

What is an Ally?

Anyone who supports the causes affecting the transgender community, or helps a transgender individual, but does not identify as transgender is an Ally.

Why do we need Allies?

We can not do this alone.

The transgender community is a minority. Even within the LGBT community we are a minority. We do not have the numbers to effect change on our own.

We do not have the resources to do this alone. Most transgender people face discrimination. We are often unemployed or underemployed. We do not have the time or finances to fight discrimination by ourselves.

How can I relate to the Transgender Experience?

No one knows exactly what another person is feeling. However, all of us have had times when we have felt like an outsider. We all know what it is like to not completely fit in.

Everyone has a gender identity. You know what it feels like to feel masculine or feminine. Their gender identity is as real as yours.

Ally Resources

Transgender Michigan

www.TransgenderMichigan.org

855-345-TGMI



How Can I Help?

Ally Resources



Transgender Michigan

www.TransgenderMichigan.org

How can I be an Ally?

Be aware of how perceptions of gender affects everyday life.

Educate yourself. There are many books and articles that talk about the transgender experience. See our TransPages on our website for some suggestions.

Talk with us. We love to talk about ourselves. (Do not ask about personal anatomy, however. That is none of your business!)

Educate others. Now that you are an expert, pass it on. If a friend repeats a misconception about transgender, correct them. If you get the opportunity, teach others. If you know a group that would like us to talk to them, let us know. We can send a speaker. If you would be willing to join us on a panel, let us know.

Vote to enact proposals adding “gender identity or expression” to non-discrimination ordinances. Vote for candidates who support transgender causes.

Contribute to transgender organizations such as Transgender Michigan, National Center for Transgender Equality. Host a House Party fundraiser for Transgender Michigan(We would be happy to help with this.).

Join an Ally organizations such as PFLAG or TYFA.

Volunteer. Transgender Michigan can always use your help.

When Someone Comes Out to You

Do not make assumptions. There are many different paths on the transgender journey.

Do not assume the binary. Just because they identify as transgender, do not assume they plan to change over completely to the opposite gender. Many do not plan or cannot go for the complete surgery. Many prefer a middle gender.

It is okay to ask about preferred pronouns. It may appear obvious in many cases, but some prefer rotated pronouns, and some prefer neutral pronouns such as the singular “they”.

It is not okay to ask about personal anatomy. This includes asking, “Are you pre or post-op?” It is none of your business. Would you like people asking details about your personal genitals?

Do not assume sexual orientation. The sexual orientation options for a transgender person can be just as varied as for a cisgender (non-transgender) person.

Remember that transgender is only one part of the person. Please listen to our other interests as well.

Ally Resources

Transgender Michigan
www.transgendermichigan.org

Parents & Friends of Lesbians And Gays
(PFLAG)
www.pflag.org

TransYouth Family Alliance
(TYFA)
www.imatyfa.org

National Center for Transgender Equality
(NCTE)
www.nctequality.org