



2020

ANNUAL REPORT



BELONGING BEGINS HERE

A NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:
Erin Upchurch, MSSA, LISW-S



Our mission is centered on providing a safe haven for our young people; and as one might imagine, a pandemic, becomes **an invitation to get creative** and do things differently. Although the point of contact shifted from in-person to online, our team remained steadfast in our commitment to promote safer spaces, affirmation, belonging, and community for LGBTQIA+ youth and young adults.

Virtually, our attendance exceeded 4,000 "visits". We trained over 2,000 community members and professionals, connected over 40 young people to wraparound case management and housing services; and supported youth and their families with food, household supplies, and personal care items.

One thing that remained clear is the necessity of KYC and the absolute need for our programs and services within our communities. As 2021 unfolds, we look forward to new opportunities; including the KYC Community Wellness Initiative - an expansion of our programming with a focus on the emerging mental health and wellness needs of the youth we serve. For the first time in KYC's history, we are hiring a community based outpatient therapist to do this necessary, and potentially life-saving, work!

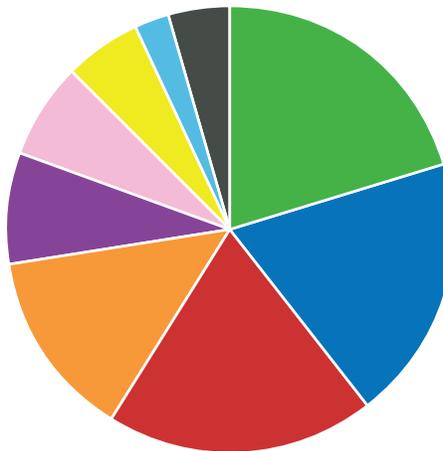
Young people are the heartbeat of the KYC. They have a vision for the world that includes all people. They stand for intersectional identities, representative leadership; and the importance of having access to community and for basic needs to be met. Our future leaders stand for racial justice and equity, safer spaces, being affirmed, and knowing that they belong.

We remain grateful for our community of donors, volunteers, supporters, parents, and caregivers. It is our collective charge to create and sustain safe(r) experiences for our young people.

The work of KYC is the work of love. **#Ittakesavillage** to stand with and for our young people. **Thank you for standing with us.**

In love and community,

Erin



GENDER IDENTITY

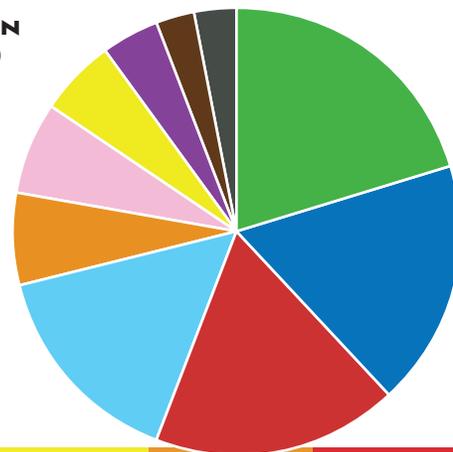
*Based on self-reporting in 2020

Trans Male	20.5%
Cis Male	19.2%
Cis Female	19.2%
Non-Binary	13.7%
Trans Female	8.2%
Questioning	6.8%
Genderfluid	5.5%
Agender	2.7%
Other	4.2%

SEXUAL ORIENTATION

*Based on self-reporting in 2020

Pansexual	20.5%
Gay	17.8%
Bisexual	17.8%
Lesbian	15.1%
Heterosexual	6.8%
Asexual	6.8%
Questioning	5.5%
Queer	4.1%
Aromantic	2.7%
Other	3.0%



SAFER AND AFFIRMING LGBTQIA+ SPACES

The **Drop-in Center** at KYC is open weekdays for **youth ages 12 - 20** as a safer and 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.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, which closed in-person activities at KYC, **the Center was open for 55 days.**

During that time we served:



PANDEMIC RESPONSE

KYC quickly pivoted our Drop-in Center programs to digital spaces, continuing to create safer and affirming places for LGBTQIA+ young people to connect during the COVID-19 pandemic.

KYC created a Discord chat server, where **2,394 youth across Ohio** gathered for discussions, games, and other creative programming.

We also saw **1,614 young people engage** with us through "check-ins" on Instagram, and our affinity groups were able to continue to meet through Zoom.

We also provide peer-to-peer connection and mentorship opportunities through affinity-based groups. Our most popular groups include **Genderscope**, for trans and nonbinary youth, and **QPOC** for queer and trans youth of color.

Plus, for the first time ever, we partnered with the Mental Health & Recovery Board of Union County to **expand our Drop-in Center programming to Union County, Ohio**, providing safer spaces for LGBTQIA+ youth, and their families!

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

Our **Community Education & Professional Development programs** aims to 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 and sexuality, youth experiences, and best practices for affirming LGBTQIA+ youth and adults. We now also offer CEU's!

2,034
professionals
trained in
2020

YOUTH LEADERSHIP

The **KYC Community Advisory Board (CAB)** is a group of leaders, ages 12-24, working together to help inform KYC programming and special events; advocate for LGBTQIA+ youth in the community; and provide a youth voice in the ongoing leadership and development of KYC.



64%
of youth participants
are between
the ages of
15 - 18

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.



CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

KYC works closely with groups like Equality Ohio to **advocate for LGBTQIA+ state legislation**. In 2020, KYC joined a coalition of organizations supporting SB 50 which would protect youth against so-called conversion therapy. We also stand ready to fight against anti-trans bills that continue to be introduced in Ohio's state legislature.



IMPROVING LIVES

NEW in 2020: Our **Community Based Wellness program** improves the lives of transitional-aged LGBTQIA+ youth, 16 - 24, identifying the health conditions and environmental factors in a young person's life that are associated with barriers to wellness.

We provide **coordinated, direct access to wraparound services** through partnerships with organizations such as the Buckeye Region Anti Violence Organization (BRAVO) and more.



KYC also offers **housing opportunities** that center and serve homeless and housing insecure/vulnerable LGBTQIA+ young adults ages 18-24. Our programs included Rapid Re-Housing and Supportive Co-Housing, plus additional opportunities through a partnership with Huckleberry House.



We connected **over 40 young people** with wraparound services and housing assistance

PANDEMIC RESPONSE

KYC continued to support youth with housing and wellness needs throughout the pandemic, utilizing tele-health and social distancing best practices. Through contactless pick-up and drop-off methods, youth had access to care packages containing food, hygiene products, and clothing.

SUPPORTIVE SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

As a member of the National Association of GSA Networks, **KYC 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 staff advocates in communities that lack support.

Over 45 GSA clubs across OHIO



RACIAL JUSTICE

KYC celebrates the multiple identities that LGBTQIA+ youth hold. We are committed to advocacy for racial justice and equity; and visibility through participation in events such as the National GSA Network Day for Racial Justice. KYC also provides anti-racism training opportunities through an intersectional lens within our Community Education and Professional Development Programs.

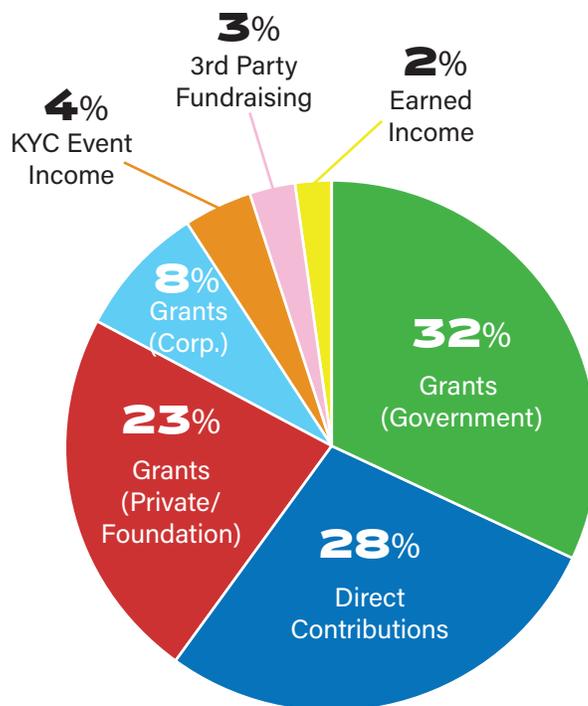


FINANCIALS

Revenue

Grants (Government)	\$296,871
Direct Contributions	\$259,276
Grants (Private/Foundation)	\$213,318
Grants (Corporate)	\$75,820
KYC Event Income	\$36,723
3rd Party Fundraising	\$28,646
Earned Income	\$19,537

Total Revenue	\$930,191
Total Expenses	\$839,785
Net Income	\$90,406



KYC UNITY CIRCLE SUPPORTERS



The KYC Unity Circle is our BRAND NEW recurring donor program. Supporters of the Unity Circle are directly contributing to the longevity of KYC and our mission to serve and support LGBTQIA+ young people. KYC can do more, and plan ahead for the future more successfully with the security of knowing that YOUR generous gift is coming every month to support our young people.

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

Sign-up to become a Unity Circle supporter at:
kycoho.org/unitycircle

Thank you to our founding Unity Circle Supporters!

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Michele Abounader | Abigail Jeffers |
| Sierra Austin | Randall L Bennett |
| Kimberly Bullinger | Alexandra L Ratie |
| Vanessa Copley | Shelby Lackey |
| Paul Feeney | Robert Leis |
| Brent Fisher | Lynlee Lybrook |
| James H. Sanders, III | Anne McDaniel |
| Robert Hardin-Leeth | Adam Pulskamp |
| Bill Hedrick | Tracie Santos |
| Sydney Horn | Laura Vermilya |
| Perry J Straughter Jr. | |



THANK YOU TO OUR 2020 COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND SPONSORS!

Support from businesses, organizations, and major supporters help us connect vital services to LGBTQIA+ youth in our community!

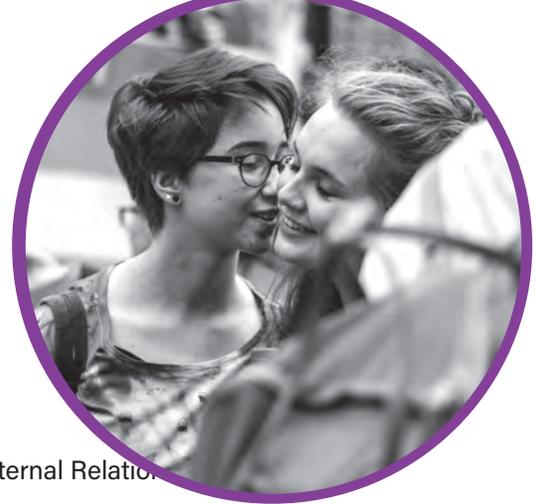


TOM W. DAVIS



2021 STAFF

Erin Upchurch, MSSA, LISW - S (She/Her)	Executive Director
Karen Hewitt, MA Ed. (Ze/Hir, She/Her)	Deputy Director
Cole Campos, MSW, LSW (They/Them)	Community Wellness Practitioner
Mitchell Corson (He/Him)	Community Engagement Coordinator
Sydnee Crews (She/Her)	Ohio GSA Network Coordinator
Amanda Erickson (She/Her)	Director of Education & Outreach
Liam Gallagher (They/Them, He/Him)	Director of Center Based Programs
Jennifer Kuhn (She/Her)	Director of Community Partnerships & External Relations
Leo Perdomo Blanco (They/Them)	Program Support Coordinator
Shantelle D. Rogers, BSW, LSW (She/Her)	Director of Community Based Wellness
James Westfall (He/Him)	Director of Operations & Facilities Management



2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Cliff Mason, MSW, MEd (He/Him) Gahanna-Jefferson Public Schools	President
Rob Leis (He/Him) Member-at-Large	Vice President
Dr. Lauren McInroy, MSW, PhD (She/Her) College of Social Work, OSU	Secretary
Brent Fisher (They/Them) Pathways Financial Credit Union	Treasurer

MEMBERS - AT - LARGE

Honorable Carl Aveni, Esq. (He/Him) Franklin County Court of Common Pleas	Sydney Mlakar (She/Her) Member-at-Large
Terry B. Hardaway, II, CISA (He/Him) Nationwide	Michelle Umali (She/Her) EY
Kelvin LaGarde, Jr. (He/Him) Member-at-Large	Storm Woods (She/Her) Batelle
Josh Phillips, MLFP, CPP (He/Him) Bath & Body Works	



Youth ages 12 - 20, can drop-in to KYC Tuesday - Thursday 3:30pm - 7pm, Friday 3:30pm - 8pm

CONTACT US!

VISIT US

Kaleidoscope Youth Center
603 East Town St.
Columbus, OH 43215

MAIL US

Kaleidoscope Youth Center
PO Box 8104
Columbus, OH 43201

CALL US

614-294-5437 (10am - 6pm)

EMAIL US

info@kycoho.org



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@KYCOhio

