



2022 ANNUAL REPORT

A NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Erin Upchurch, MSSA, LISW-S



In April of this year, I will have completed my fifth year as the Executive Director at Kaleidoscope Youth Center. And to say we've been through some things would not be an understatement.

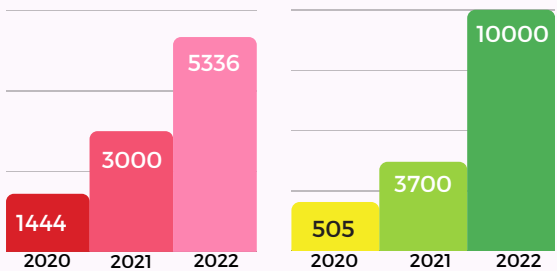
Since 2018, KYC has:

- Tripled our staff - currently at 19!
- Hired the first Black Executive Director/CEO among local LGBTQIA+ orgs.
- Expanded our overall age of service to 24; started monthly programs for ages 8-12.
- Established the first and only housing programs and case management program in Central Ohio that centers the needs and experiences of LGBTQIA+ young adults.
- Established in-house outpatient behavioral health programming - with 2 therapists!
- Conducted a needs assessment in partnership with the Ohio DD Council that looks at the intersections of race, disability, and LGBTQIA+ identities
- Connected with 4 countries outside of the US to provide gender-affirming supplies to youth without local access through the Gender Affirmation Project (GAP).
- Supported approximately 25,000 engagements with youth through Drop-in Center programming.
- In 2022, provided testimony at 4 state board of education meetings, local school board meetings, and provided youth testimony during legislative committee meetings through civic engagement and advocacy programming.
- Started our podcast Speaking Queerly.
- Established the Unity Circle, our sustainable donor program.
- Established the Kaleidoscope Youth Center Endowment Fund through a \$10K gift from the Nina West Foundation - the only local LGBTQIA+ org with an Endowment Fund!
- 2019 NASW-Ohio Region Agency of the Year
- 2019 Transforming Care Awards - Organizational Champion
- 2022 Steve McClure Service Award Recipient
- More than quadrupled our budget!

SAFER AND AFFIRMING LGBTQIA+ SPACES

YOUTH 12-20 CAN DROP-IN TO KYC:
Tuesday - Thursday 3:30pm-6:30pm
Friday 3:30pm-7pm

BELONGING BEGINS HERE



YOUTH VISITS

PROFESSIONALS TRAINED

MISSION

To serve and support LGBTQIA+ young people.

VALUES

KYC is informed by the practices of restorative and transformational justice, intersectionality, anti-oppression, racial justice, and trauma informed/healing engaged care.

We are committed to providing supportive and collaborative services that acknowledge that people are the experts in their own lives.

I am overwhelmed with gratitude when I think about all that we've -our team, our youth, and our community - have been able to accomplish together! You all make our community strong.

As we prepare to celebrate our 30th anniversary in 2024, one thing has remained consistently clear, KYC is nowhere close to slowing down our necessary work of making the world a safer, more affirming, and softer landing for LGBTQIA+ young people and their friends.

Please keep showing up, speaking out, and standing in love to remind our youth that they are not alone, and that an entire village will always have their backs.

In Solidarity,



Erin Upchurch, MSSA, LISW-S



tinyurl.com/kyc-7-ways

Want to support? Don't know where to start? We've got you. Scan here to be connected to our guide "7 Ways to Support LGBTQ+ Futures"

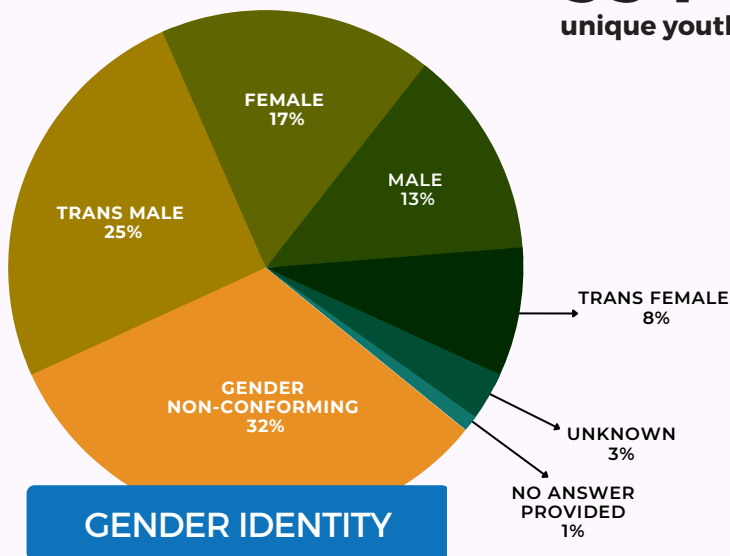
DROP-IN CENTER

The Drop-in Center at KYC is open on weekdays for youth ages 12 - 20 as a safer and more affirming space for LGBTQIA+ youth and their allies. Our programming primarily focuses on social activities/discussions, leadership development, life-skills, mutual support, as well as, health and wellness education.

At the center, youth have access to Community Based Wellness programs offered by KYC, which include a food pantry, mental health services, and housing assistance.

554

unique youth visits in 2022



GENDER IDENTITY

GENDERSCOPE

In 2022 over 50% of Drop - in Center youth identified as trans, gender non-conforming, or gender nonbinary.

Our most popular program, **Genderscope** is a group for transgender, nonbinary, and gender non-conforming youth that provides peer-to-peer relationships and mentorship connections.

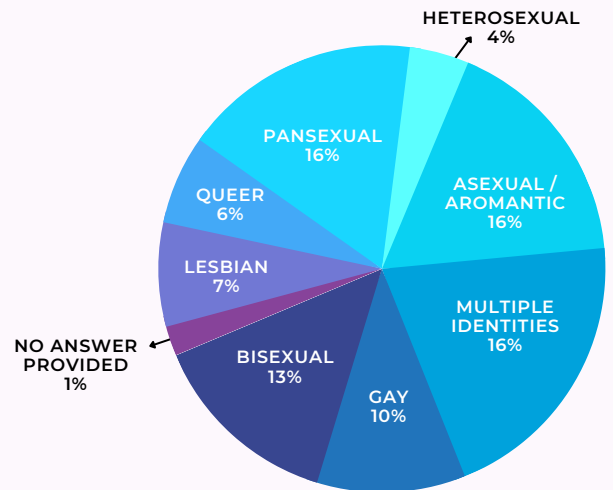
We also provide access to **FREE BINDERS AND GAFFS** to youth through our **Gender Affirmation Project (GAP)**

540

Gender-affirming garments provided

Since 2020 through **The Gender Affirmation Project.**

The Gender Affirmation Project provides **free binders and gaffs** for young people up to age 24.



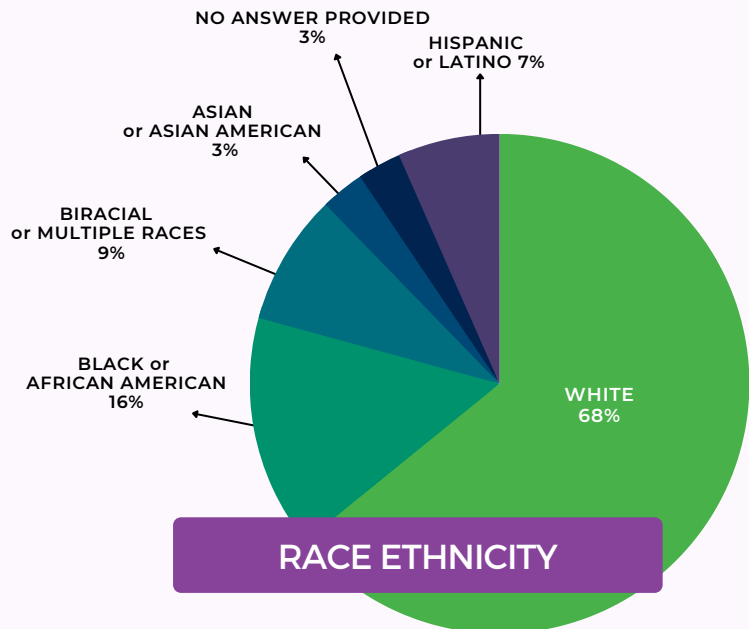
SEXUAL ORIENTATION

15

average age of Drop-in Center visitor

5,336

total visits to the Drop-in Center during 2022



RACE ETHNICITY

QPOC (QUEER PEOPLE OF COLOR)

In 2022, nearly a third of Drop - in Center youth identify as Black, Indigenous, or a person of color.

QPOC is a group for youth of color that provides resources, support, and community in a way that celebrates the multiple identities of LGBTQIA+ youth.

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Created in 2020, our Behavioral Health & Clinical Services department provides LGBTQIA+ youth from 12 - 24 with trauma-informed, culturally responsive mental health support free of charge.

17

youth connected with **Emergency Housing**

298

individual **therapeutic sessions**



“KYC has given me a sense of belonging and acceptance. It is a place where I can go that I know is [a] safe space. KYC has also helped me realize who I am and let the true me shine through.”

-KYC Youth

IMPROVING LIVES

The Community Based Wellness (CBW) Department improves the lives of transition-age LGBTQIA+ youth 16-24. The program identifies the health conditions and environmental factors in a young person's life that are associated with barriers to wellness.

We've expanded our programs to decrease the risk factors that lead to homelessness and housing insecurity, especially among LGBTQIA+ youth, in Central Ohio.

KYC offers housing opportunities that center the needs and experiences of homeless and housing insecure/vulnerable LGBTQIA+ young adults ages 18-24. Our programs included Rapid Re-Housing and Supportive Co-Housing, and Emergency Housing.



kycohio.org/cbw

Learn how Community Based Wellness supports LGBTQIA+ youth and young adults

123

youth supported with wraparound services

69

Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) applications processed

4

additional youth newly housed through **KYC Housing** in 2022, bringing us to a total of 9.

14

community wellness support groups

2nd

Supportive Co-Housing Site Opened

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

10,000+

PROFESSIONALS REACHED THROUGH TRAINING & EDUCATION IN 2022

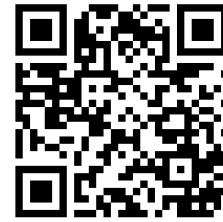
Our Education & Outreach programs cultivate affirming spaces outside of the Drop-In Center. We provide professional development workshops, consultation, advocacy, and support to youth-serving professionals, school staff and organizations with an interest in learning more about gender & sexuality, youth experiences, and best practices for affirming LGBTQIA+ youth and adults.

SUPPORTING SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

As a member of the National Association of GSA Networks, Kaleidoscope Youth Center is the state hub for Ohio GSA (Genders & Sexualities Alliance) Network. We provide technical and resource support to GSAs throughout the state, empowering and training youth leaders and state advocates in communities that lack support.

RACIAL JUSTICE

We are committed to advocacy for racial justice and equity, and visibility through participation in events such as National GSA Network Day for Racial Justice.



kycoho.org/education

Kaleidoscope Youth Center also provides anti-racism training opportunities through an intersectional lens, as well as self-facilitated virtual courses!

Scan to learn more!



48

GSAs in network
(62% increase from 2021)



“I feel like Kaleidoscope was there to save me.”

-KYC Youth



CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & ADVOCACY

KYC is proud to amplify the voices of LGBTQIA+ youth, by speaking out against legislation that would directly impact their lives. In 2022, KYC testified against the Ohio State Board of Education’s anti-LGBTQIA+ resolution, and represented LGBTQIA+ youth at local school board meetings. In the Ohio legislature, we shared direct quotes from our youth during hearings on the transgender athlete ban (H.B. 151) and the bill to ban gender-affirming care for minors (H.B. 454). We will continue to provide opportunities for youth to get involved in their community and mobilize our network in support of LGBTQIA+ young people.

kycoho.org/speakingqueerly

In 2022, **Speaking Queerly**, the official KYC podcast came back on the airwaves!

Speaking Queerly examines pop culture, news, politics, and other topics that affect LGBTQIA+ youth and young adults.

Scan to listen!



UNITY CIRCLE

Consistent financial support makes it easier to plan for future projects and initiatives and make a longtime positive impact. The KYC Unity Circle is our recurring donor program. Members of the Unity Circle are directly contributing to the sustainability of KYC and our mission to serve and support LGBTQIA+ young people.

All Unity Circle supporters receive a monthly e-newsletter, swag based upon giving tier, and special recognition at our annual fall fundraiser!



kycoho.org/unitycircle
Learn more about The Unity Circle



THANK YOU TO OUR 2022 UNITY CIRCLE MEMBERS

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Joni Lynn Sivey | James Eric Questel |
| James H Sanders III | Clifford A Mason II |
| Lynlee Lybrook | Abigail Emison |
| Robert Hardin-Leeth | Thomas Keller |
| Alexa Hanna | Sydney Horn |
| Erin Upchurch | Anne McDaniel |
| Tishia Gunton | Raymond Bonini |
| Stephen Gacka | Sydney Mlakar |
| Perry J Straughter Jr | Joseph Mayer |
| Jessica Duncan | Robert Leis |
| Kassandra Andreadis | Lee Tepper |
| Ellen McDevitt-Stredney | Vanessa Copley |
| Michele Abounader | Julie Wittensoldner |
| Alexandra Konet | Melissa Jackson |
| Jasmin Bradley | Wave Reaume |
| Marvin Rivers | Shelby Lackey |
| Karen Hewitt | Sierra Austin |
| Kellie Kromenacker | Bill Hedrick |
| Brent Fisher | Susan Roscigno |
| Abigail Jeffers | |

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

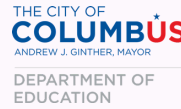
Cliff Mason (He/Him)
Governance Chair

Beth Long (She/Her)
Governance Co-Chair

Kevin Bowen (He/Him)
Finance Chair

Joe Meyer, AIA (He/Him)
Community Engagement Chair

Lee Tepper, MSW, LISW (They/Them)
Program Evaluation Chair



MEMBERS - AT - LARGE

Brent Fisher (They/Them)

Terry B. Hardaway (He/Him)

Dr. Lauren McInroy (She/Her)

Nick Rediger, MEd, LPSC (He/Him)

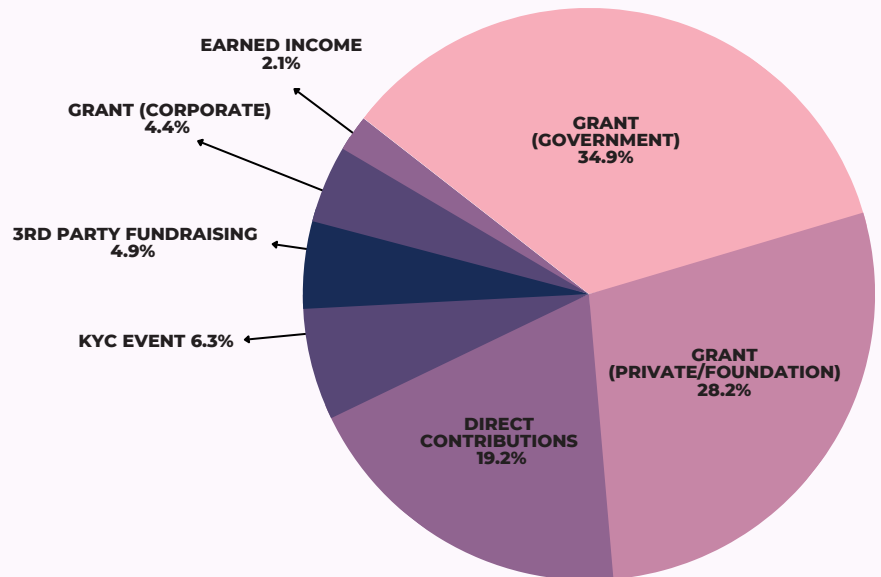
J. Eric Questel, DO (He/Him)

Storm Woods (She/Her)

FINANCIALS

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| Grant (Government) | \$610,382 |
| Grant (Private/Foundation) | \$494,381 |
| Direct Contributions | \$336,667 |
| KYC Event | \$110,570 |
| 3rd Party Fundraising | \$86,309 |
| Grant (Corporate) | \$76,727 |
| Earned Income | \$36,063 |

| | |
|----------------------|-------------|
| Total Revenue | \$1,751,103 |
| Expenses | \$1,703,993 |
| Net Income | \$47,109 |



THANK YOU TO OUR 2022 COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND SPONSORS

Chase invested \$50,000 in KYC's health & wellness services in 2022! Corporate support like this is vital in building communities that are safer and more affirming for LGBTQIA+ youth!



CONTACT

MAIL
PO Box 8194
Columbus, OH 43201

VISIT
603 E Towne St
Columbus, OH 43203

EMAIL
info@kycoho.org

CALL
614.294.5437

FOLLOW US
@KYCOHIO



FOLLOW US
@KYCOHIO.BLOG



linktr.ee/kycoho
More Info on the KYC LinkTree