



December 9, 2016

Greetings LGBTQ friends and allies!

What does it mean to be OUT?

Back in August of this year, we announced our new name: OUTMemphis. For 27 years, we were the Memphis Gay and Lesbian Community Center, however we knew that the name MGLCC was not big enough for our future. We sought a name that reflected the work we do and the world we want to create. A place where each one of us is as open, authentic, and OUT as we CHOOSE to be.

Being OUT can mean different things to different people

- For the 16-year-old being bullied at school, being OUT can mean feeling free to talk openly with a school counselor or support group at school
- For a transgender woman looking for a job, it can mean having the freedom to go to a job interview and be her authentic self
- For the bisexual man struggling to find his place after a divorce, it could mean finding a supportive group of friends who understand
- For the lesbian senior, it can mean feeling safe enough to be honest with the staff at the assisted living facility that is her home

Being out is more than just our personal choices of how and when we reveal our truth to another person. It also includes believing that we will be safe and respected when we do. Ensuring that we live in such a world is part of the work we do every day at OUTMemphis.

We know the cost of living in the closet. We know the psychological hurt and physical pain that result from homophobia and transphobia. Even before Stonewall, we were fighting for recognition, for control of our bodies, and for equal treatment under the law. We fought for more and better research, drugs, and services to stop the plague killing our friends. And we fought to have our relationships valued and treated equally. We are no strangers to struggle. And we have made so much progress.

At OUTMemphis, we transform the financial support of our donors into creating that better, safer world. The programs and services we offer, the trainings we conduct, the causes we advocate for, and even the space of our center are all focused on making our community safe for every we single LGBTQ person.

We will not go back to the closets of the past. We have come too far. We are too far OUT. **And we're going to need YOUR help to keep us all safe.**

Sincerely,

Will Batts, OUTMemphis Executive Director

OUTMemphis: The LGBTQ Center for the Mid-South

YES! I will Invest in a Safer World for LGBTQ People

\$250 \$100 \$50 \$25 \$ _____

Check - Enclosed is my check payable to OUTMemphis

Online – Visit www.outmemphis.org/donate-now

Name _____

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Email Address _____

Credit Card – Charge the amount indicated at left to my

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