Tips on Being an Ally

Being an ally is a full-time label; that means that in order to fully realize your ally potential, it takes commitment and practice. Consider these tips to sharpen your skills.

- Be open-minded; approach new situations as an opportunity to learn.
- Be willing to talk and, more importantly, listen.
- Be inclusive in your language
- Invite LGBTQ friends to events with your friends and family; these can be excellent learning experiences.
- Don't assume that all your friends and co-workers are heterosexual and/or cisgender. Someone close to you could be looking for support in their coming out process and avoiding assumptions may give them the space that they need.
- Homophobic/Heterosexist/Transphobic comments and jokes are always harmful. Let your friends, family and co-workers know that you find them offensive and are not welcomed in your space.
- Confront your own prejudices and biases, even if it is uncomfortable to do so.
- Defend your LGBTQ friends and family against discrimination, personal and political.
- Believe that all people, regardless of gender identity and/or expression and sexual orientation, should be treated with dignity and respect, and act as such.
- Support and help organizations that work toward full LGBTQ equality.

At the LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland, our mission is to advance the rights, respect and diversity of the LGBT community.