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## Supporting SPEEC Has Never Been This Easy!

### June Fundraising Update

June started off amazingly -- we reached 12% of our \$5000 fundraising goal on *the very first day*, due to two generous donors.

Individuals and organizations have planned several exciting fundraising events for us in the next couple of months, but for June, now is the time to pitch in that \$10, \$25, or more to help us get to this month's goal, toward creating a sustainable, community-run, sex-positive space! [Join](#) or [donate](#) now!

### Holding a Fundraising Event

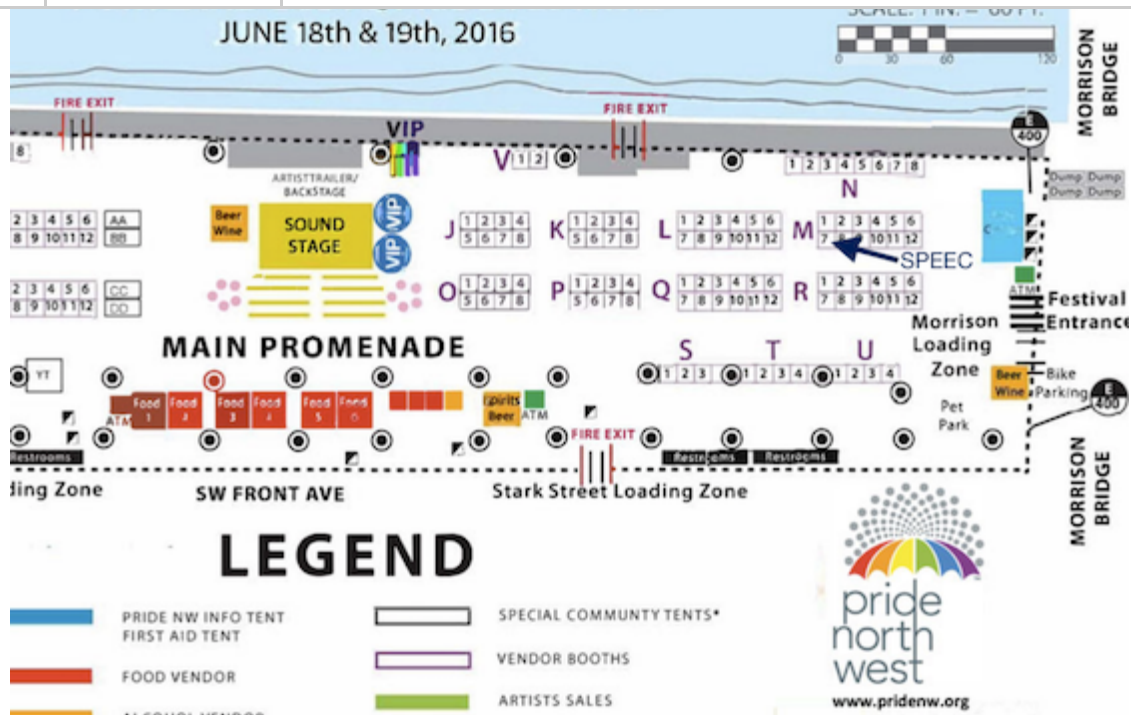
Interested in having some fun for a fantastic cause? Holding a public or private fundraising event for SPEEC has never been so easy. From a backyard barbecue, cocktail party, or game night to a public workshop or dance party, SPEEC asks you to use your hosting and partying skills to help us reach our goals! [See how here](#), and remember, since events tend to raise much more than individual contributions, they may be eligible for some fantastic [perks!](#)



### Upcoming Events

#### June 17-18 | Portland PRIDE Festival

Come visit us TODAY and TOMORROW to get SPEEC information and swag, and play our awesome Cock Ring Toss for AMAZING prizes! Our booth is M7, near the festival entrance.



And big thanks to our PRIDE supporters!

- [Martin Cross of Living Room Realty](#) sponsored our booth!
- [Club Privata](#), [She Bop](#), [Lucky Bloke](#), [Spartacus](#), and [Good Vibrations](#) donated prizes for our Cock Ring Toss!
- [Gluten Free Gem](#) donated Pride-themed goodies!
- [#illgowithyou](#) granted us buttons and stickers as part of their donor program!
- [Ethan Parker Design](#) donated graphic design services!

#### **June 23** (date change!) | [SPEEC Presents - Sex-Positive Pub Trivia](#)

Think you're a sex geek? Test your knowledge in an evening of trivia and other games! Bring your team of up to 5 or assemble a team onsite at the Local Lounge. See you there for food, drinks, fun, community, and fabulous prizes, emceed by the amazing [Nikki Lev the Glitter Beast!](#)

#### **June 26** | [SPEEC Presents - Listen for Consent: Fuck is Not a Safeword](#)

Our amazing workshop on negotiation and consent is back, and it won't be offered many more times this year! This is your chance to learn and practice the skills you need to get what you want when you walk on the wild side.

#### **July 11** | [SPEEC Presents - Being True: Navigating a Personal and Professional Life in Sex-Positive Community](#)

Join Megan Wyckoff, LCSW and Kirk Shepard, Professional Counselor for a discussion about how you participate (or don't) all while navigating the ethical dilemmas and boundaries of your profession.

#### **July 14** | [SPEEC Presents - Narratives at the Intersections of Sex Positivity and \(Dis\)Ability](#)

SPEEC's Narratives series facilitates discussion on aspects of sexuality and identity, often amplifying voices outside of the mainstream. This event focuses on the intersections of ability, sex, and kink.

Curious as to what this SPEEC thing is all about? Come talk with the board and other members of sex-positive communities to learn more and also influence what services SPEEC provides.

Want to stay in the loop? [Subscribe to events on Facebook](#) or [join our FetLife group!](#)



### Our Thoughts on Stanford and Orlando

Even as we go into Pride and a summer full of fun and sex-positive events, we do so with a wide range of emotions. The past couple of weeks have been nothing short of horrific for our communities.

The sentencing in the Stanford rape case. The massacre at Pulse. This piece cannot do full justice to either; there is simply too much to say and not enough space. But these are important issues for our community and for the change we are creating; we cannot keep silent.

In the Stanford case, we saw a young, white, male elite athlete punished with less than the bare minimum of a sentence for his crime. We got explicit examples of rape culture in which individuals and media focused on the impact of the crime on his life and how the victim was to blame. With the exception of the survivor's letter, little attention has been given to her except when she is being questioned for her actions.

It's noteworthy that the crime was prosecuted and he was found guilty, regardless of the sentence, because that is actually rare in our society: [only 3 out of 100 rapists spend time in jail for that crime](#). We need to ask ourselves why he is one of the 3 out of 100. It is quite literally because he was caught in the act by two men; there were eye witnesses and physical evidence. As a society, we have a shockingly low standard.

There are thousands of rape kits across the U.S. that have not been tested or even tracked meaning the evidence that would be needed is not prioritized or even held safely in many cases. In May of last year, Portland alone admitted to having almost 2,000 untested kits (see [The Accountability Project](#)). We need to realize that the systems and norms are the problems, not just the individual perpetrators. But we were heartened to hear just a few days ago that there is [some good news](#) in the Stanford case, showing that people organize and stand up for change, it *can* happen.

crimes are meant to terrorize entire groups. We don't need a connection to ISIL and we don't need Islamophobic rhetoric to recognize anti-LGBTQ terror. As with the Stanford case, our society has a low bar. Hate crimes against LGBTQ people/communities occur regularly in the U.S. According to the FBI, [over 20% of "single-bias hate crime incidents" are biases against sexual orientation, gender, or gender identity](#). NCAVP (National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs) collected reports of [1,359 incidents of hate violence from LGBTQ and HIV-affected survivors just in 2013](#). Those numbers get even worse when you look at hate crimes against people of color within the LGBTQ community, as with the Pulse shooting. And keep in mind that what gets reported and categorized as a hate incident is usually the tip of the iceberg. Why did it take a massacre to make the mainstream news, for so many to recognize that this is an issue?

Some people will argue that these two stories have nothing in common. Different targets, different problems, different solutions, even different coasts. We disagree. They are interrelated.

Toxic masculinity and a culture of violence are at least two of the culprits, aside from the individual perpetrators. When we say toxic masculinity, we are not at all saying (or believing) that men are the problem. Toxic masculinity is a set of ideas and practices about how men are supposed to be: aggressive, violent, homophobic, and antithetical to femininity. And it is not only men who buy into these beliefs and practices. Similarly, when we discuss rape culture, we are not talking about all men being rapists. We are talking about how sexual violence is all too normal in our society and takes many different forms. *All people are harmed by rape culture and by toxic masculinity.*

Education cannot fix everything and it does not provide us with an immediate fix on a societal scale. But just because cultural and societal change takes a long time does not mean that such change is not valuable or should not be implemented. We desperately need quality and substantive education on consent, on healthy and safe relationships, on what is rape, on allyship, on the value of all different groups of people. We need to learn not to devalue femininity and non-conformity and to value different ways of being masculine. We need to learn how not to be bystanders and to challenge homophobia, transphobia, misogyny, and violence.

None of this is new information and none of it needs to be started from scratch. There are many programs and people all over the country striving towards these goals, and SPEEC is one of them. And while the events of the past two weeks have weighed heavily on us, our work continues. Establishing a community-run space for education, gathering, and play has never been so important or so worthwhile.

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### Become a Member



Memberships are now available! Members get perks for SPEEC events, discounts

### Donate



Did you know that donations to SPEEC are tax-deductible and go straight toward making

### Volunteer



SPEEC's volunteers are our lifeblood; we simply would not exist without them. Join us in

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