



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Trans Pride 2026: “Empower and Employ”

Presented by the Transgender Health & Wellness Center

Event Date: Saturday, March 28, 2026

Event Time: 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Location: Demuth Community Center, Palm Springs, CA

Eventbrite link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1962699474964?aff=oddtcreator>

Media Contacts:

Renaë Punzalan (she/her)

Director of Youth Services

Renaë@Trans.health

Steven Janji (he/him)

Special Events Coordinator

Events@Trans.health

Palm Springs, CA —

The Transgender Health & Wellness Center is proud to announce **Trans Pride 2026: “Empower and Employ,”** taking place at the Palm Springs Demuth Community Center on **Saturday, March 28, 2026, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

This annual community celebration aims to uplift and empower transgender, gender non-conforming, intersex (TGI), and allied individuals while fostering positive visibility, connection, and inclusion. This year’s theme, **“Empower and Employ,”** highlights professional development, workplace inclusion, and wellness-centered resources for the TGI community.

Attendees can expect engaging activities, empowering discussions, entertainment, and access to essential resources that support healthy, thriving, and self-determined lives. Trans Pride is also pleased to welcome **Tacotodo** and **Quench & Refresh** as official food vendors for the 2026 event.

Sponsors & Community Partners

We gratefully acknowledge the support of organizations committed to advancing health equity, inclusion, and LGBTQ+ visibility:

- **SAC Health**
- **Desert Healthcare**
- **DAP Health**
- **Gilead Sciences**
 - **IEHP**
- **St. John's Community Health**

In-Kind Contributors:

- **Brandini Toffee** – Complimentary 3 oz. toffee popcorn
- **Desert Water Agency** – Complimentary canned bottled water

Programming Schedule

11:00–11:20 AM — The Desert Flaggers

Opening the celebration with a dynamic and colorful flag performance.

11:30 AM — Political Forum & Trans Rights Q&A

Hosted by: Areezi Candelaria

Confirmed Panelists:

- **Thomi Clinton**, CEO, Transgender Health & Wellness Center
 - **Jasper Price**, The LGBTQ+ Community Center
 - **Veronica Yvett Fernandez**, St. John's
 - **Mita Beach** (they/them/theirs)

Director of Operations for Specialty, Gender Health & Wellness DAP Health

Topics will include current legislative issues, healthcare access, workplace protections, and advocacy pathways for TGI individuals.

12:20 PM — Empower & Employ Fashion Show

Presented by: Ms. Dee's Boutique

Featuring TGI community members modeling:

- Professional Business Attire
- Daytime Self-Expression Looks
 - Evening Gown Fashion

This segment celebrates TGI voices through fashion, storytelling, and authentic self-expression.

TRANScendence A Trans Pride Drag Show — 1:00 PM
Eight Phenomenal Trans & Nonbinary Artists
Featuring DJ Natasha Backwards

Each performer will present one spotlight number. The confirmed roster includes:

- Maliyah Heaven
 - Alii Baby
 - Lacey Lovelace
- Acetonia O’Hara & Harlin O’Hara
 - Frida Diablo
 - Korrsett
- Mia Doll Beverly Hillz

A special surprise guest has been confirmed!

Join Us

Join us at the Palm Springs Demuth Community Center on March 28th for a day of empowerment, celebration, and unity. Together, we continue to build a world where diversity is embraced, and every identity is uplifted.

For More Information

Visit www.trans.health or call **760-202-4308**.

About the Transgender Health & Wellness Center

The Transgender Health & Wellness Center began as the Transgender Community Coalition (TCC) and is a certified **501(c)(3)** nonprofit organization. Founded to support the first Transgender Day of Remembrance, the organization has grown to become the largest Transgender-led agency in the Inland Empire, serving thousands of TGI community members.

With more than **40 active volunteers**, TH&WC provides services including HIV/AIDS education, employment assistance, housing support, legal counseling, and linkage to care. The organization's mission is to ensure that transgender, gender-nonconforming, and intersex people reach their fullest potential and maintain strong representation within the wider LGBTQ+ community.

According to the **2015 Inland Empire Transgender Health & Wellness Report**, the region is home to over **27,000 TGI individuals**. The report highlights significant disparities:

- **56%** have experienced emotional or physical abuse by someone they know.
 - **74%** have seriously considered suicide.
- **56.9%** hold higher education credentials, yet many earn **less than \$20,000 per year**.

Trans Pride 2026 seeks to confront these disparities by promoting empowerment and encouraging local businesses to hire and uplift transgender workers—strengthening economic opportunity and workforce diversity.