Like so many Coloradans, Spark the Change Colorado is deeply saddened and outraged by the Club Q mass shooting in Colorado Springs and the traumatic impact on surviving loved ones and LGBTQIA community members.

We have found great comfort in the compassionate outpouring of support in the aftermath of the tragedy in Colorado Springs and across the state. Coloradans have proven time-and-time-again that we are stronger when we come together in service of our community during times of crisis.

At Spark the Change Colorado, we believe in the power of bringing people together to create more resilient and connected communities through volunteerism. Service sparks the hope, healing and the courage so essential to fulfill our roles as community leaders and changemakers.

As the headlines fade, it is essential that we continue to process and connect with our shared passion and commitment to lasting change. In honor of the victims, their loved ones, and those impacted, Spark will be facilitating multi-month community mental wellness support, action projects, and community education throughout Colorado. Further, we believe that the brokenness of our humanity ends in violence and those individuals who exhibit hatred can find a path to hope, connection and acceptance. We believe that incidents of mental crisis can be eliminated with access to care and significantly more resources in research. All forms of bullying, criticism and ridicule of our neighbors, school mates, colleagues and strangers has to be countered with listening, knowledge gaining and understanding. Spark the Change Colorado is initiating an ongoing "Movement of Good" campaign to engage volunteers in community projects that celebrate diversity, equity, inclusion, and the vital belonging of every individual while sparking tangible actions of good across Colorado. Watch our website and subscribe to our newsletter for more information.

At Spark the Change Colorado, we know education and advocacy are the best methods of disaster response. While many of our residents struggle with accessing mental wellness support, tragic events, like the Club Q shooting, only elevate the need for resources. Each year, our [Mental Wellness Program](https://www.sparkthechangecolorado.org/mental-health) connects over 2,500 individuals to free counseling and mental health services. We will continue to provide free counseling and mental health services for communities in need, across the state, including the Colorado Springs area. If you are interested in receiving services or learning more about the Mental Wellness Program, call (720) 420-3218. If you are a licensed, insured mental health professional or a post-graduate candidate seeking licensure, interested in volunteering, [contact us](https://www.sparkthechangecolorado.org/opportunity/a0C4400000S0blAEAR/mental-wellness-program-volunteer-therapist-licensed-or-licensure-candidate). We need your help!

We are so proud of the volunteers, vigil organizers, donors, caregivers and community leaders that have wrapped their hearts around our fellow community members in need. There is no place for hate in Colorado and we stand firmly with our LGBTQIA friends, colleagues and community members. We will continue to work diligently in communities across the state to create spaces of belonging and equity through service, together. On behalf of our board, team and volunteers, we invite you to join us as we continue to Spark Resilience. Spark Community. Spark Change!

Matt Smith

Board Chair