Dear Reader,

ARE YOU OUT OF OPTIONS? YOUR SUPPORT TODAY WILL DETERMINE THAT.

Have you noticed fewer copies of Options Magazine around lately? Were you surprised to receive this copy in the mail, or to find an issue at your local establishment? It’s no secret that your community magazine is struggling to stay in print.

During this time of giving, we’ve trusted that by investing in more copies and delivering this issue to our full mailing list and distribution sites, you will respond in generosity to keep this trusted resource, that your local LGBTQ+ community has depended on for 37 years, in print.

GIVE TODAY TO KEEP THE PRESSES RUNNING.

Options proudly brings together and supports the work of community organizations like Youth Pride, Inc., RI Pride, SAGE-RI, TGI Network, AIDS Project RI, AIDS Care Ocean State, and others by providing space to share their news with you. Our team works hard researching events, updating resource listings, and working with writers to get facts straight (even if nothing else is).

Our team cannot continue to publish at this pace without your financial support. Your response to this letter will greatly impact the crucial decisions we will make in the coming months to determine how this valued institution will survive. Today, we can’t offer you a ticket to a ball, auction items to bid on, or a live performance. Instead, we offer you these pages, and within them, a lifeline to community. Donate today, knowing that your gift directly provides this lifeline.

Do you remember the first time you opened Options Magazine? Did you feel a sense of pride in your community, or discover an interesting resource, event, or perspective? Your gift today extends a hand to those who are questioning, fearing invisibility, recently out, or new to town, and engages them with our vibrant and diverse community.

Our small organization has sought and received community guidance to one basic question: Should we continue, and if so, how? Resoundingly, you want Options to stay, and if possible to remain in print. So, we’ve brought on talented new team members, and we have a fundraising plan that includes a more aggressive approach to grant applications and advertising outreach. We are meeting those goals by working ever harder: However, our plan relies on donors like you giving us a strong start in 2020. Please use the conveniently provided envelope, and make your gift today.

As we come to the end of 2019, we reflect on the year past. Here are a few things we as a board are grateful for:

▼ Our resilient community that works towards equity, inclusion, and better access to resources for everyone. We have come a long way, and have a long way to go together.

As a print magazine, Options is at a crossroads. We run on a shoestring budget, and printing and mailing costs are on the rise. We operate with no office space, and staff committing far more time than they are paid for: Your gift directly ensures the information and resources within Options Magazine are accessible to everyone. We are counting on our sponsors, advertisers, and generous donors like you to keep your Options open.

How will your gift help?

▼ $25 pays for six issues mailed to your home or office for one year.

▼ $50 additionally provides a non-profit organization, like a library or public school, with copies for one year.

▼ $100 covers the cost to print one story, and earns you acknowledgment in the Options Donor Hall of Fame, appearing in the February/March issue.

▼ Your donation of any size sustains this valuable resource for our LGBTQ+ community.

If you, along with most of the readers receiving this free copy, donate $25, you will enable Options to mail all issues in 2020 to every subscriber; while transforming our online presence to bring readers even more of the community-building, life-saving, and thought-provoking content only Options provides.

To our faithful financial supporters who are able to give again, we are very grateful. Further, please encourage local businesses to advertise with us. And when you patronize our advertisers, tell them, “We saw you in Options!”

Thank you for being part of the Options family. Together, we can continue a proud tradition of bringing news, events, and resources to the LGBTQ+ community of Rhode Island and southeastern Massachusetts.

For 37 years, we have faithfully served our community, and with your donation, we can continue for 37 more!

All the best in 2020.

The Options Board of Directors: Mike Marrapodi, Ashley Delgado, and Arthur Snow

P.S. If we receive your donation of any size by January 4, you will be acknowledged in our February/March 2020 issue! ▼

Make checks payable to: Options Magazine, PO Box 6406, Providence, RI 02904.
Contribute online at www.optionsri.org.
Options Magazine is a 501(c)(4) organization. Donations are not tax-deductible.