

OCTOBER

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You're invited!

Tribe hosts O&AN birthday bash on Oct. 18

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Sister act

The Juggs are on the loose

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Haunting premier

Ballet's 'Bell Witch' opens Oct. 17



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OUT & ABOUT

The newspaper serving the GLBT Nashville & Knoxville community

NASHVILLE

## Tramps Ball raises more than \$8,000 for charity

by Mike Robinson

O&AN Senior Photographer  
photo@outandaboutnashville.com

The 13th Annual Tramps Ball was held Sunday, Aug. 31 at the Chute Complex, raising more than \$8,000 for charity. The annual fund raiser was started by Paul Lawson and the Conductor's Club. For the last 10 years, Don Hartsfield, the current owner of the Chute, and his staff have carried on the tradition of making sure this is one of the most anticipated fundraisers in the GLBT community.

The Tramps Ball is the largest charitable fundraiser hosted by the Chute Complex. Organizations that receive money from the event include Alive Hospice, Nashville CARES, the Comprehensive Care Center and the Conductor's PWA Fund.

Titled "Fantasy Island," the theme

encompassed many different settings in the bar, a different setting for each part of the complex.

Becky Pope, one of the managers at the Chute, works extra hard on the design theme to make sure everything is perfect by Labor Day weekend. Months of pre-planning are required to pull everything together for the big night.

There was a huge turnout for this year's event, which was comprised of a very diverse crowd. The silent auction is always one of the highlights of the affair with a multitude of donated items going to the highest bidder at the end of the night.

"A lot of work was put into this year's benefit," says Hartsfield. "We thank everyone for all their hard work and another successful Tramps Ball. This year's event surpassed last year's total donations." ■



Donna, Jon, Sara and the "baby"



Ron looks over some auction items

Photos by Mike Robinson

## MAGNET celebrates 15 years of support

by Bryan B. Bliss

O&AN News Writer

bryan@outandaboutnashville.com

For 15 years, a support group for married gay and bi sexual men has quietly been salvaging lives in Nashville.

MAGNET (Married and Gay NETwork) is celebrating its 15-year anniversary Oct. 11 – National Coming Out Day. Dan Webber founded the group after realizing there aren't many support options for a married, gay man.

"This group was started mainly for my own selfish reasons," Webber said. "I needed this group, and there wasn't one."

MAGNET is currently facilitated by Jim Robert and his partner Gary Stewart.

Robert and Stewart both are former members of the group, which is hosted in their home.

"I thought I would go to my grave with this secret," Stewart said. "I was married for 28 years. I thought, when I got married, these feelings would go away, and I would be 'normal.'"

Robert, who also was married for 30 years, said the group's primary purpose is to create a forum for men who are dealing with the same issues he, Stewart, and Webber struggled with.

"It's amazing the number of calls

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## One-in-Teen severs from RCC

by Joseph Brant

O&AN Business Writer

joseph@outandaboutnashville.com

One-In-Teen Youth Services, the social, support, and services group for teens, has ended its already-limited relationship with Nashville's Rainbow Community Center.

Just one month following the election of seven new board members to RCC, senior adult sponsor and One-In-Teen board member DeWayne Fulton made the announcement by e-mail on Sept. 10, which read, "One-In-Teen's long relationship with RCC has been recently strained by Dr. Arnold's [RCC executive director] covert attempts to incorporate One-in-Teen into the RCC corporate structure."

The announcement came only two days after an RCC board meeting at which many new board members questioned their organizational standing with One-In-Teen as well.

Of the board members who claimed to have spoken or exchanged e-mails with Fulton, they believed it was he who made it difficult to arrange a meeting time. (Earlier, Fulton reportedly requested a meeting with the board, asking as well that Arnold not be present.)

At issue for Fulton, acting on behalf of One-In-Teen, was the use of monies granted to RCC from the Community Foundation's Franklin Brooks Fund, intended for use by One-In-Teen. It was an issue brought up at the RCC board meeting.

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### Letter Policy

Letters to the editor are welcome and encouraged. Letters must be signed. *O&AN* reserves the right to edit for clarity.

Send letters to:  
[editor@outandaboutnashville.com](mailto:editor@outandaboutnashville.com)

## MAGNET - continued from page 1

I get," Robert said. "There are people out there who are so desperate, and they need a way to verbalize the things they are feeling."

Dan Webber agreed, "It's a desperate place."

This desperation leads many of MAGNET's former participants to continue attending the meetings - even after they have come out. Stewart said this is a testament to the group's effectiveness.

"There are people who come to the group, who are no longer married," Stewart said. "They believe in the group, and they want to help other people."

This help comes in many ways. MAGNET has referred members of the group to therapists who are sen-

sitive to issues of sexuality. Webber said the group's work can be accentuated with professional therapy.

"We are not professional therapists, and we don't try to do that," Stewart said. "We try to help by listening. But, a lot of the counselors in town refer their patients to our group for that very reason. The group can be very beneficial."

Robert emphasizes "network" in the group's name. Both he and Webber agreed that the group's tone was one of friendship, and relationship building. However, don't expect to find a date at MAGNET.

"This is not a place to come cruising," Robert said. "That doesn't mean relationships don't come out of this

experience, but nobody should come here looking for that."

Participants will find an apt audience, keen on listening and learning from any man willing to summon the courage to attend a meeting.

"It takes a lot of strength to walk through that door," Webber said. "A new guy walking through that door is a gift. It's a very serious thing, because I know that means we might have the opportunity to salvage a life."

MAGNET's 15-year anniversary will be celebrated at the Gaslite Lounge; there is no cover charge. Jim Robert or Gary Stewart can be contacted at: (615) 260-5968. ■

## One-in-teen - continued from page 1

Arnold addressed the question directly, stating that not only was the use of the money - some of which was attributed to One-In-Teen's prior use of items such as videos and drinks - approved by the Community Foundation's liaison for the Brooks grant, but a portion of that money was a personal gift whose donor approved the use of the funds. Arnold added that One-In-Teen has not been in touch with RCC for the money to be forwarded.

Fulton responded to *Out & About Nashville*, "I don't know what else to say about the Brooks grant. We seem to have different memories of who said what, who want-

ed to meet, and why. Ultimately, it's all academic at this point, because the money's been spent."

It was announced at the RCC meeting that One-In-Teen owes three months back rent, does not have an active solicitation permit, and there have been witnessed incidents in which the group has met with insufficient or no adult supervision. Where, or why, this information was accessed and presented is somewhat unclear. Some board members claimed some of it comes from an attempt to figure out, without Fulton's presence, why he was interested in calling a meeting. ■

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