



2018 Annual Appeal (Our First!)

Dear Friend of Sandhills PRIDE,

What does Sandhills PRIDE mean to you? It certainly means a lot to me and based on your previous support of our advocacy and programming, I'm sure you feel the same. (Thank you for that!)

For me, Sandhills PRIDE stands as the beacon of hope for LGBTQ folks and their allies right here at home, in Moore County and surrounding areas. It has become the central resource for information and inspiration, and this is especially true for our young people across the region.

In just three short years, thanks to the enthusiastic financial support of people like you, Sandhills PRIDE has awarded nearly \$30,000 in scholarships to eleven extraordinarily talented high school students—right here in our own backyard. For the very first time, our supporters have made a significant investment in future LGBTQ leaders both here and beyond.

That's not all. In partnership with dedicated volunteers, we're actively reaching out to students and teachers in local schools to let them know we're here to help foster a more diverse and accepting community than ever before. We're sponsoring gay-straight alliances and conducting safe zone trainings to help ALL students feel safer.

**We won't stop until EVERYONE feels safe.**

We're also very committed to increasing the visibility of our local LGBTQ community and demonstrating its enthusiastic support for the wider community. This year alone, 65 Sandhills PRIDE supporters marched in the Pinehurst 4th of July parade, attended by thousands, and our volunteers served free ice cream to help 350 folks cool off in the heat. We actively support the Backpack Pals of Moore County, Boys & Girls Club of the Sandhills, Carolina Animal Rescue & Adoption, Friend to Friend, Hearts 4 Heroes, and Moore Buddies Stuff the Bus. We maintain a professionals directory of supportive businesses on our website and we even have a Sandhills PRIDE Adopt-a-Highway sign (you should see us picking up trash along NC-211!) Our volunteers work tirelessly together lighting the way for equality and fairness.

I helped found Sandhills PRIDE and actively support it as both a volunteer and donor because it makes our region a better place. I support it because I don't want any member of the LGBTQ community in the Sandhills to ever live in fear again. I know you feel the same way. [Please join me as a proud financial investor in Sandhills PRIDE and the work it does to help make this small-town space we call home a better place for ALL OF US.](#)

This letter marks the first time Sandhills PRIDE is seeking donations through a written appeal to our friends. [Won't you make your most generous, tax-deductible gift today? Our goal is to raise \\$10,000 by the end of the year and your contribution of \\$50 or more will help us reach that goal. Even better, pledge to become a monthly donor to sustain our work into the future!](#)

Community support for our efforts has been growing steadily over the past five years, and now we're ready to take the next steps to increase our organizational capacity, expand our programs, and make Sandhills PRIDE financially self-sustaining.

**Your gift will truly make a difference both for the people we serve and YOU!**

[Please make your gift by December 31st.](#) If you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact me at [contact@sandhillspride.org](mailto:contact@sandhillspride.org). I look forward to hearing from you.

On behalf of the fundraising committee, I am

Sincerely yours,

Michael Edwards

P.S. Be sure to check out the [events tab](#) on our website at [www.sandhillspride.org](http://www.sandhillspride.org). We have lots of fun and worthwhile participation opportunities in the coming months, including our annual Holiday Party on December 17<sup>th</sup>. Join us!