

JEFFERY OWENS

COMMUNITY CENTER

We Will Not Be Silent

The Jeffery Owens Story



Jeffery Todd Owens was born in Astoria, Oregon, on December 12, 1961. His family relocated several times during his childhood, and lived many places throughout the Pacific Northwest. He often shared fond memories of growing up and going to school in Oregon, Washington and Alaska. Ultimately the family moved to the Riverside area, where Jeffery graduated from North High School in 1979.

Jeffery joined the United States Air Force upon completing high school, and remained on active duty until 1983. He worked first as a document courier between the U.S. and Europe. Domestically, he worked nuclear reconnaissance in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

Following his military service, he returned to California where his passion for the culinary arts became his professional calling. He worked as a chef in many exclusive kitchens including the UCLA Conference Center, the Green River Golf Club and the Canyon Crest Country Club.

In the early 90's, Jeffery accepted a position as operations manager for the Boys and Girls Club of Hollywood Camp in Running Springs, California. This opened the door to two more loves that would see him through the rest of his life: community outreach and supporting non-profit agencies.

During his years in the Inland Empire, he began volunteering his time at the Inland AIDS Project, and in 1997 his volunteerism turned into full-time employment. He spearheaded many new and exciting events for the Project and organized many successful AIDS Walks during his tenure there.

He served on the Board of the Baby Jesse Heart Fund for many years, and in 2000, he accepted a position as an administrative assistant for the American Heart Association. While

there, he organized fund-raising events at schools throughout Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

Near the end of 2001, he returned to the Inland AIDS Project as its events coordinator.

Jeffery continued to volunteer his time to other non-profits as well. He was a crew member for California AIDS Ride III. He served as a chairperson for the Inland Empire Reading Council's annual Celebrate Reading event, and was a member of the California Reading Association and the Human Rights Campaign.

He had a passion for learning, and completed several courses of study at New Horizons Computer Learning Center. Ultimately, he became one of its part-time instructors. He also attended UCR, and was in the process of completing his studies in Grant Proposal Writing and Fundraising for Non-profits at the time of his death on June 6, 2002.

Jeffery and a group of friends were attacked by members of a street gang in Riverside, California on the night of June 6, 2002. Jeffery received multiple stab wounds, and died the next morning following complications at Riverside County Regional Medical Center in Moreno Valley, California. One of the friends who was also stabbed that same night, fortunately, survived.

The attack, which is generally regarded as a hate crime, served to raise community awareness of such crimes, and received national media attention.

Positive response to Jeffery's death continues. In 2002, Palm Springs Gay Veterans initiated an annual Rainbow Award for outstanding community service in memory of Jeffery. The Jeffery Owens Community Center, created by a dedicated cadre of his friends, is another fine example.

The Jeffery Owens Community Center was developed to promote the health and well-being of youth and adults in the Riverside and San Bernardino area communities by providing support, education and advocacy regarding sexual orientation and gender identity.

Please visit www.jocc.org to learn more about the Jeffery Owens Community Center.

JOCC MISSION STATEMENT

To promote the health and well being of youth and adults in the Riverside and San Bernardino area communities by providing support, education, and advocacy regarding sexual orientation and gender identity.

JOCC STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The center will offer a safe and secure environment for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals and their allies in the Riverside and San Bernardino areas by fostering involvement between law enforcement, community service groups, schools, and religious organizations. The center will empower individuals and strengthen community involvement around issues of diversity and understanding of sexual orientation and gender identity. The center will improve the health and well being of youth and adults by providing education, youth programs, support groups, counseling, and community outreach.

The center will advocate full access and equality for all people regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, ethnicity, national origin, religion, marital status, age, or disability by providing a safe and enriching environment for all members of the community in a non-threatening and supportive manner.

The center shall innovate by encouraging community awareness, diversity, and the need to eradicate hate.

For more information, please visit www.jocc.org

Who is a volunteer?

A volunteer is a person who "chooses to act in recognition of a need, with an attitude of social responsibility without concern for monetary profit, going beyond what is necessary to one's physical well-being."

(Susan J. Ellis and Katherin H. Noyes, in By the People: A History of Americans as Volunteers)

Could this be you?

The Jeffery Owens Community Center is putting together a resource database of persons and organizations who are ready, willing, and able to volunteer their time and talents toward making our LGBT community center in the Inland Empire a reality. But things like that don't happen without--you guessed it--people like you!

Whether it is a few hours now and then, or a regular stint answering inquiries and requests, speaking to groups about LGBT issues, or providing behind-the-scenes support, JOCC needs you!

If you are able and willing to participate in your community and help create what will become a center of LGBT resources for ALL people, please take a moment to contact us!

The Jeffery Owens Community Center

ATTN: Rob, Volunteer Coordinator

PO Box 146

Riverside, Ca. 92502-0146

volunteer@jocc.org

<http://www.jocc.org>

USE YOUR VOICE! COME AND SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY!

Dear Friends,

On June 6, 2002, a horrible tragedy befell the Riverside community and the nation as a whole: our friends and brothers Jeffery Owens and Michael Bussee became victims of hate. This unforeseen tragedy left an indelible mark on our communities, our families, and our hearts. As a result, our community stood up and said, "WE WILL NOT BE SILENT!"

After much discussion, a group of us decided that the best way to take a stand against hate would be to fight it head on through positive community unification, awareness, and education surrounding issues of equality for all members of our community.

As the President and Vice President of the Jeffery Owens Community Center (JOCC), we would like to express some of our shared goals and visions, which we hope that the JOCC could bestow upon our communities.

Our primary goal for the JOCC is to provide members of the community with a safe and caring environment for people of all ages to come together.

We plan to offer social events and community outreach through support groups, as well as educational and youth programs. We envision that the center will provide full access to existing services and will offer an innovative resource and referral program. This process will help make local resources more readily available for all members of our community. In addition, we plan for the center to act as an advocate on behalf of those in need.

Our vision is that the JOCC will encourage community involvement and awareness concerning issues of diversity, gender identity, sexual orientation, and hate. Through these goals and visions, along with community collaboration, involvement, and the development of new programs and services, we will strive to help build and strengthen our community.

Sincerely,

Peggy Roa
President

Kenneth Sandoval, Jr.
Vice-President

The JOCC newsletter is supported by the UC Riverside LGBT Resource Center as a service to the campus and greater Riverside community.

JOCC Board Members

Peggy Roa, President

Peggy Roa is currently the General Manager of the Menagerie Nightclub in Riverside, CA. Prior to her position at the Menagerie, Peggy spent several years in the corporate arena as a Production Manager for Fuji Film. Peggy is an active member of the Riverside area community. In addition to the JOCC, Peggy has established collaborative relationships with various community organizations and volunteered her time with Inland AIDS Project, United Way of the Inland Valleys, Rainbow Pride Youth Alliance, Western Inland Empire Coalition Against Hate, The Community Foundation, and The Riverside City Human Relations Commission. As a parent, Peggy is also very active within the Riverside Unified School District and the local schools.

Kenneth Sandoval, Jr., Vice President

Ken Sandoval is currently a Case Manager with the Riverside County Department of Public Social Services (DPSS). During his time with DPSS Ken has also held the position of Employment Services Counselor with the Greater Avenues to Independence (GAIN) Program. In addition to his employment with Riverside County, Ken is also a junior at La Sierra University in the Social Work Program and has plans to pursue his Masters of Social Work at Loma Linda University. In addition to the JOCC, Ken has also volunteered his time with and has established collaborative relationships with various community organizations such as Inland AIDS Project, United Way of the Inland Valleys, Rainbow Pride Youth Alliance, Riverside County Public Health Department, Advocates For Domestic Violence, Planned Parenthood, Riverside City Human Relations Commission, The Community Foundation, and The First Congregational Church of Riverside.

Tony Carrillo Jr., Treasurer

Mr. Carrillo is the newest member of the JOCC and brings with him nine years of fiscal knowledge, which he gained from working for San Bernardino County. Tony's current assignment is with the San Bernardino County's Sheriff's Department where he works as a Supervising Accounting Technician. Tony holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Accounting from California State University, San Bernardino. Tony has worked on community projects with such organizations as Inland AIDS Project, Jeffery Owens Community Center, and the Christmas Foundation. Tony hopes his contribution to the JOCC will make a positive impact in the community.

Nancy Jean Tubbs, Secretary

Nancy Jean Tubbs has directed UC Riverside's LGBT Resource Center since 2000. She holds a Masters degree in Educational Administration from Texas A&M University. Nancy has educated around sexual orientation, gender identity, and diversity issues for over 10 years. She volunteers with Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays and serves on the Executive Committee of the National Consortium of Directors of LGBT Resources in Higher Education.

Rob McMurray, Volunteer Coordinator

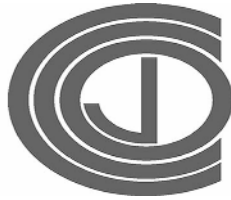
Rob has worked for the County of San Bernardino for over 25 years. He currently supervises the Public Administrator's division of the Treasurer-Tax Collector's Office. There he does public probate for persons who die intestate or with no one to administer their Will. Rob currently is very active as chair of trustees of First Congregational Church-UCC Riverside. He has also coordinated many public and private events there and runs their book club. He also volunteers with the Riverside Police Dept. doing a variety of activities, filling in usually where ever needed. Rob has also volunteered for Inland AIDS Project and for many years, the San Bernardino Suicide and Crisis Line. Rob received is BA from Cal State San Bernardino in Psychology and English.

Annie Knight and Angela Asbell, Editors of the JOCC Newsletter

Annie Knight publishes *Digress* (www.dgressonline.com), a free publication for artists. She is also pursuing her Masters in Library and Information Science. Angela is a contributing editor for *Digress* and has volunteered for various local community groups. She currently serves as the LGBT Campus Resource for Cal State University, San Bernardino.



Jeffery Owens' Memorial Candlelight Vigil, 2002



JEFFERY OWENS COMMUNITY CENTER

Riverside & San Bernardino Area Resources

Educational & Social Services

Desert Pride Center

760.327.2313
Info@DesertPrideCenter.org
611 South Palm Canyon, Suite 201
Palm Springs, CA 92264
<http://www.desertpridecenter.org/>

Bienestar Human Services

909.889.5333
191 S. E St. Suite D
San Bernardino, CA 92401
<http://www.bienestar.org/>

CSU San Bernardino LGBT Center

909.880.5963
out@csusb.edu
Santos Manuel Student Union, Rm. 131
San Bernardino, CA 92407

Gay Associated Youth

760.776.1744
866.407.1GAY (Toll free AC 760 & 909)
info@gayassociatedyouth.org
Call for street location. Open 7 days a week.
PO Box 448

Rancho Mirage, CA 92270

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

Inland AIDS Project

1.800.499.2437
3756 Elizabeth St.
Riverside, CA 92506
<http://www.inlandaidsproject.org/>

Rainbow Pride Youth Alliance

Meetings on Thursdays, Fridays @ 7pm
909.475.9392
moreinfo@rpya.org
1705 N. Waterman Ave.
San Bernardino, CA 92404
<http://www.rpya.org/>

UC Riverside LGBT Resource Center

951.827.2267
out@ucr.edu
250 Costo Hall
Riverside, CA 92521
<http://out.ucr.edu/>

Spiritual Communities

Diocese of San Bernardino Ministry to Families with Gay and Lesbian Catholics
Fr. David Fitzgerald, Commission Chairperson
909.882.2931 ext. 12

First Christian Church of Riverside

Dr. Chris Nettles
951.686.0646
4055 Jurupa Ave. (at Brockton)
Riverside, CA 92506

First Congregational Church of Riverside

Rev. Jane Quandt
951.684.2494
3504 Mission Inn
Riverside, CA 92502
<http://www.fccriverside.org/>

Grace Episcopal Church

The Reverend Jo Ann Weeks
951.924.6760
weeksj@msn.com

Deacon: The Reverend Larry Steele
11349 Perris Blvd.
Moreno Valley, CA 92557

Redlands United Church of Christ

Rev. Dr. Sharon R. Graff
909.793.3520
168 Bellevue Avenue
Redlands, CA 92373
<http://www.uccredlands.org>

San Bernardino United Church of Christ

Rev. Petra Malleis
909.886.4911
3041 N. Sierra Way
San Bernardino, CA 92405
<http://www.sbucc.org>

St. George's Episcopal Church

The Rev. Canon Victoria T. Hatch
951.686.9936
st.george@sbcglobal.net
950 Spruce Street
Riverside, CA 92507

Temple Beth El

951.684.4511
2675 Central Ave.
Riverside, CA 92506
<http://www.uahc.org/congs/ca/ca023/>
Riverside & San Bernardino
Area LGBT Resources

Unitarian Universalist Church of Riverside

951.686.6515
3657 Lemon St.
Riverside, CA 92501

<http://www.uuchurchofriverside.org>

Unity Fellowship of Christ Church Inland Valley

951.779.9803
3386 Durahart St.
Riverside, CA 92507
<http://www.ufcriverside.org/>

Organizations

IE Lesbians - Inland Empire Lesbians

(email listserv)
ielesbians-owner@groups.queernet.org

Gays In Search of Hope

Depression & Bipolar Support Alliance
Meetings every other Saturday from 1PM to 2:30PM

Kevin/Jeffrey: (951) 787-8651
GDBSA@aol.com

County of Riverside, Mental Health
Administration Building
4095 County Circle Drive, Room A
Riverside, CA 92503 (located off Hole, between
Tyler and Magnolia)

<http://www.geocities.com/mddariv/>

FFLAG Redlands- Family & Friends of Lesbians and Gays

909.335.2005
iefflag@iefflag.org

FFLAG Redlands (cont.)

Meetings every 1st Wednesday @ 7:30pm
Hosted by First United Methodist Church of
Redlands

1 East Olive Ave.
Redlands, CA 92373
<http://www.iefflag.org/>

Jeffery Owens Community Center

info@jocc.org
PO Box 146
Riverside, CA 92502
<http://www.jocc.org>

PFLAG Riverside - Parents, Families, & Friends of Lesbians and Gays

Meetings every 3rd Sunday at noon
Hosted by the First Christian Church of
Riverside

4055 Jurupa Dr. (corner of Brockton)
Riverside, CA 92506

<http://out.ucr.edu/pflag.html>

PFLAG Temecula Valley - Parents, Families, & Friends of Lesbians and Gays

951.693.4852
Meetings every 3rd Sunday at 3:00pm
Temecula, CA

Southern California Women for Understanding

Inland Empire Chapter
800.798.7298 or 951.422.3303
scwuchairie@aol.com
<http://www.scwu.org/inland.htm>

Stonewall Democrats

909.556.6818
PO Box 9642
Redlands, CA 92375

Western Inland Empire Coalition Against Hate

Helpline: 1-866-662-4283
PO Box 2560
Riverside, CA 92516

Businesses

Back to the Grind [coffeehouse]

951.784.0800
3575 University Ave.
Riverside, CA 92501

The Lark [club]

909.884.8770
917 Inland Center Dr.
San Bernardino, CA 92410

Menagerie [club]

951.788.8000
3581 University Ave
Riverside, CA 92501
<http://www.clubmenagerie.com/>

Oasis Nightclub

909.920.9590
1386 East Foothill Blvd.
Upland, CA 91786
<http://www.oasis-nightclub.com/>

VIP [club]

951.784.2370
3673 Merrill Ave.
Riverside, CA 92506