



Mark Beyerle - 2024 John Cunningham Lifetime Legacy Hero

If you have been to just about any LGBTQ+ community fundraiser, you know Mark Beyerle. He has been selflessly giving of his time to just about every LGBTQ+ nonprofit in our fair city and beyond. Mark, through his company Specialty Productions, has helped produce every TOY and HEROES event since their inception. He is also the DVLF historian, and is invaluable to our organization to provide feedback, find sponsors, and ultimately raise as much money as possible to support the most pressing needs of this beautiful, vibrant community.



Beyond the Bell Tours - 2024 Local Business Hero

Founded with a passion for storytelling, Beyond the Bell Tours shines a light on the often overlooked histories of Philadelphia. Through their inclusive tours, they celebrate the contributions of women, people of color, queer individuals, and indigenous communities. Their cornerstone tours shed light on the diverse contributions that have made Philly the city we know & love. They have always been & will always be a love letter to the city of Philadelphia. Founded in 2018, they are now proudly a top ranking tour company in the Philadelphia area...Congratulations & thank you for your invaluable contributions to our community.



Tami Sortman - 2024 Individual HERO

Tami's unwavering dedication to the LGBTQ+ community has left an indelible mark on Philadelphia, particularly in the vibrant heart of the Gayborhood. As a longtime LGBTQ+ activist, Tami has been at the forefront of numerous initiatives aimed at fostering inclusivity and visibility. Her pivotal role in spearheading the creation of the iconic rainbow street name signs in 2007 not only symbolized the community's pride but also served as a powerful statement of acceptance and affirmation. More recently, Tami's advocacy led to the installation of street signs honoring the late Jeff Guaracino, further cementing his legacy within the community. Her tireless efforts didn't stop there – in 2023, she successfully lobbied the City to repaint the rainbow crosswalks on Locust Street at 12th & 13th, ensuring that these symbols of LGBTQ+ pride remain vibrant and visible for all to see. As the board president of the Washington Square West Civic Association, Tami continues to be a beacon of leadership and activism, championing causes that enrich and empower our community.



ChatterBlast - 2024 local business Hero

With over a decade of creative excellence from Philadelphia roots to nationwide impact, they are deeply passionate about their work, communities, and giving back. Through their Social Equity Investment Program, they support progressive organizations like DVLF, Pennsylvania Prison Society, The Attic Youth Center & more, showcasing their commitment to making a difference. Their heroic efforts in generously donating money and services to our community are truly commendable. Their newest venture,

GroundFloor Studios, in partnership with Big Picture Alliance, aims to empower young creatives and amplify community voices. For the past three years, ChatterBlast has earned recognition as a member of The Philadelphia Foundation's Civic 50 Greater Philadelphia for their dedication to driving social impact.



Councilmember [Mark Squilla](#) - 2024 Ally Hero

Mark's steadfast dedication to the LGBTQ community has been nothing short of inspiring. Representing the district encompassing the gayborhood and other LGBTQ neighborhoods, he has been a tireless advocate for progress and inclusion. While his work often goes unnoticed by the masses, its impact reverberates throughout our community. From addressing critical safety issues to securing vital funding for LGBTQ nonprofits, Mark's efforts have been instrumental in shaping a more equitable and accepting city. What truly sets him apart is not just his professional dedication but also his personal investment in our community - his unwavering support for his openly gay daughter serves as a powerful testament to his commitment to equality and acceptance.



Sarina DiBianca, Executive Director of [Siloam](#) - 2024 NonProfit Hero

Under Sarina's leadership, Siloam has thrived, becoming the only holistic HIV/AIDS health care center in the United States. Her innovative strategies have led to financial stability and expanded services,

including a partnership with Drexel University and United Healthcare. Sarina's commitment to holistic healing extends beyond medical care - she opened a food pantry in 2019, providing thousands of meals to those in need, regardless of HIV status. Her dedication to community wellness includes introducing new programs like Tai Chi, Reiki, yoga, and more. Her efforts to boost Siloam's media presence have been remarkable, with improvements to the website and active engagement on social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn. In collaboration with volunteers, she produced the documentary "Living Positive" and the film "Forgotten Crew: Siloam Stories," premiered at the 2019 qFLIX Philadelphia Film Festival. Recognizing the importance of education and outreach, Sarina pioneered youth sports programs in partnership with organizations like the 76er's Basketball Team and the Salvation Army Kroc Center, reaching over 1,000 young people. Her long-term goals include expanding Siloam's reach beyond Philadelphia, collaborating with AIDS facilities globally. Despite its growth, Siloam remains a beloved community where all are welcome.



Stephen Kulp - 2024 Individual Hero

Stephen has shown tremendous success in his career while providing substantial ongoing support for the LGBTQ+ community in and out of the legal profession. With a B.S. in Political Science and J.D. from Drexel University, he recently founded his own firm Kulp Legal, specializing in Complex Litigation and LGBTQ+ Law. Stephen made history as the first AAPI elected Chair of the Philadelphia LGBTQ Bar Association and the first openly LGBTQ+ and AAPI attorney elected by the members of the Philadelphia Bar Association to the Board of Governors. Stephen values representation and mentorship, emphasizing the importance of giving back and supporting others. We're proud to celebrate his commitment to LGBTQ+ rights in the legal community



Councilmember, [Rue Landau](#) - 2024 John Cunningham Lifetime Legacy Hero

As one of Philadelphia's trailblazing civil rights attorneys and the first openly LGBTQ+ member of City Council, she embodies the spirit of advocacy and community service. With a career dedicated to fighting for social justice and equity, Rue has been a steadfast advocate for the city's most vulnerable communities. From her early activism in the fight for economic justice during the HIV/AIDS epidemic to her tenure as director of the Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations and Fair Housing Commission, she has spearheaded initiatives to strengthen civil rights protections and promote inclusive opportunities for all Philadelphians. Now, as an at-large member of City Council following her victory in the November 2023 election, Rue continues her mission to uplift every neighborhood and ensure every individual has the chance to thrive. Beyond her professional achievements, Rue's roots in Philadelphia run deep, with active involvement in community organizations and a commitment to fostering a city that embraces diversity and equality making Philadelphia a better place for all.



[NJM Insurance Group](#) - 2024 National Business Hero

With a dedication to giving back to their community through charitable initiatives, NJM Insurance Group exemplifies the spirit of service. With over 100 years of earning trust, insurance may be their business,

but service is their passion. Setting themselves apart in an industry where support during challenging times is paramount, they are simply people devoted to helping others. NJM encourages their employees to actively engage in their communities, supporting nonprofits like HomeFront's Camp Mercer, Ronald McDonald House, Habitat for Humanity, Manna Food Center, and more. Their commitment to making a difference is commendable, and we are thrilled to honor them



Darius McLean - 2024 Individual Hero

Darius's contributions to the [William Way LGBT Community Center](#) have been nothing short of remarkable. As the director of empowerment programs, he has spearheaded initiatives that have had a profound impact on the lives of LGBTQ Philadelphians. From coordinating senior programming to establishing the [Arcila-Adams Trans Resource Center at William Way LGBT Community Center](#) Darius has been instrumental in providing essential support and resources to marginalized communities. His advocacy for pay transparency has not only resulted in promoting pay parity and equity within the organization but has also contributed to closing the gender and racial pay gap. Darius's unwavering commitment to equality and inclusivity has been evident in every aspect of his work, and his leadership has been a driving force for positive change.