



PERCEPTIONS

SAGINAW VALLEY

Serving the Tri-City Area's LGBT Community

January 2013

www.PerceptionsSV.org

Free



INSIDE:

- Valentine's Day Dance 2
- PSVTG Group..... 2
- Annual Meeting..... 3
- Local Electeds against
Discrimination 4
- Current Events 5
- Calendar 6
- Annual Scholarship..... 7
- Josh Pacheco 8
- Holiday Gala Contributors..... 9
- Silent Auction Donors 10
- Membership Drive 11
- 10th Anniversary Gala.....12

FUN AT THE PERCEPTIONS HOLIDAY GALA



Signatures
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Perceptions
Saginaw Valley
10th Anniversary
Celebration
& Holiday Gathering
December 1, 2012

Signatures
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10th Anniversary
Celebration
& Holiday Gathering
December 1, 2012



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SUBMISSIONS are always
welcome. Write to:

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SUBSCRIPTIONS

Get your copy of the Newsletter sent to you free with your paid membership. The Newsletter is always free to view online. For more information visit www.PerceptionsSV.org

Perceptions Saginaw Valley is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Your contributions are deductible as charitable donations for federal income tax purposes.

Perceptions is Mid-Michigan's leading resource for enriching and empowering LGBT individuals and their community.

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to provide superior educational programs, networking opportunities and services for the well being of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender individuals and their community.

Valentine's Day Dance

Kathy Lloyd

Forget Sweetest Day, that made up holiday from Hallmark, and join us for the REAL sweetest day, Valentine's Day.

We here at Perceptions, are planning to have a Valentine's Dance on Saturday, February 9, 2012. All are welcome. All are encouraged to wear their dancing shoes as this is going to be a dance blow out. We are keeping the cold winds of February at bay by dancing and more dancing. And for the women who never get to slow dance with their gals, this will be the place.

In fact, we encourage you to bring your favorite songs, on your I-Pod's or CD's and you will hear it. There may even be requests!. There may even be food! There may even be the Newly/Oldly Wed game again! Don't worry, no one will be forced to tell their secrets, like last year. And for those who are single, is there a better place or an easier way to break the ice with someone new, then asking them to dance?

Where is all this old time romantic fun going to be taking place, you ask? Stay tuned for next months edition of the newsletter. But remember to put down February 9th on your new Christmas calendars!!

PLEASE NOTE

**THERE WILL BE NO MEETING
OF THE PERCEPTIONS
SAGINAW VALLEY
TRANSGENDER GROUP IN
JANUARY.**

**KEEP AN EYE ON THE WEEKLY
MESSAGE AND UPCOMING
NEWSLETTERS FOR FURTHER
INFORMATION**

Annual Meeting Thursday January 17th

Tim Atkinson

The Annual Meeting of Perceptions will be conducted on Thursday, January 17th at The Alderton Building, 301 Cass St., Saginaw, beginning at 7:00 pm. The Annual Meeting is a time for the Board of Trustees to report the State of the Organization to the membership and also a time for the membership to ask questions and to give feedback to the volunteer leaders. We will also hold an election to fill vacancies on the Board of Trustees.

Everyone is welcome to attend and participate in discussions. Only 2012 and 2013 members will be given a ballot to elect members to the Board of Trustees. If you haven't paid your 2013 dues, membership forms will be available at the meeting and you can join while you're there.

The Nominating Committee has been working to identify candidates for the Board of Trustees and several new names will appear on the ballot. If you would like to be considered as a Trustee, please contact Tim Atkinson (Tim@PerceptionsSV.org) or Thomas Brubaker (Thomas@PerceptionsSV.org) for more information.

As of press time, the slate of nominees has not been finalized, but here's what we can tell you. Trustees are elected to alternating three-year terms. Three people are currently serving terms that continue until January 2014. Those Trustees are Kathy Lloyd, Daphne Barkley, and Dann Federico. Two people are currently serving terms that continue until January 2015. Those Trustees are diedra knox and Sally Mims. Four long-serving Trustees have completed their terms and will not be seeking re-election. Those people are Kay Sural, Jim Kleinsorge, Rick Farrand, and Tom Brubaker. Our bylaws limit the maximum number of Trustees on our Board to 12 people, so we could potentially elect seven people to the Board at the meeting. The board typically operates at 8 to 10 trustees rather than at maximum capacity. Additionally, we often have a few people serving as Advisors, who are non-voting members of the board. Advisors are appointed to one-year terms by the Board rather than being elected by the membership.

We hope that you'll participate in the Annual Meeting of your community organization. Your inputs are always welcome; this is a chance to share your thoughts with the entire Board and other members. This is a great opportunity to come out and show your gratitude for the trustees who are stepping down from the Board and especially to show your support for the new volunteers who will be stepping forward to lead this organization into its second decade

2013 Membership Incentive

COMPLIMENTS OF



Throughout 2013, show your Perceptions Membership Card at the door and receive \$2 off adult cover or \$3 off minor cover (18 to 20).

This offer is good for regular nights and most show nights. Exclusions apply for Fundraisers, New Years, and Special Shows.

Local Electeds Against Discrimination (LEAD)

Working on equality locally

By Leo R. Romo

LGBT citizens in Michigan can be legally fired or discriminated against unless local communities have a non-discrimination policy. 20 Michigan communities offer non-discrimination protections. Locally, the City of Saginaw protects citizens of sexual orientation discrimination in housing.

The Unity Michigan Coalition works to ensure that all Michiganders are treated fairly in the workplace by advancing nondiscrimination policies. Unity's **Local Electeds Against Discrimination (LEAD)** lists elected officials from across the state who proudly stand together in support of non-discrimination protections for gay and transgender residents. Annie Boensch, a Saginaw City Council member, has signed her name on the LEAD statement below and is currently the only Tri-Cities elected person who is on the list...yet. Thank you, Annie!

LGBT citizens are not legally protected in Michigan since the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act does include the words - "sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression" as a basis of discrimination. Those words must be added to the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act for protection.

Perceptions and PFLAG Tri-Cities will mail the LEAD statement and other information to local elected leaders. We hope that local elected leaders will sign the statement and request amending the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act.

Equality starts locally. If you are interested in working in the *Local Electeds Against Discrimination* project, call 989-891-1429 or info@perceptionssv.org.



Local Electeds Against Discrimination (LEAD) Statement:

We, the undersigned elected officials from across the State of Michigan, proudly stand together in support of non-discrimination protections for gay and transgender residents.

All hardworking people in our state, including those who are gay or transgender should have the chance to earn a living and provide for themselves and their families. No one should have to live in fear that they could be legally fired for reasons that have nothing to do with their job performance – especially in this uncertain economic climate.

We personally know many gay and transgender people living in our cities who actively contribute to their communities, are model employees, and should be treated fairly and equally just like all other Michigan residents.

We are proud that 20 cities across our state have put non-discrimination protections into law, and we urge our colleagues, not just in other cities, but our colleagues in both houses of the state legislature, to enact similar legislation. Diversity helps to keep our cities strong, and our gay and transgender residents are a part of that diversity.

We know that young, bright, creative-minded professionals are more likely to choose places that foster diversity and inclusion. They are just the kind of workers, thinkers, and doers that Michigan needs to help revitalize our economy.

We are proud to stand for non-discrimination protections, at the municipal, state, and at the federal level. That's why we're pushing for the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act to be amended to include sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression. That's why we're doing all we can to foster diversity and inclusion in our cities. And that's why we are proud to be Michiganders.

Current Events

events.PerceptionsSV.org

▼ **January 4th - Friday Night Dinner** 7:00 pm. Join Perceptions friends at **The Savoy Bar & Grill**, 127 S. Franklin St., Saginaw. If you plan to attend, please reply to RSVP@PerceptionsSV.org by 3:00 pm on Friday.

Wed., January 9th - Open Hearts 6:00 pm. Positive thinking group for disabled members of the LGBT community. Discussion, speakers and support. Meets at Butman Fish Library in Saginaw. For info call Rev. Kathy VanBuskirk at 989-392-6874.

▼ **Thurs., January 10th - Card Players Club** 1:00 to 3:00 pm. The Alderton Bldg., 301 Cass St., Saginaw. The group will decide the games depending on the crowd. Bring you favorite beverage and/or snack. Some refreshments will be provided. Join us for a fun afternoon of fellowship. Repeats on the second Thursday of the month. Please direct questions and suggestions to Mike Mercer.

▼ **January 11th - Friday Night Dinner** 7:00 pm. Join Perceptions friends at **Heather's**, 205 3rd St., Bay City. If you plan to attend, please reply to RSVP@PerceptionsSV.org by 3:00 pm on Friday.

January 11th to January 26th—Avenue Q A combo of human actors and puppets tell the story of a recent university grad who moves into his first apartment and navigates love, work, and friendships in this Sesame Street-style satire of post-college life. This hilarious musical includes songs like "The Internet is for Porn" and "If You Were Gay" and clever jokes about everything from racism to the challenge of finding your purpose. Winner of the Tony "Triple Crown" for Best Musical, Best Score and Best Book. [Midland Center for the Arts Little Theatre](#). Performances at 8:00 pm and one 3:00 pm show on Sunday, January 20th. Tickets \$24. Adult language and content. Not recommended for children under the age of 18.

Sun., January 13th - Genesee County PFLAG Meeting 2:00 - 4:30 pm. Unitarian Universalist Church of Flint, 2474 S. Ballenger Hwy. For more information, contact pflag-flint@yahoo.com.

▼ **Event sponsored or endorsed by Perceptions**

▼ **Tues., January 15th - Men's Discussion Group** 7:00 to 8:30 pm. The Alderton, 301 Cass St., Old Town Saginaw. This gathering is intended as a discussion and informal support group for gay and bisexual men. The group will be facilitated by Thomas Brubaker. Contact him at Thomas@PerceptionsSV.org for additional information or to let him know you'll attend. Light snacks will be provided.

Wed., January 16th - Womyn's Room II 6:00 pm. This women's group is designed as a safe place for Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender women, who are out or not, to come for support and socialization. For more info. contact Rev. Kathy VanBuskirk at 989-392-6874.

▼ **Thursday, January 17th - Perceptions Annual Meeting** 7:00 pm. Join Perceptions for our annual meeting, featuring a "state of the organization" presentation and election of 2013 Board of Trustees. The Alderton Bldg, 301 Cass St, Saginaw. Refreshments will be served. All are welcome. For more information, contact [Perceptions](#).

▼ **January 18th - Friday Night Dinner** 7:00 pm. Join Perceptions members and friends this week at **Riverside Family Restaurant**, 8295 Midland Rd., Freeland. If you plan to attend, please reply to RSVP@PerceptionsSV.org by 3:00 pm on Friday.

Sun., January 20th - PFLAG Meeting 2:00 - 4:30 pm. The meeting takes place at Our Saviour Lutheran Church, 2525 Hemmeter Rd., Saginaw. For more information contact pflag@pflag-mbs.org or 989-941-1458.

▼ **Thurs., January 24th - Saginaw Meet & Greet** 7:00 to 9:00 pm. Join Perceptions members and friends each month at The Mixx, 115 N. Hamilton Street, Old Town Saginaw.

▼ **January 25th- Friday Night Dinner** 7:00 pm. Join Perceptions members and friends this week at **Vinnie's Stockpot Restaurant**, 1007 Washington Ave., Bay City. If you plan to attend, please reply to RSVP@PerceptionsSV.org by 3:00 pm on Friday.

To be informed about upcoming events, simply send a blank email to: PerceptionsSV-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

JANUARY 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																		
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Perceptions Saginaw Valley Scholarship

Tim Atkinson

Applications are currently being accepted for the Perceptions Saginaw Valley Scholarship. Interested individuals must apply through the Saginaw Community Foundation before February 1st. First awarded in 2008, The Perceptions Saginaw Valley Scholarship is awarded annually to students who demonstrate a passion for promoting mutual respect and acceptance across borders of race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression.

To date, we have awarded scholarships to eight individuals, totaling \$4,500. The list of winners includes high school seniors from across Bay and Saginaw Counties and two students attending SVSU.

Year	Winner's Name	School	Notes
2008	Sheryl Krenzke	SVSU	
2009	Glenn Madigan	Bay City Central	
2010	Mackenzie Reagan	Swan Valley High School	1 st Place
2010	Megan Flatttery	Freeland High School	2 nd Place
2011	Jacob Gorski	SASA	1 st Place
2011	Lakyn Miller	Swan Valley High School	2 nd Place
2012	Jeffrey Iles	Heritage High School	1 st Place
2012	Tyler Bradley	SVSU	2 nd Place

In May, one or two more students will be added to our list of winners. If you know of a deserving student, encourage them to apply. The requirements for eligibility stipulate that the applicants must be a resident of Michigan, pursuing an undergraduate or graduate degree or vocational training, maintain a minimum G.P.A. of 2.5, and may be enrolled on either a full-time or part-time basis. High school seniors, college students, and non-traditional students may apply. Members of Perceptions and their immediate family are given 10 bonus points in the scoring process.

The winner will be honored at Saginaw Community Foundation's Excellence in Education program in May. With over 500 people in the audience, Perceptions representatives will present the scholarship to the winner(s) on stage, along with the winners from nearly 150 other scholarships that are managed by SCF. All in attendance will learn about the Perceptions organization and the purpose of our scholarship.

If you'd like to support our scholarship program, donations may be made through Perceptions or directly to the Saginaw Community Foundation. All donations are tax deductible as a charitable contribution. Donate online at saginawfoundation.org/donate and select "Perceptions Saginaw Valley Scholarship" from the drop down list. If you have any questions, contact Tim@PerceptionsSV.org

Josh Pacheco— Yet Another casualty of bullying

Sally Mims

What does it say about our country when politicians and pastors can hide behind their right of freedom of speech to cut down and shred to pieces the lives of the LGBT Community with disparaging comments? What does it say to our young people when these same people can be heard on television spewing hate and damnation against the LGBT Community? What is it going to take to stop people from feeling they have the right to judge and sentence one segment of our society?

On Nov. 27th. 2012 Josh Pacheco decided, after being bullied relentlessly both inside and outside of school, that his life wasn't worth living anymore. Josh was found by a neighbor in his truck with the engine running in a closed garage unresponsive. His Step-Father became alerted that something may be wrong when he read on Josh's Facebook page quoting lines from **The Lord of the Rings**, "I regret to announce that this is the end. I'm going now; I bid you all a very fond farewell. Goodbye." Also found on the inside of the truck in Josh's own words were, "I am sorry I wasn't able to be strong enough." In death Josh blamed himself for not being able to handle the bullying that his parents were to find out about only after his suicide.

Lynnette Capehart was to find out after Josh's death that her son was teased relentlessly and thrown into lockers. Calls came in from students, parents, and teachers all stating that they believed his death was due to bullying; years of bullying. Josh himself never complained of the bullying, only coming out to his parents two months earlier. His mother said, "Josh never wanted to dishearten anyone."

What disheartened me when I heard about Josh Pacheco's suicide was that not only was he bullied, but so many people were aware of it and no one seemed to come to his rescue. Ed Kaledo a Fenton High School official said, "No such problems were ever brought to the school districts' attention." How could this be possible when teachers were aware of the bullying? The parents clearly blame bullying on their son's suicide and look to the school district to instill stiff rules against bullying and an avenue for students to talk to officials about bullying.

The saddest part of reading about Josh Pacheco, other than he committed suicide, was that 400 people showed up for his funeral, 30 of whom spoke. I wonder if maybe only 4 would have come to his aide would I be writing a different story? That we will never know. Bullying of anyone for any reason has to stop and it has to stop now. Parents need to educate their children against hate and quit taking an anti-gay stance in the public arena. Hate is killing LGBT youth in both spirit and body.

The Perceptions Holiday Gala could not have been done without the support of the businesses and individuals listed on the following pages, not to mention the countless hours put in by volunteers who came together to make this the greatest event yet! Thank you to everyone!

Giving Societies Members

Equality Contributor (\$300-\$499)

Fogelsonger Pet Cremation Service
Chris Lauckner and Greg Gwaltney



The Rainbow Society (\$100-\$299)

Gays, Lesbians and Allies At Dow
Greg Gwaltney via The Dow Chemical Company
Gus Rojas via The Dow Chemical Company
Beth Sibray via The Dow Chemical Company
Jeuter Insurance Group
PFLAG Tri-Cities
Sacred Heart Rehabilitation Center
Dr. Carlos Uribe, DDS



Holiday Patron (under \$100)

Elizabeth Loose

In-Kind Contributors

- Rusch Productions, Dean Rusch, Proprietor – DJ services
- Sacred Heart Rehabilitation Services – invitation and poster design and printing.
- Serendipity 180 - Mary Moore, Proprietor, and Artist Stevie Szagesh – sponsor of interactive art activity and ticket sales.
- Shannon's Salon Spa, Shannon Romanik, Proprietor; Massage therapist– Heather Hemmila.
- The Gourmet Cupcake Shoppe – Carrie Fisher, Proprietor – desserts for event and ticket sales.
- The Print Shop – Ben Gombar, Proprietor – design and printing of the commemorative booklet.
- Dillon Moorhead – photo booth



SILENT AUCTION CONTRIBUTORS

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), Lansing
 Apple Mountain, Freeland
 Floyd Andrick
 Applebee's, Midland
 Asymmetricks 2
 Doug Barron & Brian Goff
 Baurer Jewelry
 Eric Becker
 Bennigans, Midland
 Lee Berkobien
 Big Apple Bagels, Bay City
 Big Boy, Midland
 Bill Brady Massage, Saginaw
 Blackjack Mountain Gay B&B, Greater Atlanta
 Bob Evans, Midland
 Body, Mind, and Soul; Saginaw
 BoRics - Eastman Road, Midland
 BoRics - Patrick Road, Midland
 Cafe American, Midland
 Carter Soap Company, Saginaw
 Chas. Laundra
 Charles Layton Heavenly Handmade
 Truffles (Chocolatiers), Traverse City
 Court Street Grill, Saginaw
 Dancing Glass -Bay City
 Diamond Jim's Restaurant and Bar, Midland
 Dirty Boyz
 Dow Gardens, Midland
 The Dow Chemical Company, Midland
 Eastman Party Store, Midland
 Fred Eland
 Espresso Milano, Midland
 Fantastic Baskets, Auburn
 Rick Farrand
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 Fralia's Restaurant, Saginaw
 Fuzzy's Restaurant, Saginaw
 Gaudreau the Florist, Saginaw
 Bill Giorgis & Russ Inman
 Golden Gallery & Custom Framing, Bay City
 Gourmet Cupcake Shoppe, Bay City, Midland & Saginaw
 Sara Gregory
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 Karen Hager, Midland
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 Harvey's Grill & Bar, Saginaw
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Irving's on Main, Midland
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 Logan's Roadhouse, Saginaw
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 Magic Bean Café, Saginaw
 Meijer, Midland
 Men's Warehouse, Saginaw
 Jim Mercer
 Midland Center for the Arts, Midland
 Midland Community Center, Midland
 Matt Mitchell & Steve Webb, Midland
 Neat and Green Lawn Care, Mount Pleasant
 NGC Movie Theatre, Midland
 Northwood Gallery, Midland
 Nuechterlein's Jewelry, Frankenmuth
 Opperman's Cork 'n Ale, Saginaw
 Bill Oshtash & Kevin Rooker
 Pasong's Restaurant, Saginaw
 Pier One Imports, Midland
 Pit & Balcony, Saginaw
 Eric, Bob, Brian
 Red Eye Café, Saginaw
 Barry Rindhage
 John Rolando & Don Kephart
 Russell Insurance
 Rusty Saw Smokehouse BBQ, Bay City
 Sabai Sabai Creative Thai, Saginaw
 Saginaw Bay Symphony
 Serendipity 180, Midland
 Shannon's Salon Spa, Midland
 Shapers Salon, Saginaw
 Alan Shinaver
 Beth Sibray and Becky Anderson
 Signature Photography Studios, Auburn
 Soaring Eagle Casino, Mount Pleasant
 Doug Solosky
 Staples, Midland
 Starbucks, Midland
 Starbuck's, Saginaw
 Temple Theater, Saginaw
 ThumbCrown Records & Eric Himan
 ThunderBrew Coffee Company, Bay City
 The Mixx, Saginaw
 The Secret Garden, Bay City
 Dr. Carlos Uribe, DDS, Midland
 Stacie Wawsczyk
 YMCA, Bay City

Dear Perceptions members, friends, and allies:

Have we come a long way towards equality? YES! Do we have a long way to go? YES! Do we need you to help us get there? YES!

As members of the LGBT and ally community, we all can make a contribution to furthering our goals...basic human dignity for all, the ability for young people to attend school without fear of being bullied over their perceived sexual orientation or gender expression, being able to secure employment and housing free of discrimination, and the ability to marry the person we choose. As we all know, these are things that people are still ACTIVELY working to stop. Those seeking to limit our rights or take away those we've gained are still out there working as hard as ever.

We're counting on our community to help us reach our goals and I hope you'll be a part of that. At only \$25.00 a year, it's an investment in our future we can't afford to ignore!

Don't think these issues affect you? Ask the American Family Association or Focus on the Family what their goals are. I think you'll see that the issues we face affect ALL LGBT people and our allies.

Open house at our new meeting space

Coming out panel

Bullycide sponsor

Valentine's Dance

Chocolate Party and Garden Party

Pride Awards Banquet

Fagbug sponsor

Perceptions Scholarship

Holiday Gala benefiting USO Wounded Warriors

AIDS Walk

These things all take money and volunteers. Your assistance in either or both of these areas is crucial for us to continue sponsoring these events and initiatives.

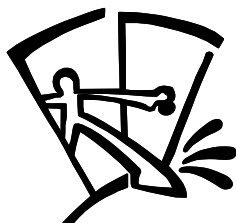
Please consider joining or renewing your membership with the enclosed form or go to the membership tab at www.PerceptionsSV.org to join online or talk to any Perceptions board member for further details.

Sincerely,

Jim Kleinsorge
Trustee, Perceptions – Saginaw Valley

10th Anniversary Celebration & Holiday Gala





Perceptions Saginaw Valley

P.O. Box 1525
Midland, MI 48641
Phone: 989-891-1429
Website: www.PerceptionsSV.org

2013 Membership Form

Today's Date

Office Use Only	
Paid	Database

Members enjoy the following benefits:

- Nominate members for our Board of Trustees
- Become a candidate for our Board of Trustees
- Vote on candidates for our Board of Trustees
- Serve on our Board of Trustees
- The knowledge you're supporting the LGBT Community
- Discounted admission to select 2013 Perceptions events
- \$5 off a Perceptions t-shirt (while supplies last)
- Perceptions Newsletter: Snail Mail or E-mail
- Perceptions Membership Card
- Personalized Name Tag (Check here)
(First names listed below will be used)

Membership Options (please circle)	2013 Individual Membership \$25	2013 Family Membership \$40	2013 College Student Membership \$15	Lifetime Membership \$250	Additional Charitable Contribution * \$_____
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*Perceptions Saginaw Valley is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Your contributions which exceed the membership fee are tax deductible. Please consult your tax advisor.

Personal Information (For Family Memberships, include additional family members/children on reverse side)

<i>Title (Mr, etc.)</i>	First Name	Last Name	<i>Date of Birth</i>	<i>Orientation</i>
E-Mail Address			Phone Number	

<i>Title (Mr, etc.)</i>	First Name	Last Name	<i>Date of Birth</i>	<i>Orientation</i>
E-Mail Address			Phone Number	

Home Address

Perceptions occasionally sends informational mailings. Check here if you do NOT want Perceptions to send ANY mail to your home.

Street Address			Apt
City	State	ZIP	

Select any categories for which you would be interested in volunteering :

- Admin Support** (stuff envelopes, post flyers, validate contacts, etc)
- Charitable Work** (participate in Day of Caring, Adopt-A-Highway, etc.)
- Event Support** (help with Valentine's Dance, Pride parade, Holiday Party, etc.)
- Monthly Meeting Support** (provide refreshments, help set-up/take-down)
- Represent Perceptions** (be a greeter, staff a booth, ride on our Pride float, etc.)
- Speakers Bureau** (educate the community by telling your personal story)

Other:

PRIVACY STATEMENT

We value your privacy. Your address and personal information will always be kept confidential. Perceptions will never share or sell your information. Italicized demographic information is requested so that we can better serve you.

Thank you for supporting the local LGBT Community

