

# PHILADELPHIA FAMILY PRIDE



## 2021 ANNUAL REPORT



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

3 ...	Director's Statement
4 ...	Land Acknowledgement
5 ...	Black Lives Matter
6 ...	In-Person Events
7 ...	Virtual Events
8 ...	Parent Support
9 ...	Paths to Parenthood Classes
10 ...	Conference @ Home
12 ...	<i>Fulton v. City of Philadelphia</i>
13 ...	Board of Directors
14 ...	2021 Income
15 ...	2021 Expenses
16...	A Look Ahead

## Our Mission:

*Philadelphia Family Pride's mission is to build community for LGBTQ+ parents, prospective parents, grandparents and our kids of all ages – including adults, youth, kids, toddlers and infants. We support our families in the greater Philadelphia region through advocacy, education and family-centered events.*

# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Another year for Philly Family Pride has come to a close. While 2020 was spent examining the weaknesses that the pandemic revealed in our society and figuring out how to get through each day, in 2021 we were able to get into the groove as an organization with virtual events, the restarting of in-person events outdoors, and expanding our virtual conference.

While systemic problems persisted, we also celebrated the helpers working every day in our communities to get folks vaccinated (and then boosted), move children back to their schools as safely as possible, and take care of our physical and mental well-being.

As normalcy started to creep back in around the edges, we were faced with the biggest wave of the pandemic yet with the Omicron surge around the holidays. PFP suspended our in-person events, and worked to support families online through our "Parenting Through a Pandemic" series.

We look forward to 2022 and will continue to remain an agile, responsive group. If there is something we can do for you and your family, please let us know. My email address is [stephanie@phillyfamilypride.org](mailto:stephanie@phillyfamilypride.org).

In solidarity,



**STEPHANIE C. HAYNES**

Executive Director

*Pictured left with her wife, Vicky.*

*Photo by Kelly Burkhardt*





# LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Philadelphia Family Pride feels that it is important as an organization to name the land that the organizers occupy as stolen land.

Philadelphia and the surrounding areas are located on land stolen from the Leni Lenape people as seen in the map on this page.

Take time to educate yourselves and your children about the history and present-day lives of the indigenous people in the places you live, work, and travel.

The photo printed below is from the City of Philadelphia Mayor's Office from the celebration of Indigenous People's Day 2021.





# BLACK LIVES MATTER

Once again the board and leadership of Philadelphia Family Pride reiterates, emphatically, that **Black Lives Matter**. We (re)affirm that the on-going, systematic, state-sanctioned violence against Black people by this country is a crime that cannot continue and that an end to white supremacy is long, long overdue.

As an organization dedicated to LGBTQ+ families, we feel called to remind our community that the history of LGBTQ+ rights is filled with protests, property destruction, riots, and many other responses to the unjust oppression of a people.

It has been 520 years since the first African people were kidnapped and enslaved in the Americas. 520 years of state-sanctioned genocide in one form or another, from enslavement to the prison industrial complex. The Boston Tea party was a property destroying protest; the Boston Massacre started with rocks thrown at soldiers. We celebrate those riots as acts of patriotism and bravery – and they were just fighting about taxes and voting rights. How can any reaction to 520 years of violence be seen as anything but justified?

To those in our community who may say that racism is not the work of an LGBTQ+ organization, we remind you that we are a vibrant multi-racial community. And that, sadly, our community is not immune to racism and white supremacy. Much of the work for LGBTQ+ liberation has been (and continues to be) led by people of color, only for those people and their critical work to be erased. If we as an LGBTQ+ community do not stand against racism, we abandon ourselves, our families, our history, and our community.

**BLACK  
LIVES  
MATTER**

**BLACK  
TRANS LIVES  
MATTER**



# IN-PERSON EVENTS

PFP was able to resume in-person events in June 2021 as vaccines became widely available for those 18+, then later to the kids 12+ and then to the 5-11 year olds. To protect our children who could not yet be vaccinated, including the under-five crowd, we continued to ask those attending to wear masks as you'll see in the photos.

In all, we held a dozen events in person in 2021 ranging from meetups with the always-popular bubble machine in the Meadows at FDR Park, to hikes at Andorra Meadow in the Wissahickon and the Heinz Wildlife Refuge, to yoga in Clark Park in West Philly, to a super-fun outdoor drag queen story time for Halloween (see cover photo).

Thanks to board member and events planning committee chair Lori Keslowitz for making sure these events went off without a hitch!

One of our most popular events was a trip to the Audubon Center in Audubon, PA to learn about birds and meet chickens, raptors, and owls. Thanks to our new friend Sheila Lorrett Emerson (pictured below against the fence) for giving us a tour. We look forward to working with Sheila in 2022 in her new capacity as Board President of the newly revitalized PFLAG-Philadelphia chapter.



*Audubon Center Trip – September 12, 2021*

# VIRTUAL EVENTS

PFP events on Zoom and Facebook Live continued into 2021 as a way to keep folks connected and build community in a virtual, COVID-safe space.

To that end, we held 44 virtual events throughout 2021 on a variety of topics and for a variety of audiences. From meetups for trans parents to parenting classes to support groups and game nights, we tried to offer a little of everything as we all pulled together to get through the pandemic.

Highlights include:

- Our first-ever virtual town hall and annual meeting, held in early January 2021.
- Online Minecraft meetups for our kids held both on Zoom and in the game itself.
- The monthly Trans Parent Meetup on Zoom led by PFP Vice-Chair for 2021 Jadzia Axelrod. We appreciate her leadership and continued efforts to keep this group going.
- Black LGBTQ+ parents Zoom meetup with new Family Equality CEO Stacey Stevenson.

Read more about other virtual events for parents and prospective parents on the following pages.





# PARENT SUPPORT

What we learned in 2020 we extended into 2021, shifting as parents' needs shifted. We provided an ongoing list of opportunities for support and community online for parents. Some of these events were recorded and are available on our YouTube channel. Many were not recorded to provide a private atmosphere for parents to talk to each other.

Topics covered in the 2021 online workshops and meetups included:

- Parenting Through a Pandemic Series
- Single Parents Coffee Connection
- Family Game Nights
- Monthly trans parent meetups
- Monthly dads meetups
- Call Us By Our Names: A Conversation for and by Black LGBTQ+ Parents
- Poly Families Meetup
- Daring to Rest™ Series
- Talking to Kids About Race and Racism Series

In addition to these sessions, we also offered multiple workshops and sessions for LGBTQ+ parents during our four day conference in November. (See pages 10-11.)

## Talking to Kids About Race and Racism

**All Lives Can't Matter Until Black Lives Matter**

Join us for a free, three-part interactive series on Zoom with Sherry Wyche on Oct. 6th, 20th and Nov. 6th. RSVP at [phillyfamilypride.org](https://phillyfamilypride.org).



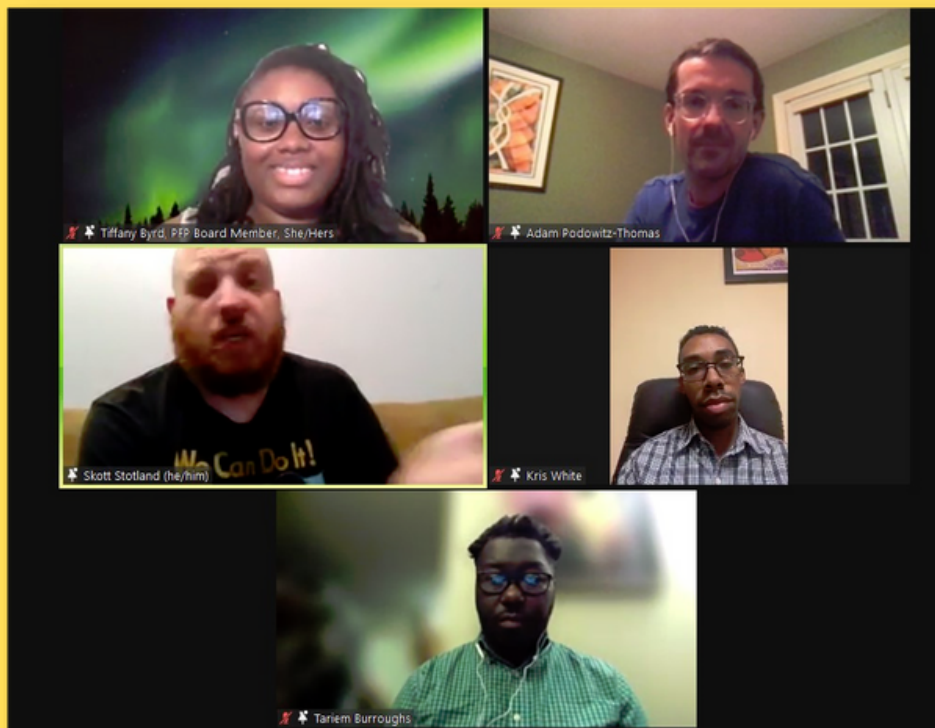
# PATHS TO PARENTHOOD

Providing educational classes for LGBTQ+ prospective parents is one of Philly Family Pride's core missions. In 2021, we continued the model we started in 2020 of having a series of stand-alone sessions in the summer that could be attended virtually or watched at a later time on our YouTube channel.

We'd like to thank our 2021 Bridging the Gaps intern Sara Banbury for her work in putting together and running these sessions for prospective parents in the summer of 2021. Sara set up and ran six classes on the following topics:

- Building Your LGBTQ+ Led Family Using Surrogacy
- Becoming an LGBTQ+ Foster Parent
- Building Your LGBTQ+ Family with Donor Sperm
- Legal Considerations for Building Your LGBTQ+ Family
- Prenatal Care and Birth for the LGBTQ+ Community
- Adoption Options for LGBTQ+ Families

We also held an in-person mixer for class presenters and participants at the Parks on Tap behind the Philadelphia Museum of Art as well as more programming for prospective parents at our fall conference.



*Adoption Options Session - August 10, 2021*

# CONFERENCE @ HOME

Our 12th Annual Family Matters Conference took place virtually the evenings of Thursday, Nov. 4th and Friday, Nov. 5th and during the day on Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 6-7th. The conference is our biggest educational event of the year. Although we were again unable to get together in person, we worked to build the same sense of community as our past in-person conferences through engaging online sessions.

The theme was "Lessons in Resilience" with sessions for parents on various aspects of resilience, stories of resilience from elders in the community, and info on cultivating resilience in our kids.

New in 2021 was a series of "Recipes for Resilience" short videos recorded by community members in lieu of a keynote talk. (See the videos on our new YouTube channel.)

We also had a full list of sessions for prospective parents, including a couple of new offerings:

- Financial Planning for LGBTQ+ Prospective Parents
- Daring to Rest™ on the Path to Parenthood



*Stories of Resilience: A Conversation with LGBTQ+ Grandparents Nov. 4th*



# CONFERENCE @ HOME, CONT.

Although child care was not possible again this year with a virtual event, we did have a few things lined up for our kids. We included a fun age-appropriate activity, craft, or game in the registration packages mailed out to early registrants, and we held an all-ages yoga class, a special Minecraft hangout designed just for our kids, and a live Drag Queen Story Time with Miss Brittany Lynn.

As we've done at the past at many of our in-person conferences, we wrapped up the event by hearing from youth with LGBTQ+ caregivers. The "Ask the Experts: COLAGE Teen Panel" featured youth and young adults from LGBTQ+-led families who discussed their experiences having LGBTQ+ parents. This session was organized and led by our friends at COLAGE, the only national organization expressly dedicated to supporting people with one or more LGBTQ+ caregiver.

Finally, we'd like to extend a special thanks to our 41 conference sponsors who continue to make this event possible. For a full list of our conference sponsors and more on the event, please visit our website - [PFPCConference.org](http://PFPCConference.org).



*Ask the Experts: COLAGE Teen Panel Nov. 7th*

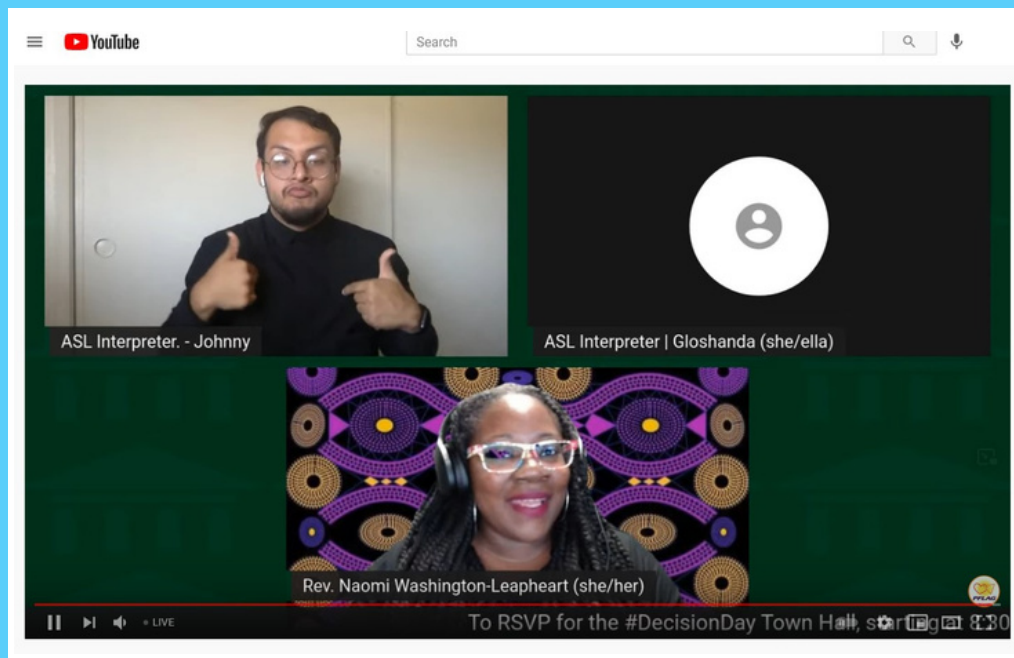
# FULTON V. CITY OF PHILA

Philadelphia Family Pride is proud to be an intervenor in the case *Fulton v. City of Philadelphia*, which was argued in front of the United States Supreme Court on November 4, 2020. PFP was jointly represented by the ACLU and the ACLU of Pennsylvania with our friends, Support Center for Child Advocates. PFP and the Support Center intervened in the case to represent the interests of foster care youth and same-sex couples that are or hope to be foster parents.

The case, briefly, dealt with whether Catholic Social Services (CSS) is obligated to comply with the City of Philadelphia's Fair Practices Ordinance (FPO) in its provision of foster care services – particularly, the provision in the FPO that requires government contractors to not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

On June 17, 2021, the U.S. Supreme Court released their ruling, unanimously rejecting Philadelphia's decision to terminate a contract with Catholic Social Services over its refusal to consider same-sex married couples as potential foster parents. That decision sent the dispute back to the appellate court. But ultimately the city decided not to pursue further legal challenges and came to a resolution approved by the U.S. District Court on Oct. 1.

While the city lost the case, importantly this was a narrow decision that just impacted this contract. The court did not establish a general right for religious organizations to violate non-discrimination laws. More at <https://www.philadelphiafamilypride.org/fulton-v-city-of-phila.html>.



*PFP Board Member Naomi Washington-Leapheart speaking at the Decision Day Town Hall.*

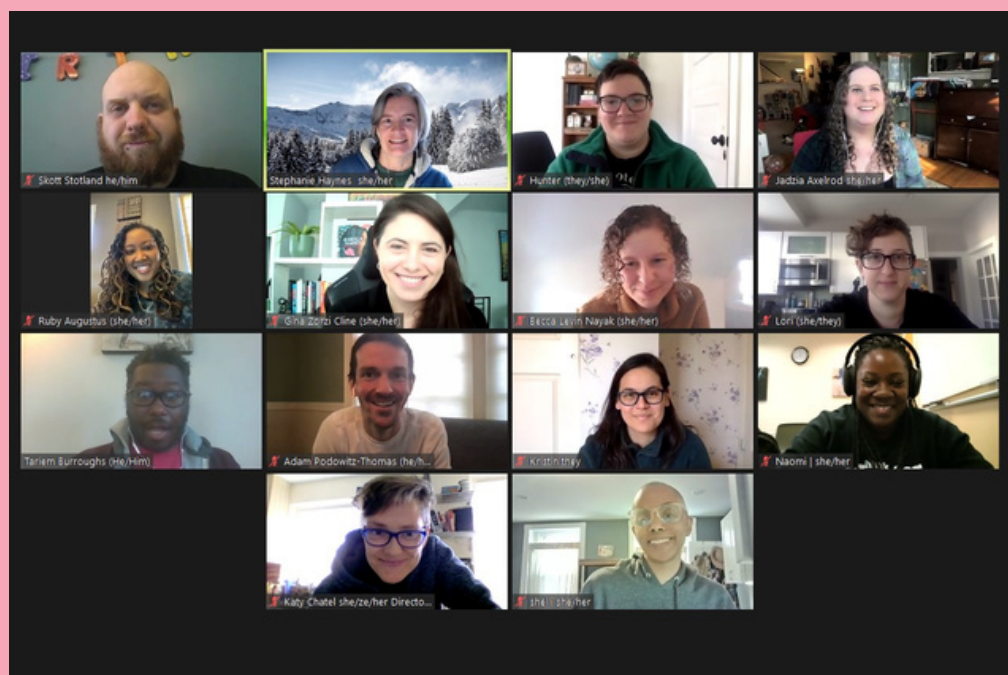
# 2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The 2021 Board of Directors for PFP was elected at our annual membership meeting as part of our Virtual Town Hall on January 9, 2021. PFP is fortunate to have such a dedicated group of volunteers leading this organization. Members for 2021 included:

Tariem Burroughs, Chair  
Jadzia Axelrod, Vice Chair  
Ruby Augustus, Secretary  
Gina Cline, Treasurer

Katy Chatel, Fundraising Committee Chair  
Lori Keslowitz, Events Planning Committee Chair  
Mikah Thomas, Education & Advocacy Committee Chair  
Naomi Washington-Leapheart, Membership Committee Chair

Members at large: Kristin Baglieri, Shelli Branscomb, Tiffany Byrd, Hunter McCorkel, Sebastian Miller, Rebecca Nayak, Adam Podowitz-Thomas, and Skott Stotland.



*PFP Board of Directors Meeting on Zoom - Jan. 23, 2021*



# 2021 INCOME

Philadelphia Family Pride's income for 2021 was gratefully very similar to pre-pandemic levels. Our conference sponsors again came through big for LGBTQ+ families, and those who were able continued their support as PFP members. We also put a greater emphasis on newsletter ad sponsors which paid off.

Conference Sponsorships - \$23,998

Membership Dues - \$3,521

Conference Registration Fees - \$3,132

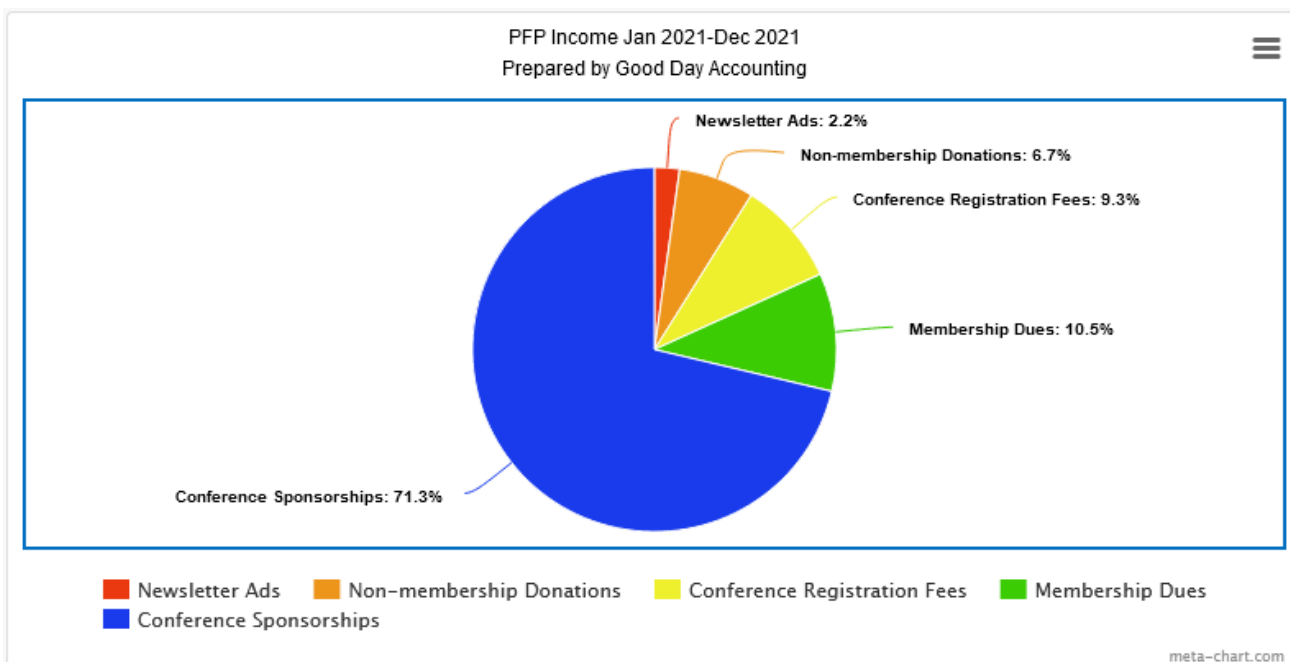
Non-membership Donations - \$2,252

Newsletter Ads - \$750

We unfortunately did not receive any grant funding in 2021, but look forward to more opportunities in 2022 and beyond.

Every other income area was up from 2020, allowing PFP to continue our work serving LGBTQ+-led families in the Philadelphia region. See the following page for details on our expenses.

Thank you to Jaie Bosse at Good Day Accounting for their work in keeping our books this year.



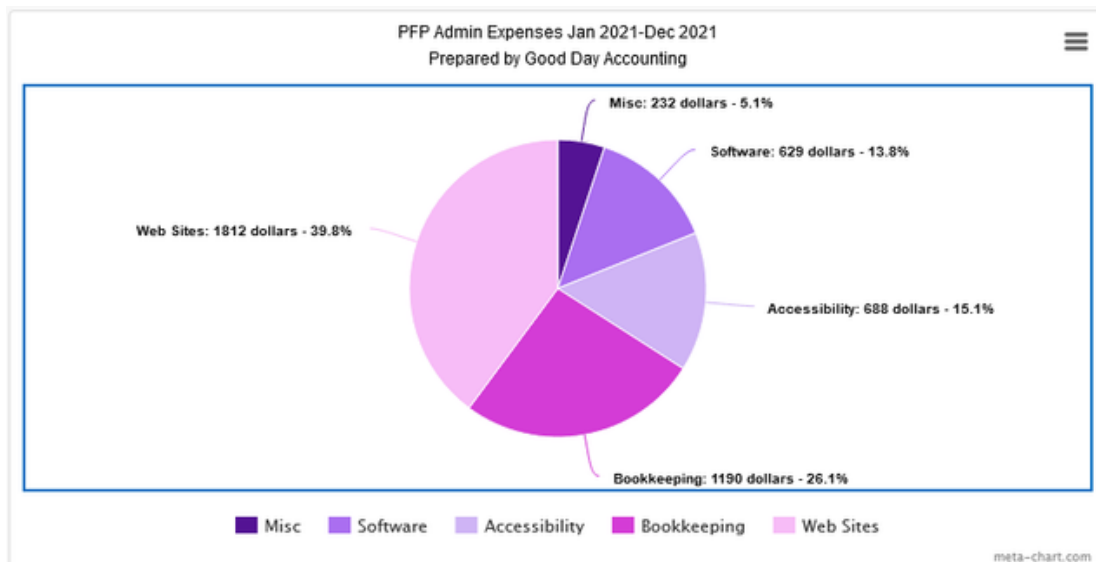
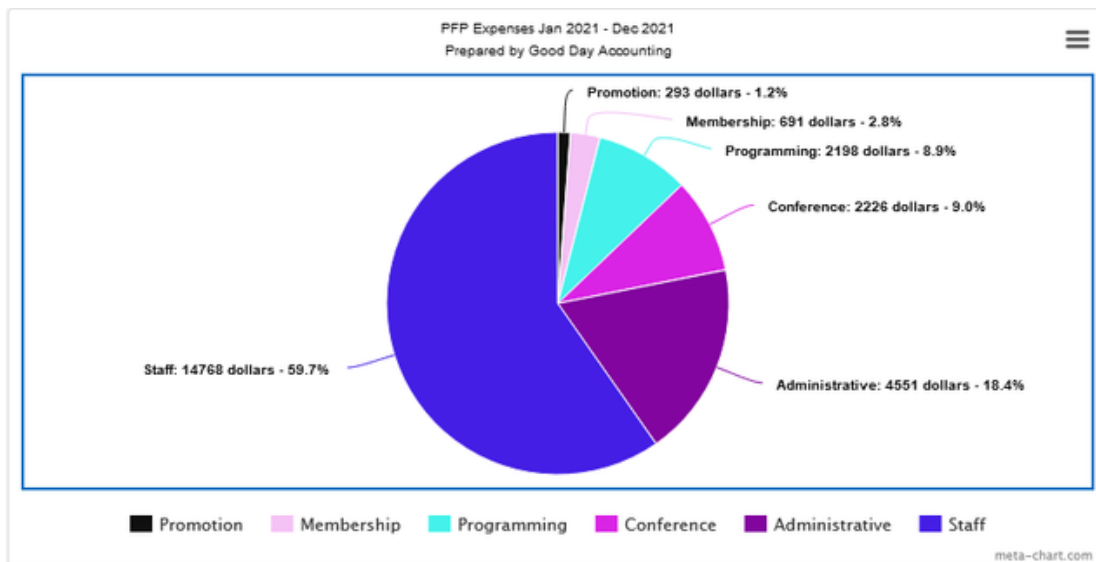
# 2021 EXPENSES

Philadelphia Family Pride's expenses for 2021 were similar to 2020, but still very different from expenses in previous years. Pre-COVID, many of our expenses revolved around holding in-person events and subsidizing ticket prices to various family-friendly venues for our members.

As a virtual event for the second year in a row, our annual conference also incurred many fewer expenses given that we weren't feeding people, printing programs, etc.

See the breakout of our expenses in the pie chart below. We've additionally broken out the administrative expenses below that so it is clear what those monies were going toward.

If you have any questions about our income, expenses, or admin costs, please contact PFP ED Stephanie Haynes at [stephanie@phillyfamilypride.org](mailto:stephanie@phillyfamilypride.org).



# A LOOK AHEAD

If nothing else, the pandemic has taught us to live in the moment and be grateful for what we have while we have it. PFP has learned this lesson by listening to our members and doing our best to fill the needs of our families and prospective parents. While we want to live in the moment and especially remember to treasure the moments we have with our children, we also need to think and plan ahead.

The unpredictability of the pandemic makes planning a challenge, as we all know. In 2020, we were planning in-person events with virtual backups, which turned into all virtual. Last year, we planned virtual events and eventually added in events held outdoors in person.

This year while things are looking good now and we're planning mostly in-person events (writing this in mid-March), it's hard not to also think about and plan for another variant or wave pushing us back into mostly virtual program offerings by the fall. But having learned our lesson, we will enjoy all the moments we get to spend in community, whether those are in person, on Zoom, or in our Facebook group.





# Contact:

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**Twitter:** @PhillyFamPride

**YouTube:** <https://bit.ly/33la0Zz>

