



Illinois Gender Advocates

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May 10, 2003

Beth Plotner
Chair

Dear Members and Friends,

Diana Williamson
Vice Chair

Eight years ago, a small but dedicated group banded together to fight for legal protection for transgender and gender variant people in Illinois. It's Time, Illinois was born! Late last year we realized a major portion of that goal with the passage of the Gender Identity Amendment in Chicago and Cook County.

Marsha Jackson
Treasurer

Rebecca Davis
Secretary

We have many individuals and organizations to thank for that success. But most of all, we would like to thank you, our loyal supporters. To those of you who stood by us over the years... who never lost faith as year after year we reported on the snails pace-progress toward the goal... we are forever in your debt!

Board Members:
Sara Fenwick
Toni Monzo
Jacob Mueller

We need to ask for your help once more...

Miranda Stevens-Miller
Legislative Director

For much of last year, the board of It's Time, Illinois worked on a new structure, a new organization that would continue to advocate for your rights once the major human rights initiatives were passed in Chicago, Cook County and the State of Illinois. That new organization is Illinois Gender Advocates or IGA.

With the new organization comes an expanded mission. Of course, we still maintain a focus on legislative and legal advocacy. Beyond Chicago there are only a handful of places that protect their gender variant population. But we have added an additional focus on transgender youth. Over the next five years or so, we hope to see the organization phasing out of legislative work and focusing more on protecting those among us who are most at risk... our trans youth.

To accomplish this mission, we have set ourselves a fundraising goal of \$20,000 over the next year. These funds will be used to maintain a weekly drop-in for trans youth and for educational outreach to governmental agencies, schools, foster care facilities, and other organizations that are responsible for care of trans youth. They will also be used for our legal advocacy fund to help offset legal fees for court cases in Illinois affecting the rights of our community. We need your help to keep all of this going.

Enclosed is a [pledge envelope for IGA's Advocates Club](#). There are a number of levels at which you can join the Club. When you return the envelope to us, please be as generous as possible with your contributions. Just remember, this time it's for the youth... it's for our future!

Sincerely yours,

Miranda Stevens-Miller
Legislative Director