

# SUPPORT THE ALLY FUND DURING THE BIG GIVE JUNE 9

June is recognized as LGBTQ Pride Month, a time to celebrate the LGBTQ community and to recognize the impact they have made in the world. While the gay rights movement in America has welcomed substantial progress over the last several decades, there is still a long way to go in the struggle for equal LGBTQ rights and acceptance.

McLaren Port Huron believes sexual orientation or gender identity should never be a barrier to receiving excellent health care. That's why we are announcing The Ally Project, a new initiative that endeavors to create an equitable and affirming environment for LGBTQ patients, staff and community members at McLaren Port Huron. The champion for The Ally Project is Dr. Amanda Hurtubise of Northpointe OBGYN. Her family's life-changing story is the motivation behind this initiative.



## The Ally Project Story:

*In the fall of 2019, our family experienced a life changing event. Our beloved teenager, in the midst of a health crisis, attempted suicide. Thankfully he has recovered and is thriving. The key to our son's recovery has been embracing his identity as a transgender person. His journey through the healthcare system began in a trauma bay at McLaren Port Huron and has continued through many different settings. Our son's most healing encounters have been when his gender identity has been respected and affirmed. McLaren Port Huron is full of amazing individuals who work every day to create such a healing environment: they are Allies. We wish to encourage and expand upon this!*

*Whether you have an appendicitis or a broken bone, a minor surgery or a major illness, your sexual orientation or gender identity should never be a barrier to receiving excellent care. The Ally Project endeavors to create an equitable and affirming environment for LGBTQ patients, staff and community members at McLaren Port Huron. This McLaren Port Huron Foundation fund supports LGBTQ specific staff education, internal process improvements, identification and support of local LGBTQ friendly providers and community engagement. Help us assure everyone has an Ally at McLaren Port Huron!*

*Dr. Amanda Hurtubise and Family*

Our first effort at fundraising for this initiative will be through the Community Foundation of St. Clair County's Big Give Day, Wednesday, June 9. Let's work together to be a voice for the LGBTQ community and make McLaren Port Huron, and the Blue Water Area, a place where all people are valued and treated with love and understanding regardless of sexual orientation or identity.

To learn more about the Big Give or to donate, visit <https://www.thebiggivescc.com/>.



## THE ALLY PROJECT