

****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

HEART OF NORTH GEORGIA PRIDE

Community Statement — November 2025

It is with profound sadness that Heart of North Georgia Pride shares the passing of **Mari**, a beloved Kennesaw State University student leader and LGBTQIA+ advocate. Mari's passion, courage, and commitment to queer and trans students touched many lives, and their absence will be deeply felt across our community.

Moments like this remind us that **mental health must be a priority**. Being an advocate, being visible, or being "the strong one" does **not** mean someone isn't struggling. That's why we're asking our community to make intentional space for grief, for check-ins, and for care.

Funeral & Visitation Information

- **Funeral service: Sunday, Nov. 9 at 2:00 p.m.**
Iglesia Adventista Metropolitana de Atlanta
5990 Oakbrook Parkway, Norcross, GA
- **Visitation:** Family will receive visitors **5:00–9:00 p.m.** at
Fischer Funeral Care
3742 Chamblee Dunwoody Road

Please honor the family's space and follow any guidance they share.

Community check-ins matter

- Ask people: *"How are you really doing?"*
- Listen without judgment.
- Watch for changes in mood, withdrawal, talk of hopelessness, or giving things away.
- Normalize talking about counseling, medication, and crisis support.
- Remind folks: **needing help is not a failure.**

Local & Campus Resources (North Georgia / KSU area)

- KSU Counseling & Psychological Services (CPS): **470-578-6600** (business hours)
- Georgia Crisis & Access Line (GCAL): **1-800-715-4225** (24/7)

Nationwide 24/7 Support

- **988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline** — call or text **988**
- **Crisis Text Line** — text **HOME** to **741741**

- **The Trevor Project** (for LGBTQIA+ youth & young adults): **1-866-488-7386** or text **START** to **678-678**

If you are a student, organizer, or young LGBTQIA+ person reading this: **You are not a burden. You are loved. We want you here.**

In solidarity,

Heart of North Georgia Pride

Website: <https://heartofnorthgapride.org>

Donate: <https://givebutter.com/M6clY8>

Volunteer & community: <https://discord.gg/WDFKvw4xTy>

Instagram & Facebook: **@heartofnorthgapride**