



Time Out Youth provides education, advocacy and support to LGBTQ youth between the ages of 13 and 23 in Charlotte and the surrounding areas.

## Time Out Youth Welcomes New Board and Staff

Following a strategic process, the following individuals have been elected to a three-year term on the Time Out Youth Board: **Christa Carter**, PhD, SVP Corporate Retail Basel Advisor, Wells Fargo; **Jeremy Carter**, Principal of DEC Associates; **Ivey Graham**, Senior Product Support Analyst with Eclipsys; **Daniel Mauney**, Partner, Sloan, Inc.; **Tracy Russ**, Principal Consultant at Russ Communications. Continuing our tradition of offering board seats to our constituency, we have invited the following youth to serve one-

year terms on our Board: **Ean Woods**, who will be attending CPCC in the fall, **Loan Tran** and **Dang Pham**, both students at Phillip O. Berry High School. Please join us in welcoming these talented, dedicated individuals who will be working hard to further our mission to serve the LGBTQ youth of Charlotte. In addition to the changes in our Board, in March we welcomed a new staff member, **Candice Langston**, MBA/MA, as Development Director. This is a new position created to move our

organization forward in fundraising and marketing.

In January, we said goodbye to **Akeliah Stewart**, who served us faithfully as Youth Programs Director for two years. We expanded the duties of Youth Services Director, **Laurie Pitts**, MSW, to meet the organization's needs. We are grateful to Akeliah for sharing her passion and many talents with us!

Welcome to our new Board and Staff members!

**Thanks to Retiring Board Members!** With deep and sincere gratitude, we say farewell to retiring Board Members **Lee Knight Caffery**, **Jo Carter**, **June Carter**, **Patty Holt**, **Matt Kalnen** and **Paul Koehnke**. Though these amazing individuals are ending their tenure on the Board, we welcome them now as supporters and life-long friends.

## Time Out Youth Staff

Steve Bentley, Executive Director  
Laurie Pitts, MSW, Youth Programs & Services Director

Leigh Dixon, Office Administrator  
Candice Langston, Development Director

# Time Out Youth: Family in Every Sense of the Word

by Laurie Pitts

I can't really remember a time in my life when I wasn't aware of Time Out Youth's existence and in awe of the work that is done there. In college, I mustered every bit of courage I had and walked in the door as a youth who was just beginning the process of coming out. Even though I was terrified, I remember being glad that that particular door was there for me to open. I went in and in that instant, my life changed. While I had quite a few LGBTQ friends and knew that there were other folks like me in the world and even in Charlotte, what I didn't know was that there were adults who would support me unconditionally. I carried that knowledge with me as I left college and Charlotte. It is also that knowledge that informed my life as an activist and my later decision to become a social worker.

The next time I opened a door to Time Out Youth it was over a decade later. I had moved back to Charlotte for graduate school. When it was time to decide on where I wanted to do my last social work internship, I knew that I wanted Time Out Youth to be that place. I saw it as my chance to give back to the agency that, even though I only went a few times, created a sort of home base for me when I needed it most. What I didn't count on was how lucky I would feel to have the opportunity to get to know the youth. As an intern, I thought that I would be helping our youth to navigate the world around them, offer up my experiences when needed, provide insight during Monday night group, educate the community by working with our

Speakers Bureau, and advocate for the best interests of youth whenever necessary. During that time, I learned more than I could ever have anticipated. I learned that our youth would exceed our expectations of them every time, if given the right tools. I learned that our youth have a far more important voice in educating the community than I could ever have. I also learned that advocating for what's best for our youth could be harder than I ever imagined. I left my internship with a great amount of sadness, but also gratitude for the opportunities I'd been given during my internship, respect for the mission of the agency and a profound love for all of the youth I'd had the privilege of meeting along the way.

That love never disappeared and I have now been working at Time Out Youth for a little over a year and in that time I feel blessed to have seen such positive growth in this agency. I'm grateful for a Board of Directors that is committed to helping our youth become the best of whoever it is they want to be. I'm grateful for an executive director who works tirelessly to ensure that the needs of our youth are met and helps me become a better social worker with each passing day. Steve and I often say that we, as staff, are like a family to our youth. We are the ones they come to for advice on anything from school to relationships to employment. We share their victories and feel their disappointments. What I also realize is that they often do the same for us. I have a six-month-old daughter who visits our office quite a bit. When she's there, I swear the youth are as excited to see her as I am. I was watching one of our youth holding her the other day, knowing all of the challenges that his life had brought him and thought that if she grows up with even a fraction of the strength and

compassion that this youth has, she'll do alright in this world. Is there a better gift than that?

## Open Doors...

Youth board member, **Matt Kalnen**, graduated from UNCC on May 21 with a degree in Management Information Systems. He began work with Hewitt Associates on June 1st. Following is an excerpt from his resignation letter to the board of directors, reflecting on his experience at Time Out Youth.

Fellow Board Members and Friends,

I first came to TOY in August of 2007 when I started college. I spent my first summer working at Duke Energy as part of the TOY Internship Program, gaining knowledge and experience needed for my degree. A year later I was invited back by Duke Energy as part of their salaried internship program. As I finish up my finals and tie up all the loose ends, I happily reflect on these accomplishments. I am more than amazed at the fact that I have gained a bachelors degree in three years, and have paid a significant portion of my schooling along the way.

None of my accomplishments would have been possible without support from Time Out Youth. Without the massive amount of support and guidance this organization has provided, I would not be where I am now. The volunteers and staff were a major driving force leading to the accomplishments that I have had, and will have in the future. I can honestly say that without the constant efforts to always push me to do better, I would be a very different person from what I have grown into today. I am very excited because of you to start the next chapter of my life.

Thank You for Everything!

Time Out Youth Celebrations!



## Programs and Grants

Thanks to a generous grant of \$4,300 from the **Wesley Mancini Foundation**, Time Out Youth launched a School Outreach Initiative in February 2010. This effort consisted of a mailing to every middle and high school Principal, Assistant Principal, Guidance Counselor and Social Worker in our six county service area. The mailing included information about working with LGBTQ youth and information about the services Time Out Youth offers. Additionally, **Faith In America** and **Mitchell Gold** donated copies of Mitchell's book, *CRISIS*, which were also sent to each school.

Time Out Youth was also recently awarded two grants from the **Charlotte Lesbian and Gay Fund**. An unrestricted operating grant of \$18,500 will be used to fund overhead expenses such as rent and utilities and a Community Connections grant of \$3,000 will fund a Volunteer Community Service program for our youth beginning this summer.

Congratulations to our 2009 Neil and Tim Griffin Scholarship winner, **Jarrell Waddell**, who completed his first year at Johnson & Wales with a GPA of 3.64! Says Jarrell, "I stayed on the Dean's List this entire year...it wasn't easy and I have Time Out Youth to thank, in part. I'm grateful for their trust and confidence. I have to thank them so much for my success in school and in my personal life and for their love and encouraging words." The deadline for applications for the 2010 scholarship is July 18th.

## Time Out Youth Needs...

Computer Desks  
Tall Bookcases  
Dehumidifier  
Card Tables  
Dorm-Size Fridge (3-4 cubic feet)  
Board Games  
Office Supplies  
Gift Cards  
Large White-Board and Easel  
Youth-Appropriate Movies and DVD's

## 2010 Board

Brandon G. Major, Chair  
Human Resources Professional

Chip Perry, Vice Chair, Marketing and Fundraising  
Artistic Director, FUZE Salon  
Owner, Quirk Visual

Tim Bice, Treasurer  
Senior Vice President, International Wachovia/Wells Fargo

Terri Mathews, MSW, ABD, Secretary  
Professor of Social Work,  
University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Jonathan Anslow, PsyD  
Psychologist  
Southeast Psychological Associates

Donell Beaty, Youth Board Member  
University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Christa Carter  
SVP, Retail Basel Business Advisor  
Wells Fargo

Jeremy Carter  
Vice President  
DEC Associates

Ivey Graham  
Senior Product Support Specialist  
Eclipsys Corporation

John Johnson, III  
Account Executive, Institutional Sales  
Skyscope, Inc

Ted Lewis  
Assistant Director for Sexual/Gender Diversity  
University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Jolie Lang, LPC  
Executive Project Coordinator  
Nat'l Board for Certified Counselors

Daniel Mauney  
Partner  
Sloan, Inc.

Dang Pham, Youth Board Member  
Philip O. Berry High School

Ivel Posada, Youth Board Member  
Butler High School

Tracy Russ  
Principal Consultant, Russ Communications  
Founding Partner, Interactive Decisions

Loan Tran, Youth Board Member  
Philip O. Berry High School

Ean Woods, Youth Board Member  
Central Piedmont Community College

## Gaga for Dada! Time Out Youth Celebrates the Arts

Mark your calendars for Sunday July 11th for Celebration of the Arts, our annual fundraiser! As in years past, we will feature a variety of actors, dancers, singers, and other performers from the Charlotte area who come together to entertain you and help raise money for Time Out Youth. Hosted again by Theatre Charlotte, you'll enjoy an evening of food, music, great entertainment and surprises. Tickets are \$45 for general seating and \$65 for VIP on-stage seating (tables of 4). Call 704.344.8335 or go to [TimeOutYouth.org](http://TimeOutYouth.org) to purchase tickets or for more information. Free parking is available in the RBC Bank lot located at the corner of Queens Road and Colonial Road. We'll also be **raffling an Apple iPad!**

**Remember to bring CASH to purchase cocktails and raffle tickets!**

## Fund-Raisers, Friend-Raisers and More...

**Petra's Piano Bar** recently hosted a one-man show produced by **Stephen Seay** and starring **Sal Garcia** called "Talk of the Town". A portion of the proceeds from the show, a coming of age and coming out story of a young man in rural Texas, were donated to Time Out Youth.

On February 24<sup>th</sup>, the Welcoming and Affirming Fellowship of **Myers Park Baptist Church** hosted Mitchell Gold, furniture designer, gay rights activist and editor of **CRISIS: 40 Stories Revealing the Personal, Social and Religious Pain and Trauma of Growing Up Gay in America**. Speaking to an audience of nearly 200, including several of our youth, Mitchell addressed the unnecessary ostracism, and heartbreak faced by many LGBTQ youth. Following the program at MPBC, Petra's Piano Bar hosted an intimate discussion by Gold, Brent Childers, Executive Director of Faith in America and Matt Comer, a former Time Out Youth member, a contributor to **CRISIS** and editor of **Q-Notes**. Time Out Youth and Campus Pride co-sponsored the evening's events.

Time Out Youth participated in Philanthropy Week, sponsored by Morton's The Steakhouse as the featured non-

profit on February 25<sup>th</sup>. A portion of the sales was donated to TOY.

**Southern Country Charlotte** held its annual Queen City Stomp the weekend of April 16<sup>th</sup> at the Airport Sheraton. Once again, Time Out Youth was chosen as a beneficiary of the event's proceeds.

Our thanks to all these great supporters!

### Youth Celebrations

On May 7<sup>th</sup> Time Out Youth honored our graduating high school and college seniors with a graduation party. We are proud of all our graduates who earned their degrees, especially in light of the high drop-out rate among LGBTQ youth. June 11<sup>th</sup> was also a special night for our youth who celebrated an Alternative Prom. TOY members and their guests were joined by volunteers, board members and staff for an evening of food, music and dancing.

### Connect With Us!

Join our group of 1000+ friends on Facebook! You can also follow us on Twitter @TimeOutYouth. You'll find information about our programs, events and news! Don't forget to visit [TimeOutYouth.org](http://TimeOutYouth.org) and tell your friends!

## Help Us Go Green

Time Out Youth is taking steps to "go green" and reduce our carbon footprint. These suggestions will also make communicating with you easier and faster!

### Share Your Email

Visit [TimeOutYouth.org](http://TimeOutYouth.org) and click the Newsletter button. Click Community Newsletter to sign up for our e-newsletter and to be added to our email list.

### Donate Online!

We make it easy for you to make your donation on our website! When you visit [TimeOutYouth.org](http://TimeOutYouth.org) click on "Donate Now" and follow the simple steps to make your donation online using your credit card. It's easy, fast and it saves paper and mailing cost. Don't forget about matching gifts! Many employers offer this benefit, which can double your donation to Time Out Youth.

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