Open Door Pride Summary

Number of employees: 0

Number of volunteers: 40+

What is your Mission Statement?
Celebrating our community's diversity with inclusion for all.

What is the main source of your funding and what percent of your funding does that source provide?
Donations from organizations and individuals throughout the year and in support of the main fundraising event, the Pride Festival. We received first time grants in 2025 from The Women's Fund and a Sustainability and Advancement Grant Fund directly contributing to producing our 9th annual Pride Festival. A first time grant from Vital Little Plans: a national group of funders that seek out small non-profit organizations who do good work in their local communities.

What is the geographic scope of your services throughout Door County?
Entire Door County.

Explanation of how you serve Door County including primary programs your organization offers to the community.
We serve Door County by striving to provide a diverse and welcoming community for all. We do this through a multitude of initiatives: Pride Festival, Sandy Brown Award, We Know Who We Are campaign, What's My Pride photographic project, I.D.E.A Student Scholarship, free Pride flags. All of which can be found on our website opendoorpride.org . Our Pride Festival is held annually on the last Saturday in June (Martin Park, Sturgeon Bay).

Future events to celebrate our diversity: Our social media platform shares other events throughout the county from partnering organizations. We sponsor local Destination Sturgeon Bay events that give us more visibility and awareness which creates more support and diversity inclusion: Flower pot, Art Sculpture, Fire + Ice. We are vendors at the June-September Sturgeon Bay Farmers Market where we provide a space for authentic conversation and connecting, increased community awareness, and the distribution of Pride buttons, stickers and flags.

We target and donate to events, organizations and students that share our mission. We purchase print Ads in Door County Living issues and the annual activity guides of Destination Door County and Destination Sturgeon Bay. We partner with Door County theatrical and musical festival playbills that provide Open Door Pride with a playbill Ad in exchange for sponsor logo on our Festival banner, links on our website and resource page.

In 2025 we sponsored a Door County Reads concert for Katie Dahl, and partnered with Northern Door Pride and PFLAG on a community event entitled " Seek To

Understand," a 4 panel discussion on a wide range of issues (immigrant experience, being black here, effective allyship, and the gendered experience).

How would you define the impact your organization is making in Door County?

The impact our organization has had throughout Door County is demonstrable. With our mission of diversity and inclusion for all, the support over time has been widespread. In 2017 when we formed, not many outside of our group wanted to show public support. In 2025 under the current political climate, our role and impact is even more critical. We partnered with Destination Sturgeon Bay tourism board to create a banner campaign entitled "We Know Who We Are." The rainbow influenced original art by designer Keith Negley depicts collaboration of community. They were printed on large banners hung on lampposts throughout the City. The campaign was successfully funded by private citizens and local businesses.

More than ever, people and businesses want to know how they can be involved publicly. We educate in the county on awareness which leads to acceptance (for example the "Seek To Understand" event that was well attended at the Baileys Harbor Town Hall). We show that by supporting diversity it creates health and wellbeing. We have invited municipalities to welcome members of the LGBTQ community by issuing Proclamations, knowing that when our elected officials acknowledge our existence, it carries forward positivity and inclusion.

The City of Sturgeon Bay has given us a Proclamation every June since 2017 and the Village of Sister Bay and Bailey's Harbor have also issued June Proclamations for the past three years.

We received a Citation from the State Assembly, a June Pride Proclamation from the office of Governor Tony Evers, and a letter from Senator Tammy Baldwin acknowledging our efforts.

Our annual Pride Festival is our main awareness event. 2026 will be our 10th anniversary- something worth celebrating.

We have instituted a number of initiatives such as donating Pride Flags to local organizations and businesses which has had a positive impact of supporting diversity and in turn visitation to those areas/businesses.

Through all of our actions, people within the LGBTQ community as well as supporters of diversity have a feeling of belonging and as such are more inclined to visit and move here.

We tirelessly strive to increase awareness to overcome stigma and prejudice. Our work continues in stride as we have experienced first hand bias. Some unfortunately exhibited from the Board of Door County Supervisors. We are not deterred, and are encouraged by strong voices of board members who do see the importance of the work ODP does within Door County. Unfortunately, instead of joining together to support their LGBTQ constituents, a majority voted to initiate a

flag pole policy at County facilities. They have also denied any discussion of Pride while also listening to a known hate group leader who has spread falsehoods about Pride, the role of our chair and our organization.

These few examples show the important issues that negatively affect our community and what we strive to overcome. Our organization has welcomed and will continue to carry with respect and dignity, the role of diplomatically opening hearts and minds.

What is your annual budget?
Currently $18,000. We have seen a steady, reliable increase since formation in 2017.

If you were to receive a donation from 100+WWC, how would that donation be used?
In addition to using the grant funds to increase the outreach of our current initiatives, we would like to utilize funds to hire an event coordinator for our upcoming 10th Annual Pride Festival. This event takes months to plan and produce with hundreds of volunteer hours from board members, who would be better served working on building our mission through strategic planning. We would also like to hire an accounting firm to review and put our book keeping (quickbooks online) in proper order for future grant applications.

Open Door Pride is an entirely volunteer organization, and in order to sustain our growth and continue our good work in the community, we would like to expand upon our foundational structure. Finally, we are hoping to work with a consultant to undergo organizational visioning and strategic planning to help us move into the future with intention.

At Open Door Pride, we have seen the impact of our work in the community since receiving our 2022 100+WWC grant. Our donations have grown, our volunteer base has grown, and attendance at our initiatives has increased. This past year alone, we saw over 1,200 people at our annual Pride Festival. Additionally, given the time we are in, we have seen an increased interest in the support and visibility we provide to our LGBTQ community and allies, allowing us opportunities to strengthen our relationships with other organizations in the Door County community. In particular, we partnered with Door County tourism boards and local businesses in our “We Know Who We Are” campaign to bring more awareness to the support we provide to the LGBTQ community. With a grant from 100+WWC, we would increase the scope of this inspirational campaign throughout the county.