



PrideWorks 2018

The five UU congregations in Westchester all participated in the PrideWorks Conference on Wed Mar 14 at Pace University Pleasantville. PrideWorks is an annual county-wide conference for about 500 LGBTQ+ youth and allies, and UUs have been an important part of the conference throughout its almost two decades of existence since the first event, when it was called "Healing the Hurt."

UU Youth, DREs, and ministers have offered workshops, served on the board and planning committee, and volunteered in many ways. After the example of one of our youth groups, funds are raised each year by all five

congregations, ranging from a plate share to a youth group bake sale. Today, our congregations are the largest financial supporter of PrideWorks.

Several years ago, the arriving youth were greeted outside the conference by demonstrators holding the most hateful signs. Our UUs vowed to counteract this with love. Ever since, a crowd of UU volunteers holding the Standing on the Side of Love banner has welcomed school buses outside with a cheer.

This year there were 20 volunteers from all five congregations, and workshops were offered by Rev. Michael Tino of Mount Kisco and Anthony Arrien of White Plains. Three UU congregations have members on the PrideWorks Planning Committee, and Tracy Breneman, the DRE serving Hastings-on-Hudson and Mount Kisco, is a member of the board and one of those primarily responsible for the success of this major initiative.

Most importantly, our local LGBTQ+ youth feel affirmed, connected, and celebrated. Our UU values in action!

~ John Cavallero
CUUC Member and PrideWorks Volunteer