

National News

Historic first as Habitat for Humanity and Pride build homes

SAN DIEGO – San Diego Pride and Habitat for Humanity announced a new partnership around shared values that will bring together LGBTQ community members from across the San Diego region to build homes.

On Jan. 27, 70 Pride volunteers set out to four different locations throughout San Diego County to assist with a variety of jobs including home improvement, yard work, and staffing donation centers at the Restore locations and build sites.

“Our collaboration has already afforded us the opportunity to see two children’s playhouses donated to low-income LGBTQ families during Pride weekend in 2017,” San Diego Pride Executive Director Eric Heinritz said. “Expanding our partnership beyond our main event will bring together LGBTQ folks from all across our county for a day of service that strengthens community bonds.”

“Safe, stable, affordable housing is the foundation of thriving individuals, families, and communities,” Lori Holt Pfeiler, President/CEO of San Diego Habitat for Humanity, said. “We are honored to walk side-by-side with San Diego Pride and the LGBTQ community to provide opportunities for homeownership for every San Diegan who needs a hand up to build a better future.”

Undetectable = Untransmittable

NEW YORK - Hunter College’s Center for HIV Educational Studies & Training (CHEST) has published a new paper on gay and bisexual men’s perceptions of the HIV treatment-as-prevention message, Undetectable = Untransmittable (#UequalsU).

“Some studies have examined beliefs about treatment-as-prevention generally, though they have largely been done outside of the U.S. and weren’t focused on any specific message,” said Dr. Rendina, lead author of the paper. Overall, the message was



perceived to be accurate by 70% of men who were HIV-positive and 36% of men who were HIV-negative or unsure of their HIV status—though there is some room for improvement, these rates suggest there have been increases since earlier studies.

“We found that HIV-negative and unknown guys were more likely to believe the message was accurate if they got tested for HIV more regularly and if they were taking pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), suggesting these prevention services may be a great way to gain a captive audience to provide more information about treatment-as-prevention.”

More than 20,000 LGBT teens in the U.S. will be subjected to conversion therapy

LOS ANGELES—An estimated 20,000 LGBT youth ages 13-17 will undergo conversion therapy from a licensed healthcare professional before the age of 18, according to a new study by the Williams Institute at UCLA School of Law.

Also, approximately 57,000 youth will receive the treatment from a religious or spiritual advisor. These are the first estimates of U.S. youth at risk of undergoing conversion therapy before they reach adulthood.

The researchers also found that approximately 698,000 LGBT adults in the U.S have received conversion therapy at some point in their lives, including about 350,000 who received it as adolescents.

Conversion therapy is treatment intended to change the sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression of LGBT people. It is grounded

in the belief that being LGBT is abnormal.

A number of prominent national professional health associations—including the American Medical Association, the American Psychological Association and the American Academy of Pediatrics, among others—have issued public statements opposing the use of conversion therapy and several have called on Congress and state legislatures to pass laws

that ban the practice.

To date, nine states, the District of Columbia and 32 localities have laws protecting youth under age 18 from receiving conversion therapy from licensed healthcare providers.

Some state bans also apply to anyone who performs the practice in exchange for money. None of them prevent religious or spiritual advisors from providing conversion therapy as long as they are acting solely in a spiritual capacity.

For more than a century, healthcare professionals and religious figures have used a range of techniques to attempt to change people’s sexual orientation or gender identity. Currently, talk therapy is the most commonly used therapy technique. However, some practitioners have also used “aversion treatments,” such as inducing nausea, vomiting, paralysis or applying electric shocks. λ




Snuggle up with your sweetie in goodies from the Wild Side!


Bajas & Hoodies, Candles & Incense!

(785) 776-2252

1128 Moro
Manhattan, KS 66502

11am-6:30pm M-F • 11am-6pm Sat.

bridges 



Named: Rick Muma as the interim chief academic officer at Wichita State University effective Jan. 8, 2018.

If you or someone you know is having an anniversary, received a promotion or award, or a loved one has passed away, we will publish it free in Bridges. E-mail editor@libertypress.net.