

APEB

AIDS Project East Bay

The Butterfly Project

The Butterfly Project is a commitment to do outreach to and advocate for Transgendered individuals in Alameda County.

The project is sponsored by AIDS Project East Bay (APEB).



OUR MISSION

The mission of The Butterfly Project is dedicated to serving Transgendered populations in Alameda County.

The TG Communities suffer an extraordinarily high rate of HIV infection. There are a number of factors that lead to this rate. The changes experienced by Transgendered individuals plays a part in this tragedy. This refers to not just a physical transformation, but to differences in all phases of life, including housing, employment and



relationships.

Butterfly Project Educators are devoted to assisting in all aspects of the transition that can be frightening

and overwhelming. We encourage TG's to drop in during our business hours to chat, pick up some safer sex supplies or get a free and anonymous HIV test.

THE BUTTERFLY PROJECT

The B in Butterfly stands for Balance.

When undergoing numerous changes, Transgendered individuals face a tremendous challenge to **balance** all parts of their lives. TG's often face a loss of families and friends, a loss of their jobs, housing discrimination, harassment and depression. The Butterfly Project can help with referrals, emotional support and a safe place to go.

The U in Butterfly stands for Understanding.

In a world that is often hostile to difference, The Butterfly Project is well aware that violence is a huge issue in transgendered communities. Community United Against Violence (CUAV), an organization in San Francisco that records violence against Gays, Lesbians, Bisexuals and Transgendered People in the Bay Area, reports that in 1999, 59 attacks against TG's were reported. The message from this statistic rings clear that violence against TG's is a massive problem. Sanctuary and safety are elements The Butterfly Project tries to provide. We understand that when safety is absent, it is next to impossible to focus on steps down the line. That is why our program is comprehensive. We do not want to re-invent the wheel, but we are committed to providing solutions when needed.

A T in Butterfly stands for Truth.

We realize there is more than one truth. There is the truth of who we are. For those of us going through this journey, there is the truth of where we are in our gender transition. Contrary to the popular misconception that we are just one thing, transgendered individuals come from a variety of ethnic and class backgrounds, sexual orientations, religious traditions and you name it. The truth, whatever it may be, is sacred. We are here to affirm your truth.

A T in Butterfly stands for Treatment.

AIDS Project East Bay is an organization that is committed to preventing HIV when possible and in treating people who are infected with the virus. For those who are positive with HIV, we help connect them with providers. A big problem in TG communities is self-esteem. It has been estimated that Transgendered people commit suicide many times more frequently than heterosexuals. This figure is even higher for Transgendered Youth. At the Butterfly Project, we connect Transgendered individuals with gender therapists who can help.

The E in Butterfly stands for Education.

Education is a key to progress. At The Butterfly Project, we provide career development seminars, health education workshops and countless other opportunities. We also provide referrals to other agencies that can help when we cannot. Some of the brightest, creative and compassionate souls are Transgendered. With education, the sky's the limit.

The R in Butterfly stands for Resources.

We are committed to providing resources or locating organizations that help Transgendered communities. Everyone needs help some times. The difference between someone employed and jobless, or someone sheltered or homeless, is being connected to resources. At The Butterfly Project, we are here to help with this process.

The F in Butterfly stands for Freedom.

Mary Chapin Carpenter sings that why walk when you can fly. At The Butterfly Project, we want to help all TG's first walk and then fly. We want to provide a safe place, forums for education, venues for expression and referrals for treatment. This refers to freedom to work and be ourselves. It refers to walking down the street and not being subject to harassment or physical harm. It refers to every freedom that many citizens take for granted. We are here to remind those who forget this basic understanding.

The L in Butterfly stands for Leadership.

Ralph Ellison wrote *The Invisible Man* about his experiences as an African American in the South. In many ways, Transgendered Communities are the latest invisible population. At The Butterfly Project, we advocate for TG rights and services. These are not special rights, but civil rights guaranteed by the Constitution for every citizen in the country. The Butterfly Project has stood in the forefront for TG rights and we will continue to do so.

The Y in Butterfly stands for YOU!

All we ask of Transgendered individuals is to give us a try. We want to help all TG's make their way. We realize that many give up. We have been there. Use what we have to offer. We have a place in this world. Let us make our mark. If you are a Transgendered person who has made their way, please help us help others. We need everyone!



Volunteer / Donation Form

Would you like to volunteer or make a donation to APEB's Butterfly Project? We have a great team and we can always use a donation of either your time, energy and/or money. All contributions are tax deductible. APEB is a 501C(3) non-profit organization.



YES, I would like to volunteer with APEB's Butterfly Project. My name and number is listed below.

YES, I would like to make a donation to APEB's Butterfly Project. My name and number is listed below.

SORRY, I can't make a donation. I have some suggestions to make your project more effective which I've listed

What services do you feel are lacking in the Transgendered Community? If you have any comments or questions please write them here. Your input and suggestions are very important to us and allow us to better serve the TG community.

Name

Address / E-mail

Phone

Mailing Address:

1755 Broadway, 2nd Floor,
Oakland, CA 94612

Drop-In Address:

1800 Telegraph, Downtown Oakland
510-663-7976 (phone)
510-663-7980 (fax)
WWW.APEB.ORG

Cseneca [REDACTED] E-Mail:
[REDACTED]

Patricia [REDACTED] E-Mail:
[REDACTED]

HIV - TESTING
HOURS

Mon. - Thurs
10:00 am - 4:30 pm

Fri.
10:30 am - 9 pm

We do Orasure
Testing:
No blood!
No needles!
All tests are free
and anonymous.