# CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF SERVING AND SUPPORTING LGBTQIA+ YOUTH



# ANNUAL 2018 REPORT 8



Erin Upchurch, MSSA, LISW-S, joined KYC in 2018, as the new Executive Director. Upchurch brings 20 years of experience working with youth and families in the fields of mental health and trauma

recovery. As a social worker and advocate, Erin has dedicated her life to supporting underserved and marginalized communities, garnering her numerous community awards and speaking engagements.

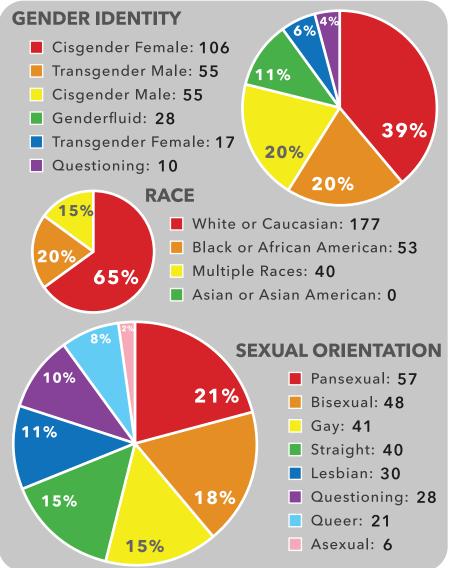
## **MISSION**

To serve and support LGBTQIA+ youth and young adults.

#### **VISION**

To work in partnership with youth across all spectrums of sexual orientation and gender identity to live healthy, whole lives with acceptance and freedom from oppression.





# IN THE CENTER

AT OUR DROP-IN CENTER

Budget: \$260,327

Providing positive youth development programs that focus on building resiliency and reducing risk factors, our youth-informed activities include: discussion groups, art clubs, cooking clubs, music groups, "gaymer" nights, LGBTQIA+ inclusive sex ed., free HIV/STI testing, dance and movement sessions, field trips, movie nights, "Walk with a Doc" in partnership with Nationwide Children's Hospital, and so much more!

492
unique youth
visited in 2018
w/ nearly 3,500 visits





## **PRIDE**

Our first ever Pride month event included an open house of our center and a chance for youth and their families to enjoy a fun day of games, food, crafts, and community!



## **BAR-B-QUEER**

This back-to-school event draws nearly 60 youth who are able to enjoy one last summer party and pick up free school supplies, all generously donated by our community!



## **OTHER PROM**

Our signature youth event, over 300 young people from 66 schools around Ohio joined KYC for a "Glow"-themed evening to enjoy prom as their true selves, free from judgement!



# IN THE COMMUNITY

**OUR VOLUNTEERS AND EVENTS** 

Budget: \$128,570

27<sub>groups</sub>
volunteered
for
"Days of Service"

25Center Volunteers worked 550hrs

## **VOLUNTEERS**

From business resource groups that join us for "Days of Service" to those working directly with youth daily in our drop-in center to those that join us for special events, volunteers are a vital part of our ability to support LGBTQIA+ youth! KYC is grateful to everyone who contributed their time and talent in 2018!

Photo: Volunteers assisting with our 2018 Other Prom at the Wexner Center for the Arts.



# IN THE SCHOOLS

THE OHIO GSA NETWORK

Budget: \$45,564

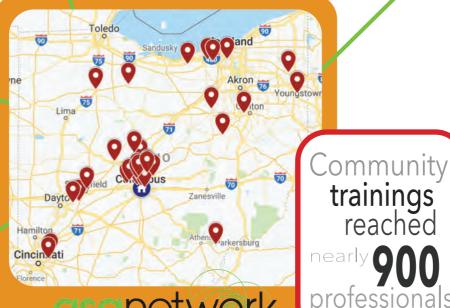


GSAs are invited to participate in events throughout the year, including the Ohio GSA Summit to share in their experiences and learn how they can build more safe and inclusive communities.

GSAs provide a safe place for students to meet, support each other, and talk about issues related to sexual orientation and gender identity and work homophobia.

Genders & Sexualities Alliance (GSA) clubs are groups adult allies in middle and high schools across the

In solidarity with the National GSA Network, the Ohio GSA Network works to create safer and more supportive schools and communities by participating in national events, including the "GSA Day for Gender Justice" and the "GSA Day for Racial Justice."



Community trainings reached nearly

sanetwork

Save the Date



Our Education & Training programs are designed to help youth-serving professionals learn basic terminology, LGBTQIA+ and youth experience, risk factors, and much more.





## THE MASQUERADE

In 2018, KYC lovingly said "goodbye" to the Garden Party, a cornerstone event for the organization since 1997. As a growing agency with a growing community, it was time to transition to a brand new signature event! The Masquerade was held on Friday, October 5th at the Jeffrey Mansion in Bexley. Nearly 250 people attended raising over \$135,000, through sponsorships, auctions items, and in-kind services! Attendees were treated to delicious food from Barcelona Restaurant & Bar and music from DJ Sarah Mamo.

A big "thank you" goes out to Nina West & Virginia West for hosting, and Columbus City Council President Shannon G. Hardin for being the special guest speaker. Thank you to all the volunteers that made the night a wonderful success, SDG Security for A/V services, and KR Forbes Photography for documenting the event!

And an additional thank you to all our sponsors, including Equitas Health, Honda, Big Lots Foundation, Tom W. Davis, L Brands Foundation, Cardinal Health, and so many

Top Photo: Attendees donned masks, including Board Member Leisan Smith (middle)! Bottom Photo: Hosts Nina West and Virginia West mingled with quests, including Board Member Beniamin Jarosz.

#### **2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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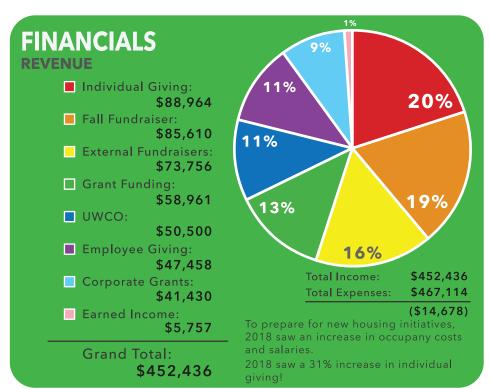
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#### **HOUSING**

For 2019, KYC is excited to launch their brand new housing initiatives that include Rapid Re-Housing, Host Home Network, and Supportive Co-Housing. These are the first and only housing programs in Central Ohio centering LGBTQIA+ young people. As our community approach to provide a safety net for youth, these programs are focused on preventing and disrupting experiences of homelessness. Our goal is to keep young people off the streets while supporting them with the tools they need to thrive. For more info, visit: **kycohio.org/housing**.

## **2019 UPCOMING EVENTS**

MAY 11 OTHER PROM AT COSI (FOR YOUTH 12-20 ONLY)

JUNE 5 KYC LIVE AT GATEWAY FILM CENTER

JUNE 8 PRIDE OPEN HOUSE & CELEBRATION

**AUGUST** BAR-B-QUEER BACK-TO-SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

OCTOBER 4 25TH ANNIVERSARY GALA AT COSI

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