



glen's friends

The LOVE Report

2024

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Dear Glen's Friends,

My brother Glen Patrick Brown was a thriving, happy, healthy, and proud gay man. But it wasn't always that way. Glen had his struggles, like so many LGBTQIA+ people do - especially young people. From contracting and living a healthy life with AIDS to struggling with mental health issues, Glen thankfully overcame these hurdles and used what he learned to help others in the community. Glen's guiding principle throughout life was simple but profound: Love above all else. He had a unique gift of making everyone feel valued, seen, heard, and loved.

We lead by his example.

Glen's Friends is proudly the first nonprofit organization dedicated to serving the LGBTQIA+ community founded in Arlington Heights, IL. 2024 marks the first full year of Glen's Friends serving this mission, and we have felt the LOVE and the NEED for it deeply. We are HONORED to have the support and participation of so many community members. We are incredibly humbled, inspired, and energized to continue this work together.

As Glen's legacy lives on, he continues to lead us, inspiring positive change and touching lives in ways that transcend time and space. Together, we carry on Glen's spirit of love and service, uplifting each other and fostering a world where love knows no bounds.

YOU are a friend of Glen.

LOVE WINS.

Janet McCarthy
President & Founder



Our Mission



Glen's Friends mission is to
nurture a world
where **all can love** and **be loved**.



At Glen's Friends, we wholeheartedly embrace the transformative power of love, determined to cultivate a world where every soul can experience the boundless joy of loving and being loved.

Our Impact in 2024

Counting our **#LOVEWINS!** in 2024

Executed over
+15 Programs supporting LGBTQIA+ community & allies

Raised Over
\$16,000 in program funds

117 Unique Donors Contributed
1 GRANT Bestowed by **The Margaret Wenzloff Foundation**

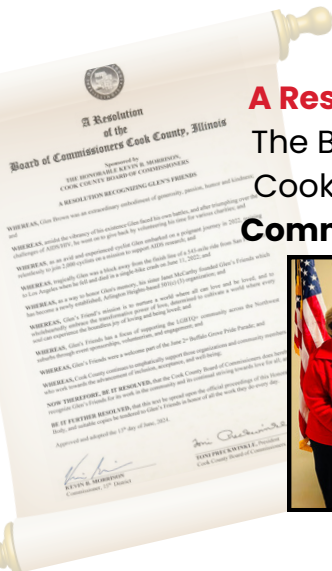
7 Board Members serving Glen's Friends

3 Community Initiatives Team Volunteers directing programming activities for our community



159 In-kind Donations
Entertainment
Floral bouquets
Home furnishings
Gift Cards
Books
Wine
Pies

\$4,450 est value



A Resolution of LOVE from The Board of Commissioners, Cook County, IL sponsored by **Commissioner Kevin Morrison**



Glen's Friends followers almost

500



LOVE made Front Page news!



40+ Glen's Friends marched with us in Buffalo Grove's Pride Parade



'Turn your grief into helping others'
Friends start charity to honor Arlington Heights cyclist who died in crash

BY CHRISTOPHER PLACEK
cplacek@dailyherald.com

Determined to carry on his legacy, friends and family of an Arlington Heights man who died in a 2022 AIDS charity bike ride have launched a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping the LGBTQ+ community and beyond.

"After Glen passed away, maybe a month or two after he passed, we just kept saying to ourselves, 'Glen cannot go away. He was just too good of a person. He was just that love and light,'" said his sister, Janet Brown McCarthy. "We just wanted to honor him and keep his memory alive."

Glen's Friends is the newly-established, Arlington Heights-based (90182) organization named in memory of 57-year-old Glen Brown, an experienced cyclist who was a block away from the finish line of a 545-mile ride from San Francisco to Los Angeles when he fell and died in a single-bike crash on June 11, 2022.

See CHARITY on PAGE 5

Countless moments of positive energy, support, love shared

Our Partners

We **LOVE** our 2024 partner organizations:

Arlington Heights Bicycle Club

Arlington Heights Memorial Library

Arlington Heights Senior Center/Rainbow Connections Group

Chicago Style Roller Derby

Countryside Saloon

Free Mom Hugs

Gay for Good

Hell in a Handbag Productions

Kendall College

Kenneth Young Center/LGBTQ+ Center

NAMI Suburbs: National Alliance on Mental Illness

NWCASA (Northwest Center Against Sexual Assault)

Pinta Pride Project

Thrown Elements Pottery

Wheeling Township/State Rep District 54 Mental Health Fair



“ [Glen's Friends'] Book of Pride, AHML Book Discussion has brought a new, fun, interactive format to our patrons. ”
- Nikki Camp, MSLIS (She/Her) Programs and Exhibit Coordinator

“ Glen's Friends show up when it matters most and their passion for inclusive love, makes them a treasured friend to the community. ”
- Carrie Estrada, Executive Director, Northwest Center Against Sexual Assault

Our Projects

Nurturing **LOVE** in our community



An amazing night of fun, love & cheering on **Chicago Style Roller Derby!**



Fundraiser featuring music by local cover band **Trouble Ahead**



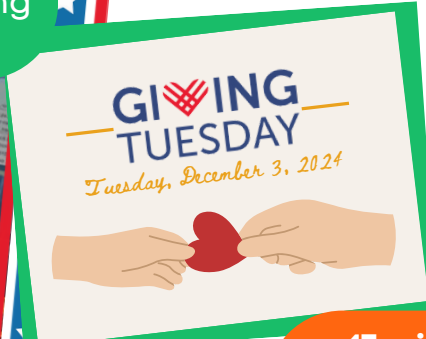
Handbag Chicago surprised us with a donation raise for Glen's Friends following "The Golden Girls Meet The Skooby Don't Gang"



Kendall College pie making fundraiser

Thrown Elements Pottery hosted a pie-themed painting event.

Glen's Friends Volunteer Crew at **Arlington Heights Frontier Days** sharing hugs, love & food orders



15 minutes with Santa & his decked out 1955 Vintage Truck at **Countryside Saloon**

Our Projects

Nurturing **LOVE** in our community

Card making event for hospitalized children with **Gay for Good**



Sponsored a **film festival** and hosted a **teen volunteer program** for The Book of Pride with **Northwest Center Against Sexual Assault**



Sponsored **LGBTQ+ Center at Kenneth Young Center** events including two **Queer Proms (teens and adults)**



Hosted **LGBTQ+ Book Club** during Pride month in partnership with the **Arlington Heights Memorial Library**



Participated in a **community mental health fair** sponsored by state and local government reps

THE BOOK OF PRIDE
LGBTQ HEROES WHO CHANGED THE WORLD
MASON FUNK

Pride Month Pop-Up
Saturday, June 19-11am.

Join library staff and local organization Glen's Friends for Pride Month themed activities, giveaways and discover books featuring LGBTQ+ characters and experiences. Local resources supporting the LGBTQ+ community will be available.



Partnered with the **Arlington Heights Senior Center**, launching their first **Pride Group Rainbow Connections** while hosting **The Book of Pride Program**

Thursday, NOV 14
10am-12pm

THE BOOK OF PRIDE
LGBTQ HEROES WHO CHANGED THE WORLD
MASON FUNK

Rainbow Connections Discussion Group
is newly formed at the Arlington Heights Senior Center for individuals identifying as LGBTQIA+ and Allies. In our first session, Glen's Friends will be celebrating the LGBTQIA+ heroes who changed the world through detailed heartfelt interviews from The Book of Pride. Explore and discuss the lives of determined activists then create a project that celebrates the queer community and its allies. Registration is optional. Arlington Heights Senior Center 1800 W. Central Rd. Arlington Heights, IL

Sponsored & marched in family-friendly **Pinta Pride Project & Buffalo Grove Pride Parade**

Joined by over 40 **BIG hearts** from:
Chicago Style Roller Derby, Free Mom Hugs IL, Arlington Heights Bicycle Club, & our Glen's Friends community!



Our Team



Janet McCarthy
Founder & President

Leading with LOVE



Diane Corbett
Secretary



Heidi Wolter
Treasurer



Judith Weirauch



Kevin Allender



Juliet Kopulos



Sam Stewart

Join us!

 glensfriends.org

 info@glensfriends.org

 [@glensfriends](https://www.instagram.com/glensfriends)

 [@glensfriends](https://www.facebook.com/glensfriends)

Postal Address:

Glen's Friends

PO Box 293

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Glen's Friends is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization

EIN 92-3698517

Donations are tax-deductible



In Loving Memory

“Love, above all else.”

Glen Patrick Brown





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