



2025 ANNUAL REPORT



35 YEARS OF CREATING BRAVE SPACES FOR LGBTQ+ YOUTH



Louisville 
YouthGroup 

Table of Contents

Message from LYG Executive Director	3
About LYG	4
Our Year in Pictures	5
Financial Summary	7
Programs in Action	10
Board and Leadership Roster	13
Our Circle of Support	14
Ways to Give & Get Involved	16

Executive Director's Message



Sandra Carpenter, ED

"Our commitment is to build an operational foundation just as strong, vibrant, and enduring as the young people who walk through our doors."

Looking back at 2025, it is clear that it was a landmark year of growth and bold vision for Louisville Youth Group. In the final months of the year, our community began actively laying the groundwork for a major transition, setting the stage for Kate Vance to step up as Board President and for me to join as Executive Director in early 2026.

Throughout 2025, LYG prepared for this leadership handoff while establishing an ambitious vision for our physical future. For 25 wonderful years, First Lutheran Church provided a warm, welcoming home for our drop-in programming. But as our youth programs expand and accessibility needs evolve, 2025 marked the moment LYG officially committed to finding a new, fully accessible home designed specifically for the next generation of queer youth.

Stepping into leadership alongside Kate following that momentum is an absolute honor. While operating an LGBTQ+ youth nonprofit today requires grit, agility, and sharp financial discipline, the joy and resilience inside our space make every challenge worth meeting head-on. The momentum built in 2025 proved what we already knew: Kentuckiana deeply loves this sanctuary, and our community is ready to invest in its future.

My commitment to you as Executive Director is to build an operational foundation that is just as strong, vibrant, and enduring as the young people who walk through our doors. We are moving forward with clear purpose, renewed energy, and a firm belief in what we can achieve together.

Thank you for standing with us, believing in our youth, and helping us build LYG's next 35 years.

LYG's Mission



Our history

Founded in the late 1980s by grassroots community members and local PFLAG advocates, Louisville Youth Group was created around a singular, non-negotiable mission: to build a safe, affirming sanctuary for Kentuckiana's LGBTQIA+ youth. Over the past 35 years, LYG has grown into a powerful intergenerational regional movement serving thousands of young people across Kentucky and Southern Indiana, many of whom have returned as adults to serve as staff members, board leaders, and prominent community advocates.

From weekly drop-in hours and life-affirming peer support to flagship traditions like our annual Pride Prom, Pasta Dinner & Talent Show, Youth Empowerment Retreats, and Pride Month celebrations, LYG provides spaces where queer youth can celebrate their true selves, build lasting community, and thrive.

Today, LYG is stepping into a pivotal era of expansion. As the demand for our programs continues to grow year after year, we are actively modernizing our operational foundation, expanding our program capacity, and preparing to transition into a new, fully ADA-accessible physical space. With the unwavering love and backing of our alumni and community, we are ensuring that LYG remains a strong, vibrant sanctuary for generations of youth to come.

Our mission

LYG empowers LGBTQIA+ youth to grow into healthy and resilient leaders through community connection, life skills education, and social advocacy.

Our Year in Pictures

Highlights and joy-filled milestones from our 2025 community events, signature celebrations, and annual youth gatherings.



2025 Youth Empowerment Camp at YMCA Camp Piomingo

Pride Prom and Lavender Graduation



Traditional high school milestones like prom and graduation can feel exclusionary or unsafe for LGBTQ+ students. LYG restores these core memories through Pride Prom, which welcomed approximately 75 youth this year for a night of music, dancing, and authentic self-expression.

Alongside Lavender Graduation, which honors their academic resilience, these celebrations ensure queer and trans youth get the joyful, affirming milestones every high schooler deserves.

LYG's year-round drop-in social and family support groups form the heartbeat of our organization, serving youth and families ranging in age from 5 all the way to 24.

To ensure every participant finds a community that reflects their unique path, we offer specialized groups tailored by age, gender identity, and shared lived experience. Guided by compassionate staff and trained adult mentors, these weekly gatherings give youth and families a steady anchor to share victories, navigate life's hurdles, and build lasting friendships.

Weekly Drop In Social Groups



Annual LGBTQ+ Youth Empowerment Camp



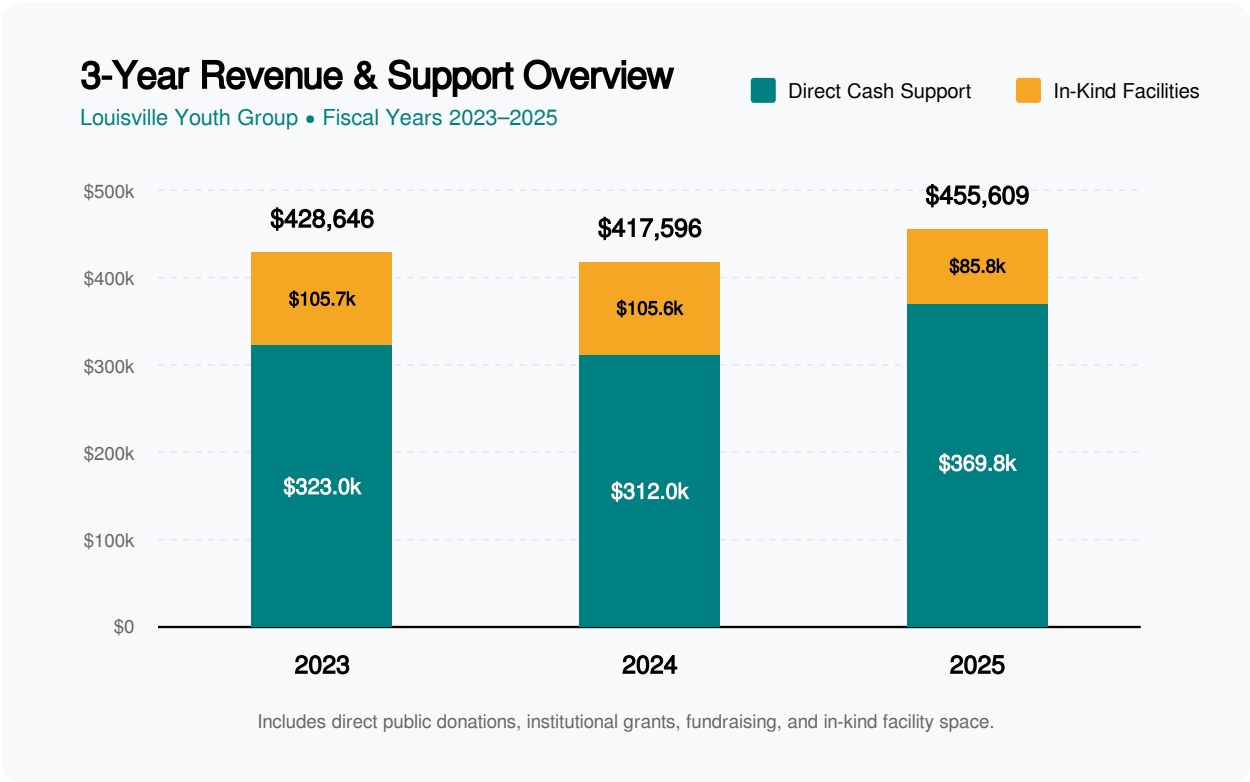
Outdoor camps are a rite of passage, yet many queer and trans youth rarely get to experience them in fully supportive environments. Our annual Youth Empowerment Camp bridges that gap, giving campers a traditional outdoor setting to unplug, explore nature, and forge authentic connections with peers who understand their lived experiences.

The true impact lies in the relief and confidence our campers express: for approximately 65 campers, it was the one weekend during the year they could drop their guard completely, try new activities, and build lasting confidence.

Financial Summary

LYG records higher cumulative funding for the year compared to the prior two years.

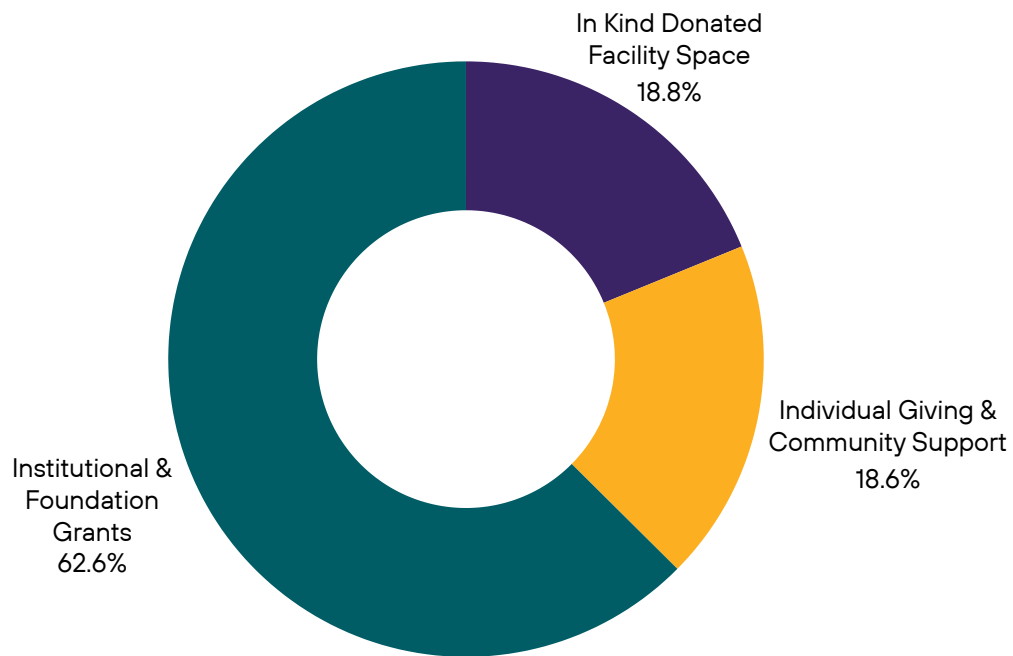
Our 2025 revenue was anchored by critical institutional grants and flexible funding from dedicated foundation partners. This foundational support proved vital in maintaining continuous, uninterrupted drop-in programming and life-affirming spaces for LGBTQ+ youth across Kentuckiana.



These investments allowed our small team to keep core groups, signature events, and mentor networks fully accessible at zero cost to families. As we look ahead, expanding our community-based support will be essential to sustaining this vital sanctuary for local youth.

Where Our Funding Came From in 2025

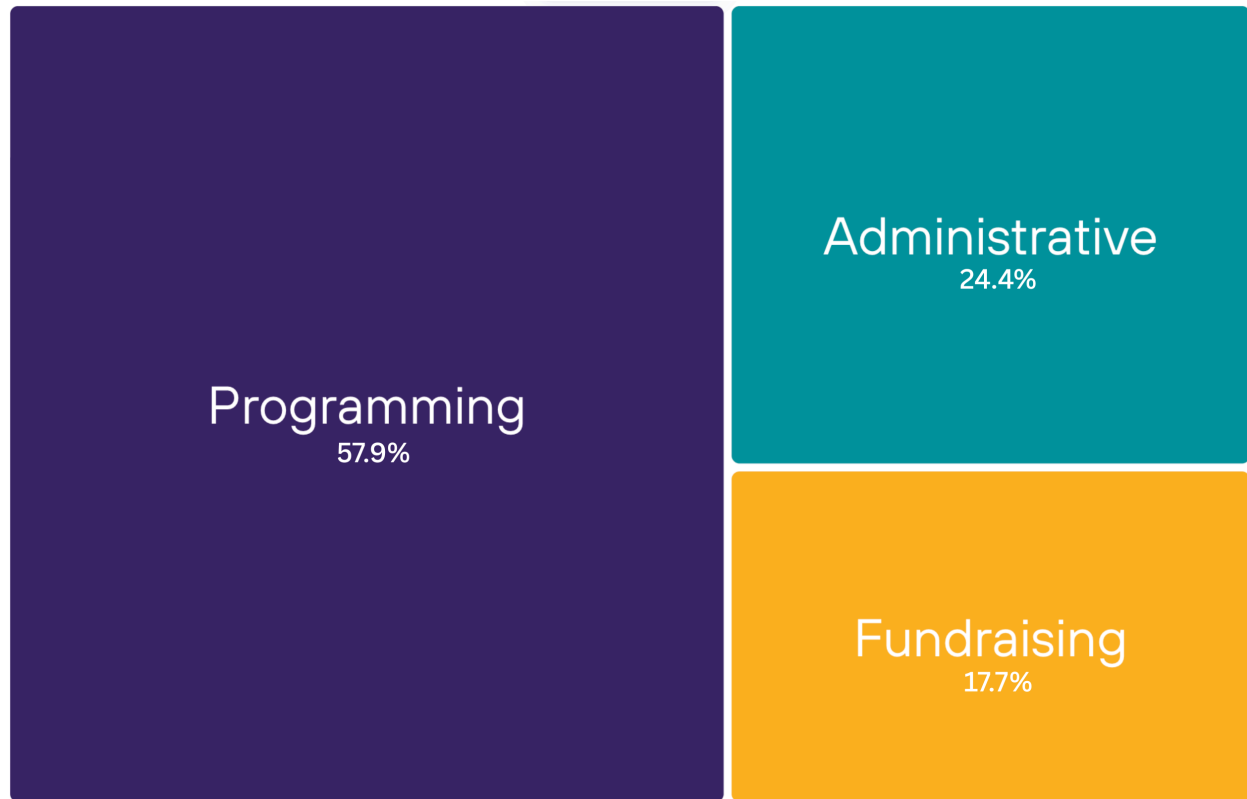
The majority of funds raised for the year came from **Institutional and Foundation Grants**



Our 2025 revenue reflects a strong balance of institutional backing, partner generosity, and grassroots community commitment. The majority of our support came from foundation and institutional grants, signaling deep trust in our leadership and giving us the flexibility to keep core programming robust and adaptable. Crucial in-kind facility support from our long-time home at First Lutheran Church provided the physical sanctuary needed for our weekly groups and operations. Complemented by steady individual giving and local fundraising, this three-part financial foundation gives Louisville Youth Group the stability to serve youth today while building a sustainable runway for our upcoming physical expansion.

How Our Funds Were Deployed

In 2025, LYG allocated most of the budget for **Youth Programming**



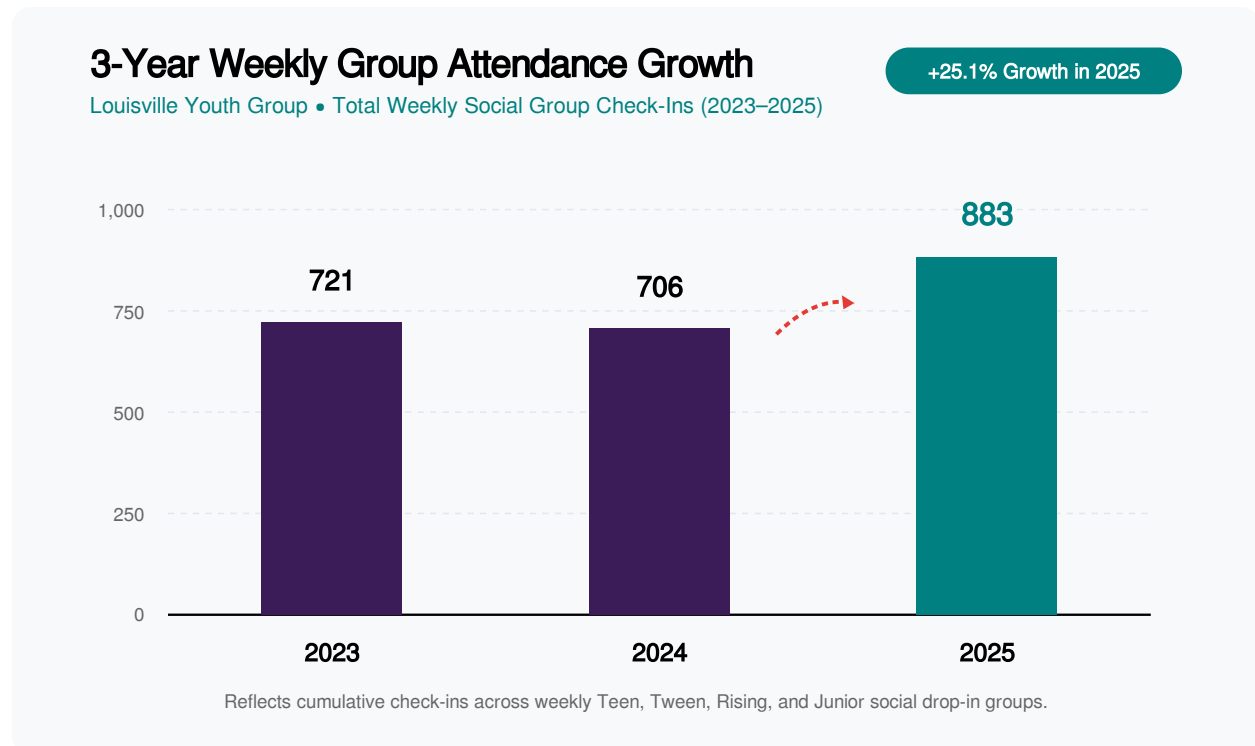
Every dollar invested in Louisville Youth Group is directed toward building safety, belonging, and leadership for LGBTQ+ youth across Kentuckiana. In 2025, our expenditures directly powered frontline youth facilitators, peer drop-in groups, family support networks, seasonal retreats, and our donated physical sanctuary space.

Behind our high-level functional split lies essential operational depth: program investments underwrite direct youth supplies and signature gatherings; management and administrative overhead covers required audit compliance, business insurance, and executive governance; and fundraising drives institutional grant writing and community partner engagement. This grounded structure guarantees that our resources remain focused where they matter most: empowering young people.

Programs in Action

LYG's Heartbeat: Weekly Drop-In Groups

Weekly drop-in groups are free, age-tailored peer spaces where LGBTQ+ youth (ages 5–24) connect, find community, and access affirming adult mentorship. **LYG saw a 25.1% growth in group attendance in 2025.**



Weekly group check-ins grew by 25.1% in 2025 (climbing from 706 to 883 check-ins), demonstrating deepening youth engagement and rising regional demand for free, age-tailored peer support.

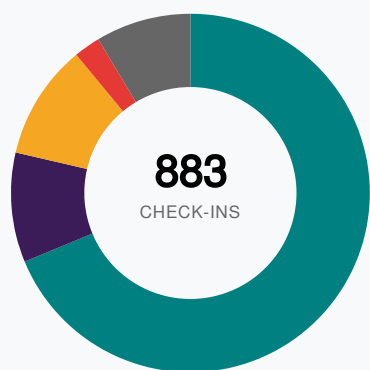
As isolation risks remain high for LGBTQ+ youth, our weekly drop-ins serve as a vital community sanctuary—offering structured social connection, nourishing snacks, essential resources, and trained adult mentors who meet youth exactly where they are developmentally.

Who We Serve: Attendance by Age Group

From elementary-aged Juniors taking their first steps into community to rising Young Adults navigating life after high school, LYG provides free, specialized peer groups tailored to every developmental stage from ages 5 to 24.

2025 Attendance Breakdown by Program Group

Louisville Youth Group • Share of Weekly Social Drop-In Check-Ins (883 Total)



Teens (Ages 14–19) Weekly peer social & support group	559	(63.3%)
Tweens (Ages 11–13) Middle school social group (+54% Fall growth)	127	(14.4%)
General & Open Drop-Ins All-ages open social sessions & family nights	90	(10.2%)
Rising (Ages 18–24) Young adult leadership & peer network	84	(9.5%)
Juniors (Ages 5–10) Elementary youth & family-centered group	23	(2.6%)

Excludes special annual events (Camp, Pride Prom, Skate Jam) which accounted for an additional 244 touchpoints.

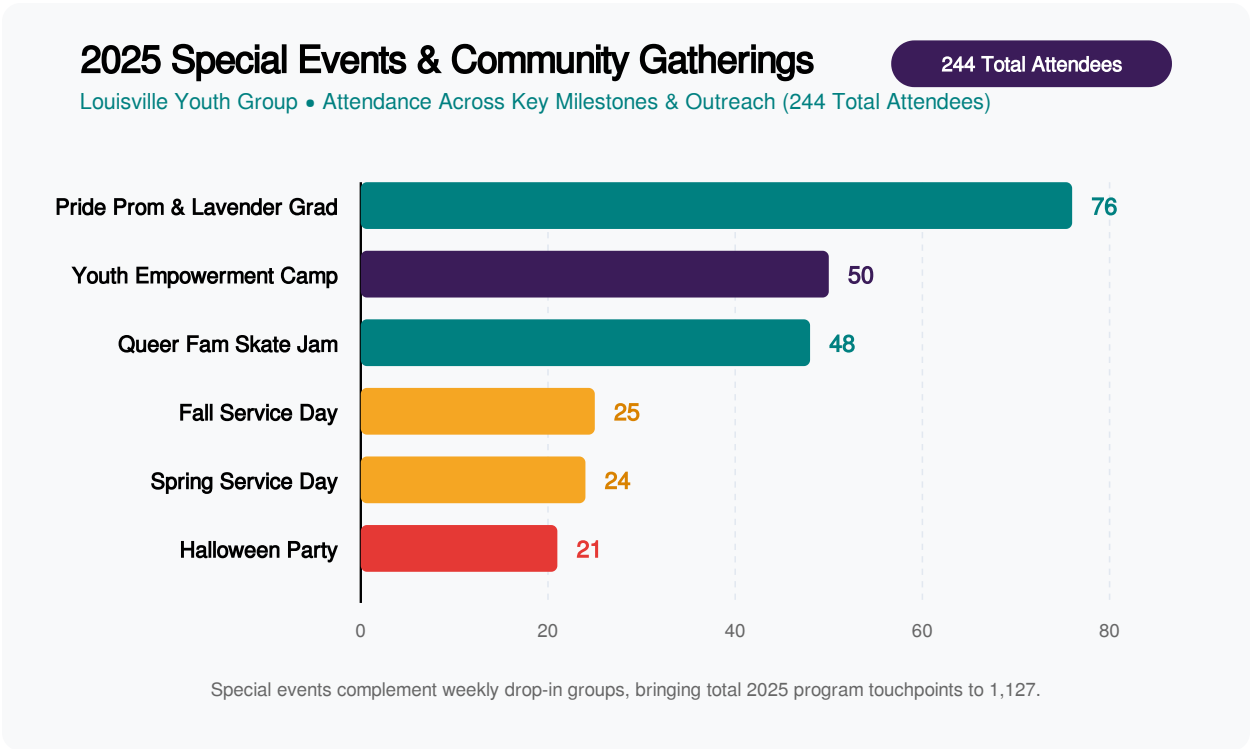
Key 2025 Demographics & Trends:

- **Teens (Ages 14–19)** — 63.3% of Check-Ins: Teens remain the vibrant cornerstone of our weekly sanctuary. Our high school drop-in spaces offer vital peer support, mental health check-ins, and youth leadership training during pivotal developmental years.
- **Tweens (Ages 11–13)** — Rapid Growth: Middle-school Tweens represented our fastest-growing demographic. Expanded programming responded directly to local families seeking affirmative social connections earlier in youth development.
- **Juniors (Ages 5–10) & Young Adults (Ages 18–24)**: Specialized peer groups ensure that younger children find supportive family spaces, while young adults receive mentorship around higher education, career entry, and independent living.

Across every age group, our drop-in models prioritize intentional mentorship, peer validation, and physical sanctuary.

Signature Events & Regional Community Reach

From Youth Empowerment Camp to Pride Prom, our special programs offer transformative, joy-filled milestones that foster leadership, civic pride, and lifelong peer bonds.



Complementing our weekly drop-in groups, these milestone gatherings brought our total annual youth touchpoints across all programming to 1,127.

Signature events offer essential rites of passage that many LGBTQ+ youth might otherwise miss out on in traditional school environments. From dancing freely at Pride Prom to building resilience at seasonal retreats, these immersive experiences deepen peer trust, inspire creative expression, and equip young leaders with the confidence to advocate for themselves and their peers.

Board and Leadership Roster

2025 LYG Board of Directors

Name	Position	Affiliation
Casey Wagner	President	LLFlex
Kate Vance	Vice President	Pernod Ricard
Hannah Worsham	Treasurer	OneMagnify LLC
Amanda Minogue	Secretary	University of Louisville
John Selent	Director	Dinsmore & Shohl, LLP
Brittany Cook	Director	Maryhurst, Inc.
Carrieree Koole	Director	Nordic Global
Holly Hinson	Director	University of Louisville
Sara Williams	Director	Maryhurst, Inc.
Sara Miller	Director	Greenleaf Psychological
Adrian Massey	Director	U.S. Army
Chelsie Temmen	Director	University of Louisville

2025 LYG Staff

Name	Title
Elana Rosenberg	Executive Director
Em Joy	Program Director
Madelyn Spalding	Assistant Director of Development
Carma Marshall	Program Coordinator
Madeline Gregg	Outreach Coordinator

Our Circle of Support

We are deeply grateful to every individual, foundation, and business partner whose generous contributions made our safe sanctuary possible in 2025.

Visionary Circle (\$50,000+)

Brandon McReynolds

Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky

Champion Circle (\$10,000 - \$49,999)

Brown-Forman Corporation

Tiffany Nelson

Leadership Circle (\$1,000 - \$9,999)

- Anonymous Supporters (*including c/o National Financial Services*)
- Bank of America
- Community Foundation of Louisville
- Fairness Education Fund
- GLSEN
- Heine Bros Coffee
- Patricia E. Henninger
- Carrieelee & Mathew Koole
- Starbucks Foundation
- Steve Mershon
- Jamie Meyers
- Brenda Morris-Huntoon & Brenda Morris
- PayPal Giving Fund
- Carol Pye
- Vic & Rhonda Roos
- John Selent
- Natalie Snyder

Community Partners & Advocates (\$250 - \$999)

- Brittany Cook
- Theresa Baunach
- Michael Blackwood
- Tara Carter
- Candy Fischbach
- Margaret & Beth Giesel
- Highland Presbyterian Church
- Brian Hite
- Carrieelee Koole
- Kroger
- Creighton Mershon
- Ella Mershon
- Nannette Mershon
- Wilbert Noe
- Kevin Rasp
- John B. Reisert
- Jack Shelton
- Neal Spade
- Thomas Spalding
- Charles Sweitzer
- Chelsie Temmen
- Arielle Venturella
- Bryan Volz
- Casey Wagner
- Chris Williams

Grassroots Community & Champions (Under \$250)

Aaron Angel • Mary Anglin-Coulter • Cole Anne • Antionette Domenech & Toni Domenech • Sarah Balliet • Roy Banks • Jenny Baughman • Gretchen Bell • Josh Bentley • Peter Berkowitz • Shelly Black • Michael Blackwood • Renley Boles • Sarah Bonito • Kelly Bowles • Marshall Brian • Jeff Bridges • Tara Bristow • Ann Brock • Amanda Brown • Peter Brown • Shanna Brown • Kevin Bryan • Gregory Bryant • Ron Burse • Carol Butler • Jason Button • Traci Caillouet • JD Carey • Gretchen Carolan • Wagner Casey • Huckleby Chandler • Heather Collins • Zoe Combs • Mason Cooper • Hanna Crooks • Jordan Crowder • Jayne Culp • Baker Dana • Christy Davis • David Jennings • Shannon Delahanty • Elaina Deren • Linda DeSanto • Andrew Douds • Kimberly Draewell • Andrew Duffel • Katie Duvall • Nellie Dyer • Dylan T. Wagner • Dalton Elswick • Terry Ennenbach • Kelly Estep • Henry Evans • Rift Family • Rachel Fautz • Charles Fehr & Raymond Fehr • Lilianna Fischer • Ryan Fischer • Seth Fischer • Jenna Fletcher • Lindsay Fouts • Alison From-Tapp • Joseph Gaines • Brendan Gibbs • Everett Gillespie • Dr. Bobbie Glass • Caroline Goldstein • Patrick Goroncy • Laura Grabowski • Amy Grasberger • Gregory Thompson • Libby Griggs • Paige H. • David Hall • Martin Hall • Jennifer Hamm • Karter Heidrich • Kelley Helgeson • Charles Hendrix • Melina Hettiaratchi • Gerard Hickman • Austyn Hill • Holly Hinson • Leigh Hogan • Holly Popham • David Holzknecht • Jeff Hormann • Carrie Hunter • Lori Hunter • Aaron Hutton • Jason Isaac Spradlin • Jesse Isaacs • Jack Jacobs • David James • Jessica Reese • Chris Johnson • Taylor Jolly • Frankie Jones • Kaizad Joshi • Kathryn Kerensky • Jessica Kessinger • Jennifer Kleier • Bradley Klette • Christopher Kuhn • Marcus Lake • Nathan LaMothe • Nicole Lawrence • Shannon Lee • Joseph Leray • Heidi Levy • Jeffrey Levy • Jorge Leyva • Gina Loeffler • Wesley Love • Alexandra Luken • Lauren Lydon • Meg's Magical Morsels • Donald Marbry • MaryLauren Powell • Kirsten McCoy • Greg McKiernan • Scott McReynolds • Mark Medley • Melissa Mershon • Brendan Merk • Kathryn Mershon • Jane Meyer • Richard Meyer • Oliver Miles • Nathan Miles • Andrew Miller • Caleb Miller • Dean Miller • Megan Miller • Kyle Mills • Amanda Minogue • Beth Minogue • Montgomery Whitten • Lawrence Moore • September Morgan • Max Morley • Jenny Morse • Matt Mueller • Teresa Mulhall • Gail Nall • Natalie S. Reteneller • Chelcia Nemec • Channa Newman • Emily Newman • Kathy Nguyen • Amber Nicely • Judy Nichols • Kia Nishida • Emily Noonan • Mary Nuss • William O'Brien • Tiffany Ogunsanya • Emily O'Neal • Lada Odobasic • Clare Olberz • Millar Olly • Donald Palmore • Andy Patterson • Paul Henderson • Kelly Peak • Amy Pedigo • Joanna Peguero • Peter Raymond • Ashley Pratt • Rachel Rawlings • Greta Reel • Regina Wagner • Stephanie Renner • Gil Reyes • Alex Riedinger • Allison Ritter • Claire Rooney • Cali Runtas • Yosniel Sanchez • Sara Miller • Jasmine Saunders • Elizabeth Sawyer • James L. Schorch • Christian Schroder • Austin Schwenker • Rachel Sharp • Molly Shave • Cassidie Shinpaugh • Erin E. Smith • Nancy L. Wagner Smith • Tarissa Smith • Erik Snyder • Lauren Speaker • Izaak Standridge • James Stanley • James Starling • Steven Barousse • Lauren Stewart • Brittne Stull • Jennifer Swift • Darcie Taggart • Jessica Taylor • Teri Barnett • Jeanette Thomas • Thomas Mariguez • Jessamy Thomison • Darcy Thompson • Tashia Thompson • Shannon Tivitt • Ben J. Tomassetti • Benjamin Tomassetti • Brandon Traud • Terry Tremba • Corey Turner • Chaz Tyra • Kate Vance • James Vega • Rachel Victory • Dylan T. Wagner • Wesley Walker • Thurman Watson • Matthew Wheeler • Adrian White • Erin White • Tressa Whittington & Kory Wallinga • Montgomery Whitten • Nicholas Wilkerson • Laura Williams • Sara Williams • Alex Woodworth • Haley Yetter • Nicholas York

Looking Forward

As we reflect on a year defined by deepening youth engagement and community resilience, Louisville Youth Group remains steadfast in its commitment to fostering spaces where LGBTQ+ youth across Kentuckiana can learn, lead, and thrive.

Our programmatic insights from 2025 reinforced a core truth: affirmative sanctuary is built not only through physical space, but through consistent mentorship, evidence-informed peer support, and enduring community trust. Looking toward the year ahead, our strategic priorities focus on strengthening our operational foundation, expanding early-intervention family and middle-school resources, and diversifying our revenue streams to ensure long-term organizational health.

With the continued partnership of our donors, advocates, and regional allies, we enter this next chapter with grounded optimism, ensuring that local youth always have a safe space to belong.

Ways to Give and Get Involved

- **Sustaining Monthly Giving:** Recurring contributions provide reliable, year-round funding that directly supports weekly drop-in supplies, peer facilitation, and youth resources.
- **Institutional and Individual Sponsorship:** Foundation grants, corporate sponsorships, and major gifts power our core operational budget and signature annual events.
- **Volunteer Engagement:** Community members support our mission by lending time and expertise as group facilitators, event staff, and professional skills partners.
- **Community Advocacy:** Connect our team with local organizations, share our resources with families in need, and champion youth safety across the region.

Contact

For further information, partnership inquiries, or to learn more about our work, please reach out to us:

- **Email:** ed@louisvilleyouthgroup.org
- **Website:** louisvilleyouthgroup.org
- **Phone:** (502) 754-3415