

My name is Shavonica Meyer, and I am a stay at home parent of four with almost 18 years experience. During this time, I have volunteered at multiple schools as a room parent, teacher assistant, book fair cashier, and anywhere else teachers or parent volunteers needed help. To my children and husband, I encompass all duties that a very well paid personal assistant might.

I currently serve as President of our local chapter of PFLAG, which I was essential in bringing together and chartering almost 3 years ago. I've learned that serving LGBTQ children and adolescents and their families and allies is a passion. I have been an ally to the LGBTQ population as long as I can remember. Now, I put that allyship to work through PFLAG Midland-Odessa, hosting community support meetings, visiting campus Gay/Straight Alliances, and advocating on their behalf for social and political change for equality. I see a substantial difference in students who live with accepting, affirming family and schools, vs those who do not. PFLAG Midland-Odessa works with other local LGBTQ organizations, and during the summer of 2019, we managed to host the first major Pride event in the Permian Basin. It was rewarding to see 850 of our community members gathered, without fear, among people who accept and affirm their existence.

More recently, I have become involved with a group called Sandy Hook Promise as a Promise Leader. This group has a focus of bringing their no cost, proven programs to help reduce gun violence to schools. I'm learning about these programs in the hope that I can help to implement them in our area schools. The programs focus on empathy, inclusion, and knowing the signs of persons in danger of harming others or themselves. Thanks to the location of my home, and choice schools, I have the unique experience to have a child in each district of MISD, ECISD, and the UTPB STEM Academy. It is my hope to be a voice at each of these districts on behalf of Sandy Hook Promise.