PHOENIX SOCIETY FOR INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM

The Phoenix Society for Individual Freedom, formed in March 1966, was the first organization in Kansas City to address the needs of the local gay and lesbian community.

Under Drew Shafer's leadership, Phoenix Society worked closely with the local religious community, Kansas City Board of Education, and local government to ensure equal treatment of gay and lesbian students in Kansas City. In 1968, Phoenix Society opened as a lesbian and gay community center at 1834 Troost Avenue, where they continued their advocacy work.

This just one example of the group's contributions to the community, including The Voice of Kansas City. The society paved the way for many other organizations that have since emerged to support gay and lesbian citizens.

In the United States, the Phoenix Society was one of the first gay rights organizations to address issues of national and local importance.
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