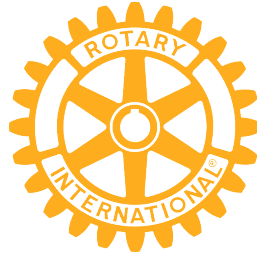


Rotary



Background

Rotarians In Service For Equality (RISE) was founded in July 2022 as a cause-based Rotary club focused on issues and concerns of the LGBTQIA+ community. Membership is open to all who share this interest. Current members reside in Southern California, Phoenix, Denver, Houston, and Florida.

RISE Mission Statement

“We exist to foster acceptance, inclusion, and diversity and to RISE above: by providing services, opportunities, and education to our members, the LGBTQIA+ community and the global community at large.”

2022 Highlights

- RISE established initial bylaws, articles of incorporation, and aligned with Rotary International and District 5280 requirements, created a social media presence and a website.
- RISE distributed its first community grant in support of SPY (Safe Place for Youth). SPY provides street outreach, case management, education, employment health and wellness, and housing services to Los Angeles area youths that are homeless or at risk to being homeless.
- RISE held its first fundraiser, a virtual screening of the movie, *CURED*, attended by nearly 100 people, raising nearly \$3,700 for projects in multiple RISE member geographies.
- RISE hosted guest speakers from organizations across RISE’s membership area including The Lavender Project, Rainbow Labs, Kaiser Foundation and others.

2023 Focus: Mental Health and Youth

Partnerships: RISE is partnering with several agencies and organizations:

- The Lavender Effect: Building awareness of the contributions of LGBTQ people to society to provide positive role models for LGBTQ youth. <https://www.thelavendereffect.org>
- SPY (Safe Place for Youth): empowering young people experiencing homelessness to thrive by providing lasting, community-driven solutions that address racial and social inequity. <https://www.safeplaceforyouth.org>
- NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness): The largest grassroots mental health organization dedicate to the millions of Americans affected by mental illness. <https://nami.org/>
- Rainbow Labs: Empowering queer and gender nonconforming youth to discover, curate, and experiment with the elements of a fulfilled life through community building and the lived experiences of mentors. <https://www.rainbowlabs.org/>

Upcoming Events

- 5/4/24 National Alliance on Mental Illness Walk LA
- 6/1/24 Pride Prom with Burbank Y Social Impact Center

Opportunities

- Volunteer or join in one of our planned events (see above)
- Partner or co-sponsor a project
- Train presenters to “end the silence” on mental illness for South Bay youth and families

Contacts: Scott Burrus, President, RiseRotarians@gmail.com
Frank Hanzel, Member, fhanzel@aol.com