

Briarpatch Bulletin

Summer Issue

June 2021

Briarpatch Celebrates 50th Anniversary

In the summer of 1971 a small group of local individuals came together for the welfare of the many runaways in the Madison area. They began seeking funding through collaborative partnerships to establish a place for kids on the run to obtain appropriate shelter, counseling and referrals to assist the family in the resolution of their conflicts. These volunteers sought to create a place where kids would come to talk when they're ready; a place to change laws and educate the people.

Fifty years later, after mergers, moves and name changes, Briarpatch Youth Services exists with many of the same goals and continues to expand services to support the needs of youth in Dane County.

In 2014, Briarpatch Youth Services completed a capital campaign, providing a permanent residence at 2720 Rimrock Road. The following year, we opened the doors to the first and only youth shelter in Dane County, available for youth ages 12-17. Additional support, such as individual counseling, family counseling, case management, a 24-hour help line and more are available to the youth in shelter. We are grateful to the many donors who support our agency so we can continue to provide these services.

This year we celebrate 50 YEARS of service in Dane County. We honor the youth who have touched our lives and who have helped us improve the work that we do!

This milestone is more than a historical celebration. It is a time of transition for our agency to seek the needs of youth and families and adjust our services to best support them. Briarpatch is undergoing a five-year strategic plan this summer that will guide us into the future. With the voices of youth, staff, board members and leadership, we will transform the services we provide to best meet the needs of youth and families of Dane County!



JOIN US!!

Briarpatch has many celebratory events planned for our 50th Anniversary and we welcome everyone to join us as we observe the decades of service that has been provided over the years. These events include:

- **Open House:** Saturday, September 18th, 11 am - 3 pm
- **Youth Arts Festival:** Saturday, October 9th, 12 pm - 3 pm
- **Golden Anniversary Event:** Thursday, November 4th, 6 pm - 10 pm at Brassworks.

Please visit our website for additional information on the events as it becomes available, www.briarpatch.org.

Briarpatch Hires New Executive Director



The Briarpatch Board of Directors welcomes new Executive Director, Gloria Reyes, after the previous Executive Director, Casey Behrend, retired in September with 20 years at the helm.

Getting to know Gloria

What are your hobbies?

I enjoy knitting, reading and running when I have some spare time. It has been a challenge to do any of these lately but hope to get back on a routine of enjoying my hobbies soon.

If you could go anywhere in the world, where would it be?

On a beautiful beach somewhere.....either in Israel or Mexico.

What is your favorite season of the year?

My favorite season is summer months in Madison.

What do you like best about living in Madison?

I love living in Madison. I grew up here and attended our public schools and UW Madison. I love the change in seasons in Madison and enjoy the engagement of diverse community actively working in seeking change in our community.

Many in the Dane County community know Gloria Reyes as a strong, capable leader, with a tremendous breadth of experience that will serve Briarpatch well. She is a passionate voice for youth, a great strategist, and an advocate for change; a perfect set of attributes to move us forward to being even better advocates for the youth we serve.

Gloria recently served as the President of the Madison (MMSD) School Board.

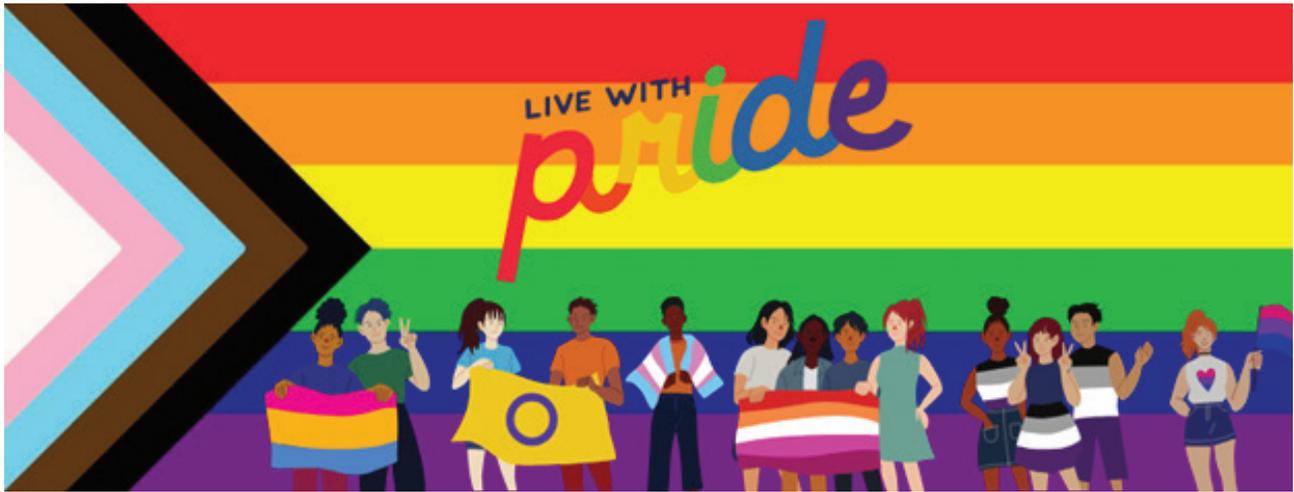
After being hired in November, Gloria Reyes stated "I am very excited for the opportunity to lead an organization with deep roots in our community serving our most vulnerable youth and families. I look forward to working with our board of directors and amazing staff at Briarpatch Youth Services, in advancing our mission, investing in our youth today for the future of Dane County."

In the first six months, I have witnessed our Briarpatch staff navigate the Covid-19 crisis with humanity and professionalism. It has been challenging for many non-profit organizations who serve our most vulnerable children and families who are most impacted by the covid crisis to ensure they get what is needed to get through the pandemic.

I have been able to meet with many stakeholders, non-profit, private and government partners. Everywhere I go people have their Briarpatch story, how they worked or received services at Briarpatch at some point in their lives. Briarpatch has a long history in Dane County. A history that changes the trajectory of our youth to overcome their trauma and challenges at a critical time in their lives. I am proud to be a part of the Dane County Briarpatch story.



Briarpatch
Youth Services



June is Pride Month

June has been recognized as Pride Month since June 28, 1969 when police raided the Stonewall Inn, a gay club in Greenwich Village. Patrons were harassed and 13 people arrested for violating anti-LGBT+ laws. Fed up with police harassment and social discrimination, patrons and allies refused to disperse and police aggressively handled the crowd, becoming violent. The violence escalated into riots in the thousands over the next five days. While the Stonewall happenings didn't start the gay rights movement, it was a catalyst for LGBT+ political activism and the formation of numerous gay rights organizations, such as the Human Rights Campaign. Every year after the Stonewall Riots, the month of June has been filled with Pride parades to honor those who fought for LGBT+ rights and to keep fighting for the rights and inclusion this community has yet to obtain.

Briarpatch's Teens Like Us (TLU) provides support and education for LGBTQ+ youth ages 13-18. Founded over 20 years ago, TLU provides a safe place for youth to meet with their peers. The group also serves youth questioning their sexuality as well as youth from LGBT-headed families. TLU meets weekly, (virtually, until COVID-safe), every Wednesday from 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm. To learn more about TLU, contact Ollie, ollie.schaal@briarpatch.org or Emily, emily.walden@briarpatch.org.

Colors of the Pride Flag



Pink = Sex
Red = Life
Orange = Healing
Yellow = Sunlight
Green = Nature
Turquoise = Art
Indigo = Harmony
Violet = Spirit

NEW Parent Support Group

Kicking off the 2021 Pride Month is a NEW support group for parents of queer and questioning youth. The Parent Support Program is partnering with Teens Like Us for virtual meetings the 2nd Tuesday of every month from 6-8 pm. When a child, teenager, or young adult "comes out" as part of the queer community, it can be very challenging for the entire family. The Parents of Queer and Questioning Youth Support Group provides an opportunity for parents to ask questions and learn in a judgement-free space. This support group is provided at no cost. For more information or virtual meeting instructions, please email the Parent Support Program Coordinator at lisa.mcguire@briarpatch.org.

Pride Prom

**Join Teens Like Us as we celebrate
LGBTQIA2s+ Pride!**

When: Saturday, June 26th, 5 - 10 pm

Where: Briarpatch Youth Services

2720 Rimrock Road, Madison, WI 53713

Who: Queer & questioning youth ages 12-19 and their partners

This event is hosted by Teens Like Us (TLU) and will be outdoors; masks and social distancing are required.

There is limited capacity, so RSVP is necessary.

Volunteers are needed! To RSVP or volunteer, please call 608.245.2550 or email ollie.schaal@briarpatch.org or emily.walden@briarpatch.org.

Briarpatch is grateful for our many supporters. As a nonprofit organization, we depend on public support through grants and both corporate and individual donations.

We are humbled to acknowledge that many of our donors have been supporting us for decades. Perhaps you had a child or family member who was involved in a Briarpatch program or a friend who sought help through our Parent Support Program. Whatever the reason for our donor's support, we are grateful for the long-term relationships and commitment to our agency.

We are grateful for the following government and foundation funding sources this year:

City of Madison
City of Sun Prairie
Village of Cottage Grove
Dane County
State of Wisconsin
US Department of Health and Human Services
United Way of Dane County
Roots and Wings Foundation
Willy Street Coop Community Reinvestment Fund
Madison Rotary Foundation
Madison Community Foundation

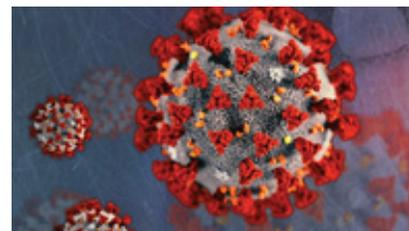
THANK YOU!



- Gary Davis, Youth Employment Program
- Whitley House, Intensive Supervision Program
- Dylan Kramer, Shelter, Runaway & Homeless Youth Program
- Jessie Lazo, Runaway & Homeless Youth Program
- Maria Perez-Torres, Runaway & Homeless Youth Program
- Gloria Reyes, Executive Director and CEO
- Ollie Schaal, Restorative Justice Program, TLU Facilitator
- Whitney Thomas, Shelter, Runaway & Homeless Youth Program
- Willie Watkins, Street Outreach Program

Essential services during COVID-19 crisis

Briarpatch continues to provide services in all programs during the COVID-19 pandemic. Safety protocols currently in place include temperature checks, mask wearing, social distancing and meticulous sanitization.



Some youth are meeting with staff in small groups, while others, such as Teens Like Us, are keeping up on Zoom. Our COVID-19 protocols were implemented for everyone's safety and we appreciate everyone's willingness to follow these guidelines when they enter our facility. For information about specific programs and their scheduling, please call Briarpatch at 608.245.2550. For updates on COVID-19 related protocols, visit our website at www.briarpatch.org.

Contact Us

Interested in learning more? Contact us at:

Briarpatch Youth Services

2720 Rimrock Road
Madison, WI 53713

- Phone: 608.245.2550
- Helpline: 608.251.1126
- Text: 608.285.2776

Email: contact@briarpatch.org

Or visit our website at www.briarpatch.org



United Way
of Dane County

Briarpatch Youth Services, 2720 Rimrock Rd., Madison, WI 53713 www.briarpatch.org