



# WJCS Center Lane



**MISSION:** WJCS Center Lane is where LGBTQ+ youth  
Create community, connect with culture and contribute to the world!

**ABOUT CENTER LANE:** Center Lane serves more than 500 LGBTQ+ and allied youth ages 13-21 in Westchester County annually by providing psychoeducational programming in welcoming spaces facilitated by caring, supportive, and knowledgeable adults. Center Lane Youth make friends, discuss issues that are important to them, problem-solve with the help of their peers, and engage as leaders.

**OUR PROGRAMS:** Center Lane provides a variety of programs facilitated by knowledgeable and affirming Center Lane staff to serve the diverse needs of youth throughout Westchester.

**Center Lane Groups** meet weekly in White Plains and Yonkers and are structured forums for participants to discuss what's going on with them or in the world, problem-solve with the help of their peers, make friends and build community.

**TransParentcy** is a unique support group where Trans and Gender Non-conforming (TGNC) youth meet in one room while their parents/caregivers meet next door so everyone has an opportunity to discuss topics of concern with peers.

**The Center Lane Program Center** provides access to activities and discussions to enhance skills, engage with adult mentors and community organizations, access services, make friends and build community in a safe and affirming teen space in Yonkers' Getty Square.

**Special Events** like our annual Gay Prom, Halloween party, Open Mic Nights and LGBTQ Movie Festivals are opportunities for youth to meet and engage with LGBTQ+ youth and allies throughout Westchester.



**Center Lane's Youth Leadership Board** is a group of LGBTQ+ youth dedicated to learning about how to be leaders, making important decisions about the future of Center Lane, planning special events for teens and having fun.

**Community Education** is crucial throughout Westchester County to ensure that LGBTQ+ youth are supported by their home communities. Center Lane is committed to serving LGBTQ+ youth by educating both youth and adults through fun, interactive, and educational presentations, trainings, and assemblies.

**PRIDE Groups** are short-term groups that can occur anywhere in Westchester! In 8-12 sessions of programming, a small group of youth learn about the LGBTQ community, culture and contributions to the world.

**OUTCOMES:** In a 2017 evaluation, 75% of youth report they've made friends at Center Lane, with 33% checking "This is home and where I hang with all of my favorite people," and 75% of youth reported that they always feel welcome at Center Lane. When asked whether they had learned more about the LGBTQ+ community from Center Lane, 82% responded affirmatively and 18% asked for more.

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