SAFER AND AFFIRMING LGBTQIA+ SPACES

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

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.

BELONGING BEGINS HERE

YOUTH VISITS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1444</td>
<td>3000</td>
<td>5336</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PROFESSIONALS TRAINED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>505</td>
<td>3700</td>
<td>10000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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!

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

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"
DROPPING 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.

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.

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.

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.

kycohio.org/cbw
Learn how Community Based Wellness supports LGBTQIA+ youth and young adults

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.

“**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.

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/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!

kycoho.org/speakingqueerly

Thank you to our 2022 Unity Circle Members

Joni Lynn Sivey
James H Sanders III
Lynlee Lybrook
Robert Hardin-Leeth
Alexa Hanna
Erin Upchurch
Tishia Gunton
Stephen Gacka
Perry J Straughter Jr
Jessica Duncan
Kassandra Andreadis
Ellen McDevitt-Stredney
Michele Abounader
Alexandra Konet
Jasmin Bradley
Marvin Rivers
Karen Hewitt
Kellie Kromenacker
Brent Fisher
Abigail Jeffers

James Eric Questel
Clifford A Mason II
Abigail Emison
Thomas Keller
Sydney Horn
Anne McDaniel
Raymond Bonini
Sydney Mlakar
Joseph Mayer
Robert Leis
Lee Tepper
Vanessa Copley
Julie Wittensoldner
Melissa Jackson
Wave Reaume
Shelby Lackey
Sierra Austin
Bill Hedrick
Susan Roscigno

kycoho.org/unitycircle

Learn more about The Unity Circle
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!

Thank you to our 2022 community partners and sponsors

Contact

Mail
PO Box 8194
Columbus, OH 43201

Visit
603 E Towne St
Columbus, OH 43203

Email
info@kycohio.org

Call
614.294.5437

Follow Us @KYCOHIO

Follow Us @KYCOHIO.BLOG

Linktr.ee/kycohio

More info on the KYC LinkTree