretching from Waterbury to The Litchfield Hills).

While there are many LGBTQ folks (and their allies) in our region, there is surprisingly little in the way of community organizations to support them. The Pride in the Hills Fund seeks to change that.

You may think there is not much need for a fund in such a progressive state in this era of marriage equality. But the reality is there is much work to be done right here in Connecticut. The Fund has chosen to support LGBTQ young people as its initial focus after learning the following disturbing facts from a 2018 joint study with the Human Rights Campaign and The University of Connecticut:

- 95% of LGBTQ youth report trouble sleeping at night;
- 23% of Connecticut's LGBTQ youth have attempted suicide, nearly 5 times the rate of non-LGBTQ youth
- 77% of LGBTQ teenagers surveyed report feeling depressed over the past week on average; more than 70% report feelings of worthlessness and hopelessness in the past week;
- LGBTQ youth of color and transgender teenagers report the highest levels of rejection and isolation – only 11% of youth of color surveyed believe their racial or ethnic group is regarded positively in the U.S.;
- 50% of trans and gender expansive youth said they never use school restrooms because they are unable to access those that align with their gender identity;
- Only 26% say they always feel safe in their school classrooms – and just 5% say their teachers and school staff are supportive of LGBTQ people; and
- 75% of Connecticut youth report routinely hearing homophobic or transphobic remarks at their school and are nearly three times more likely to skip school than non-LGBTQ youth.

Our main fundraising event is the [Pride in the Hills Festival](#), held on June 15, 2019, hosted by Spring Hill Vineyards in New Preston, Connecticut. The Festival will be for 400 guests who will enjoy Amazing Wine, Local Spirits, Craft Beers, DJ and Dancing, Great food from Local Restaurants, Local Art, Curated Goods Auction, Raffles, Bonfire and more!

The Festivals Honorary Hosts are Larry Kramer and David Webster, Stephen Sondheim, Mia Farrow, Jack O'Brien, Marsha Mason, Alan Shayne and Norman Sunshine and Lindsay Law.

We are looking for Event Sponsors, Food and Beverage Donations and Products or Experiences for our Raffle and Silent auction.

For more information about our Event or Fund please visit:

Our Facebook page [@PrideFundCC](#)

Our Website www.prideinthehills.org

or email prideinthehills@gmail.com