

SINGLE PURPOSE CLUBS

LGBTQ+ CLUBS



LGBTQ+ is an acronym for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer or questioning. These terms are used to describe a person's sexual orientation or gender identity

What is an LGBTQ+ club?

An LGBTQ+ focused club is a Kiwanis club that focuses on raising awareness and providing support to youth who identify as LGBTQ+ who are facing homelessness, bullying, thoughts of suicide or mental health issues, isolation from their families, and physical, sexual and drug abuse. The club is for individuals that identify along the LGBTQ+ spectrum and for allies, family, friends, and supporters of LGBTQ+ youth. The club aims to create an inclusive, diverse, safe, and supportive community for LGBTQ+ youth, while promoting the Objects of Kiwanis.

How to begin?

You should examine the needs of LGBTQ+ youth in your area as well as your club's own interests. Because there are many projects that can be done virtually or from long distance, there is no need to focus specifically on local needs, although there may be unmet needs in the local community that should be addressed.

The first step is to decide what projects will most likely appeal to your prospective members. For example, if there are organizations that your prospective members would be interested in supporting, you should contact those organizations to find out how you can volunteer or support their efforts. If this organization is not in your area, it may even lead to a partnership that would allow your members to get involved with the cause in your local area.

Potential projects of an LGBTQ+ Kiwanis club

There are many organizations whose mission is to support LGBTQ+ youth who could be potential partners for Kiwanis service projects or provide an example of the types of service projects that serve LGBTQ+ youth. Generally, there are a few different ways a Kiwanis club could help:

1. Promote Awareness

Acknowledge, celebrate, and promote LGBTQ+ days of significance and raise awareness of issues faced by LGBTQ+ youth. In addition, a club that is a member of Kiwanis International with a 100 year plus history of helping children and youth, may spread awareness of the challenges faced by LGBTQ+ youth further than any local organization by itself.

2. Partner with LGBTQ+ Organizations

Offer volunteer support, fundraising assistance, or promote awareness of organizations in the community that support LGBTQ+ youth.

3. Start Your Own Program

You may find that in your community there are no support services currently being offered to LGBTQ+ youth, or services are offered through other overlapping organizations (for example, homeless youth organizations) who do not specifically serve LGBTQ+ youth. Because of the reach of Kiwanis International throughout metropolitan and rural communities, a Kiwanis club can fill the needs of youth that are currently being underserved.

Examples of projects/missions by other LGBTQ+ organizations supporting youth in Europe

There are many organizations, both local and international, that support LGBTQ+ Youth. Some of the better-known organizations include:

ILGA- Europe

It's advocating for human rights and equality for LGBTQ people at European level by using European courts; usually as part of a wider advocacy campaign. The use of European courts to ensure full recognition and implementation of human rights for everyone – irrespective of their sexual orientation, gender identity or sex characteristics – is one of the key working methods of ILGA-Europe to achieve full equality for LGBTQ people in Europe. It is also strengthening the LGBTQ movement in Europe and Central Asia by providing training and support to its member organisations and other LGBTQ groups on advocacy, fundraising, organisational development and strategic communications and much more.

It Gets Better Project

Its mission is to uplift, empower, and connect LGBTQ+ youth around the globe by providing access to uplifting and inspiring stories of hope, resilience, and determination, as well as through building community, both internationally and locally, by cultivating a network of international affiliates and engaging with young LGBTQ+ people both on and offline, and connecting them to local community service providers that can provide on-the-ground.

Getting started

The first step is to contact or network with other people who are interested in improving the lives of LGBTQ+ youth and determine the project that is most appropriate and appealing to potential members. The possibilities are limitless. Email info@kiwanis.eu to obtain more help in identifying options for your new club.