

**North Carolina News Notes** online forum set up for ways to secure funds.  
by Lainey Millen & Matt Comer . Q-Notes staff Grants and contributions from supports and the community is

**CHARLOTTE**

**Ante up!**

CHARLOTTE — Pride Charlotte will be held on July 25 at Gateway Village. Currently the Pride Charlotte Committee is actively seeking volunteers for a variety of positions, including Partners in Peace.

Partners In Peace exists to keep conflict from occurring between protesters and the Pride Charlotte participants. Partners In Peace organizer Susan Cummings says, "It is my belief that everyone has the right to peacefully protest. It is also my belief that we have the right to the pursuit of happiness. Our goal as Partners In Peace is to curb and temper any extreme or uncivil behavior."

To lend a hand for 2-4 hour shifts in order to make this year's festival a safe place zone, email Su@pridecharlotte.com.

For other opportunities, email volunteers@pridecharlotte.com.

**EASTERN**

**Teen center on radar**

GREENVILLE — Kevin Boyette, a recent public relations graduate of East Carolina University (ECU), has a plan. And, if he is successful, it will create a much-needed asset to this eastern North Carolina town.

He wants to open up a teen center. His motivation is to battle as a gay teen the isolation he experienced growing up.

According to Carlton Purvis, a reporter with *The East Carolinian* who wrote in his story, "From Stonewall to Greenville," "Greenville's gay community is using formulas reminiscent of the civil rights movement of the '50s and '60s. The 20-something crowd is the catalyst and there's no shortage of public demonstrations."

In recent times, Boyette led the April 17 March on Silence from College Hill to the campus mall. This practicing Christian is more worried about the school board and radical Christian groups and how they might become a stumbling block to his dream. He feels that the climate at ECU is becoming more open.

Facebook has become a vehicle for Boyette to get his message across. He is soliciting community-based ideas there. Already there are over 200 on the list. He hopes to have a gay rights movement books section at the center. There is also an

where he hopes to get the lion's share from. Purvis reported, "As a person who grew up without anyone that was LGBT to talk to, I felt alone, but strived forward with my life to figure out who I was as an individual; [Boyette] said in an online statement about the project. 'We want to give visibility to the history, culture and diversity of the LGBT community.'"

**Author tackles LGBT suicide rate**

DUNN — On April 15 the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Youth Advocacy Store opened via CafePress. The online store sells T-shirts and accessories meant to spread awareness about the high suicide rate among LGBT youth, as well as encouraging teenagers to choose life.

The store was created by author Stephanie Silberstein, who is also writing a young adult novel to bring awareness to the issue. Silberstein nearly lost a close friend to suicide over his sexual orientation last summer. After doing some research, she learned that her friend's situation was not uncommon. Thirty percent of completed youth suicides are related to sexual orientation. "He chose not to be a statistic," Silberstein says. "I'm reaching out to others like him, both in gratitude for his continued life and in hopes of making a difference."

The primary product offered is a black T-shirt inscribed with, "30% of suicides are LGBT related. I refuse to be a statistic." Silberstein also offers T-shirts and hats supporting other issues important to the LGBT community, such as school safety and answering religious condemnation of homosexuality.

The shirts are sold for \$15-\$30 each: Ten percent of profits will help The Trevor Project Suicide Hotline, the only national suicide hotline targeted specifically towards LGBT youth. The rest of the proceeds will be used to support the independent publication of Silberstein's LGBT teen-oriented novel, "Shades of Gay," in May 2010.

Silberstein is planning several events intended to lower the suicide rate among LGBT adolescents. A candlelight vigil and dinner in honor of Harvey Milk's birthday was held in May.

"Whether or not you are participating in an event, please buy a T-shirt today and wear it with pride," Silberstein says. "Chances are

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