

YFA DIVERSITY NEWS

“Diversity is the one thing we all have in common. Celebrate it every day!” -Author unknown

APRIL DIVERSITY CALENDAR:

Celebrate Diversity Month and Autism Awareness Month

- 4/2 Autism Awareness Day
- 4/5 Dyngus Day (Polish Easter)
- 4/7-4/8 Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Memorial Days)
- 4/12 Hindu New Year & Ramadan begins
- 4/13 Equal Pay Day
- 4/23 The Day of Silence & Native American Gathering of Nations
- 4/24 Armenian Martyrs Day
- 4/26 Lesbian Visibility Day

National Day of Silence:



April 23rd, 2021 is recognized as the National Day of Silence, a student-led national protest where individuals take a vow of silence in protest of the harassment and discrimination of LGBTQ+ people in schools.

Started in the mid-90's by two college students, the day is observed by many schools throughout the country, where students will go the whole school day without speaking. The silence is broken at the end of the day with “Breaking the Silence” rallies and events, where students and others can share their stories and experiences in an effort to bring attention to ways their schools and communities can become more inclusive.

A 2019 study conducted by the American Academy of Pediatrics found that 30.4% of youth in foster care identify as LGBTQ+ and 5% identify as transgender, compared to 11.2% and 1.17% of youth not in foster care. Research also shows that LGBTQ+ youth are more likely to experience harassment, bullying, abuse and even possible conversion therapy attempts while in foster care. In the same year, a national survey completed by The Trevor Project of over 34,000 LGBTQ+ youth found that 71% of youth reported feeling sad or hopeless for at least two weeks throughout the year.

You can help support our LGBTQ+ youth by participating in the Day of Silence, along with our very own Youth Shelters (RAP House, New Beginnings, and George Harris) who all continue to be a support and ally for our youth in care and are all National Safe Place Homes. Staff and residents at each shelter will be celebrating by having a moment of silence on this day as well as creating LGBTQ+ support artwork. If you have a youth that identifies as LGBTQ, please look into these additional resources:

Metro Wellness & Community Center
 St. Petersburg Location
 727-321-3854
www.metrotampabay.org/
 Email: Info@metrotampabay.org
 Tampa Location - 813-232-3108
 Pasco & Hernando Location - 727-494-7625

PFLAG: <https://pflag.org/find-a-chapter>

Celebrating Ramadan:

Ramadan is a holy month for the followers of Islam, which celebrates when Muhammad received the initial revelations from Allah which later became the Quran. The dates of Ramadan are determined by the Islamic calendar which is based on the monthly cycles of the moon's phases. Ramadan is a time when Muslims focus on renewing their spiritual lives in order to become closer to Allah. Muslim's will fast from sunrise to sunset, recite the Quran, and avoid impure thoughts during the month of Ramadan. Muslim's will then gather with friends and family to break their fast together.

Autism Resources:

Below are some great resources you can reach out to for assistance with children in care who are on the autism spectrum.

- Outreach Autism Services Network (OASN): 352-462-0168
- Center for Autism & Related Disabilities (CARD): 813-974-2532
- Ability Tree: 352-593-0430
- Key Autism Services: 888-329-4535

