



Susan Crocker <susan@transgendermichigan.org>

---

## A Temporary Farewell and Promising Changes Ahead

1 message

---

**Emma Velasquez** <emma@transgendermichigan.org>

Tue, Jul 18, 2023 at 6:21 AM

To: Emma Velasquez <emma@transgendermichigan.org>, Gray Ficker <GrayF@transgendermichigan.org>

Bcc: susan@transgendermichigan.org

Subject: A Temporary Farewell and Promising Changes Ahead

Dear Westland TGMI and greater Michigan Virtual Support Group Members,

I hope this email finds you all in good health and spirits. It is with mixed emotions that I reach out to you today as I have an important announcement to make regarding our beloved support group. After much reflection and consideration, I have made the difficult decision to put the group on a temporary hiatus, effective immediately. As there often are in life, there have been a great number of changes in my own life affecting my ability to be fully present in the planning, facilitating, and maintaining our monthly meetings. Things like my shift to working the night shift as a crisis social worker and navigating the world as a nocturnal person, the long COVID I've been handling since the summer of 2022, and a few other health concerns that have increasingly demanded my attention over these past few months.

Although joining the group as a facilitation just over a year ago, Gray has been instrumental in keeping the group accessible, handling many and most of the planning aspects of the group, taken on full solo facilitation duty many times in which I was called away or not able to attend the group. He very quickly learned the ropes and has worked tirelessly to extend a hand of compassion to us all through these challenging times.

Over the past five and a half years our support group has become a place of solace, compassion, and shared experiences for all of us. Together, we have created a safe haven where we could openly discuss our challenges, find comfort in each other's stories, and receive the understanding and support that we so deeply need. I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you for your trust, vulnerability, and unwavering commitment to this community.

While the decision to take a hiatus was not an easy one, please know that it was made with the best interests of the group in mind. During this time, we will be dedicating ourselves to evaluate and re-envision the future of our support group. I firmly believe that change can bring new opportunities and growth, and I am excited at the opportunity to eventually return with some meaningful changes that will enhance our support and make it even more impactful.

Please understand that the duration of this hiatus is uncertain at this point, as I want to ensure that we have a well-thought-out plan in place before we reconvene. Rest assured, I will keep you informed of any developments and share updates as soon as they become available. In the meantime, I encourage you to continue connecting with one another and nurturing the friendships and support systems we have built together.

I also want to take this opportunity to remind you that while our group may be on pause, the journey of healing and self-discovery continues. Each one of you possesses incredible strength, resilience, and the capacity to thrive. Reach out to one another, seek guidance from trusted professionals, and remember that you are not alone in this journey.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to Gray or I personally. Your thoughts and feedback are invaluable as we work to make the necessary changes for our group's future.

In closing, I want to express my deepest gratitude to all of you for entrusting me with this role over the years. It has been an honor and privilege to serve as your facilitator, and I am truly grateful for the experiences we have shared. Let us cherish the memories we've created together and look forward to the exciting new chapter that lies ahead.

Take care of yourselves, dear friends, and remember that hope and healing are always within reach. We will reconvene with renewed vigor and a support system that will be even more impactful than before.

With sincere appreciation and warm regards,

Emma Velasquez

[Emma@transgendermichigan.com](mailto:Emma@transgendermichigan.com)