



# THE URBANA FREE LIBRARY

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Uniting Pride Center Collection, 2008-2021

Collection 381

## Champaign County Historical Archives

**Compiled by:** Sandy Kroeker, March 2024

**Creator/Corporate Name:** Uniting Pride of Champaign County (2009-)

**Inclusive Dates:** 2008-2021

**Physical Description:** 1 box, (1.4 linear ft.)

**Provenance:**

The Uniting Pride Center Collection was donated to the Champaign County Historical Archives.

**Access:**

These records are accessible to the public within applicable copyright restrictions and limited to use at the Champaign County Historical Archives of The Urbana Free Library.

**Historical Note:**

The Uniting Pride Center (UP Center) was founded in 2009 to advocate for the equality, visibility, and wellness of the LGBTQ+ communities in Champaign County. The UP Center has actively engaged the local community through support groups, social events, workshops, advocacy, and resources. Their mission is to create a Champaign County where all who identify as a sexual and/or gender minority can live full, healthy, and vibrant lives. The UP Center was founded by Kevin Bowersox-Johnson along with Megan Paceley, Phil Reese, and Kris Koester as the initial board members.

Since its foundation, some initiatives of the UP Center have included the Champaign-Urbana Pride Festival, which was first held in 2010; Wise UP, an educational series of workshops hosted at The Urbana Free Library; the LGBTQ+ Film Festival, in partnership with the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; and the Turn it UP! Benefit Concert and Variety Show. They have partnered with other local organizations such as Champaign Urbana Theatre Company, Celebration Company at the Station Theatre, Derby Girls, and Acorn Equality Fund to bring events and resources to the Champaign County community. The UP Center has also worked with national organizations such as the Trevor Project and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force through attendance at the National Conference on LGBT Equality.

**Scope and Content Note:**

This collection contains posters, programs, flyers, newspaper articles, awards, correspondence, and ephemera documenting the UP Center's involvement in the Champaign County community.

**Arrangement:**

This collection is arranged by material type.

**Subject Terms:**

Gay Rights

Gays—Illinois—Champaign County

Homosexuality—Illinois—Champaign County



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LGBTQ+ communities—Illinois—Champaign County

Lesbians—Illinois—Champaign County

Queer community—Illinois—Champaign County

## **Name Terms:**

Bowersox-Johnson, Kevin

Chandler, Jeffrey

Godoy, Crisitina

Johnson, Kendall

Johnson, Kevin

Keenan, Carrie

Knowles, Erin

Koester, Kris

Paceley, Megan

Reese, Phil

Tardy, Evlyne

Weyer, Peggy

## **Container List**

### **Box 1**

Folder 1: Awards and Certificates, 2010-2011

Folder 2: Cards and Correspondence, 2011-2012 and undated

Folder 3: Civil Unions Month Proclamation, 2011

Folder 4: Event Programs and Flyers, 2011-2018 and undated

Folder 5: Founders' Reception, 2010

Folder 6: Gay Parent Magazine, 2012

Folder 7: The National Conference on LGBT Equality, 2011-2013

Folder 8: News Articles and Ads, 2010-2021

Folder 9: Jesus Phreak, circa 2008

Folder 10: LGBT Film Festival, 2010-2012

Folder 11: Posters, 2012 and undated

Folder 12: Pride Festival, 2010-2012

Folder 13: Turn it UP! Benefit Concert and Variety Show, circa 2012