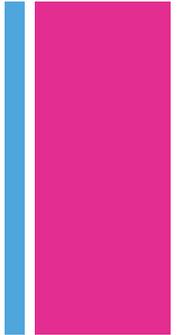


+ Kaleidoscope Youth Center



KYC is the largest and longest standing organization in the state of Ohio dedicated to serving LGBTQ+ youth.

Mission: To work in partnership with young people to create safe and empowering environments for LGBTQ+ youth through advocacy, education, support, and community engagement.

Vision: For youth across spectrums of sexual orientation and gender identity to live healthy, whole lives with acceptance and freedom from oppression.



We're turning 25!!!

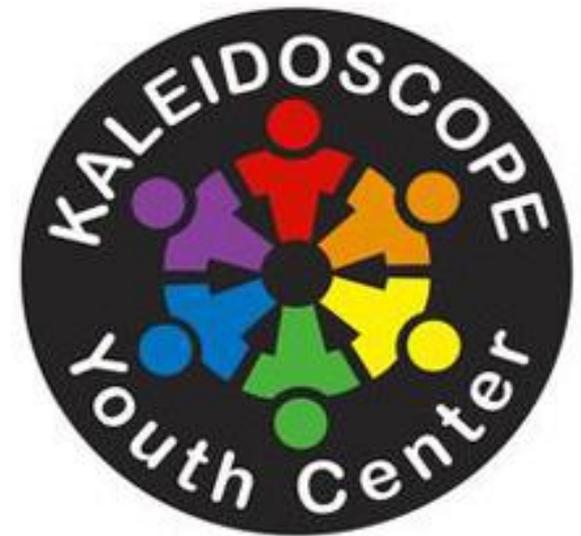
+ Kaleidoscope Youth Center

- Ages 12-20
- Open 5 days a week with some weekend programming
- Programming:
 - Safe, Substance-Free Social Activities
 - Trauma Informed & Healing Centered
 - Leadership Development
 - Life Skills
 - Mutual Support
 - Health & Wellness Education
- Youth Leadership Council & GSAs
- Special Events
 - GSA Summits
 - Other Prom
 - Pride Parade and Festival
 - Bar-B-Queer
 - Day of Service



+ Kaleidoscope Youth Center

- 49% of the young people we served are transgender or non-binary.
- 25% are Black or are otherwise connected to a community of color.
- 33% of youth participants are eligible for free or reduced lunches in school.



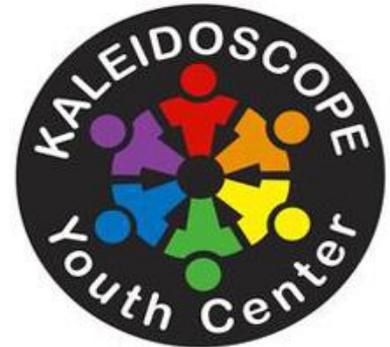
+ Outcomes of Services Provided

- In 2017, KYC served over **423** unique young people; totaling nearly **4000** visits throughout they year.
- KYC combines best practice standards in youth programming with those designed to increase protective factors that LGBTQ+ youth often lack, and access to affirming resources, referrals, and crisis intervention.
- By providing a safe physical space, access to supportive and engaged adults, and the opportunity to engage and develop relationships with other LGBTQ+ identified peers, KYC addresses the full range and most emergent needs of our target population.
- Through KYC Center surveys, 80% of youth who participated in KYC programming indicated improved and increased control of their anger and ability to deal with problems; 60% reported it helped improve relationships; and 90% indicated they can solve problems in a positive manner.



+ Challenges in Providing Services

- Transportation
- Housing insecurity and homelessness
- Accessing information on available services
- Safe, affirming, and inclusive spaces, policies, language, and services
- Affirming families & caregivers
- Homophobia
- Transphobia
- Resources (financial or otherwise)



+ Opportunities

Barriers & challenges often lead to gaps in services; which in turn offers opportunities to comprehensively meet the growing needs in our community, which include, but are not limited to:

- Safe, inclusive, affirming services for transgender/non-binary youth
- Increased resources and support for youth of color
- Support for LGBTQ young people experiencing housing insecurity or homelessness
- Safe and affirming school environments
- Services for transitional-aged youth



+ Impact on Quality of Life

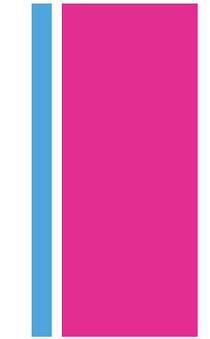
LGBTQ youth report increased:

- Bullying, school absenteeism
- Anxiety and depression
- Lower levels of self-esteem
- Substance use/abuse
- Risky sexual behaviors, unplanned pregnancies
- Trafficking and exploitation
- Survival crimes/contact with justice system
- Self harm, suicidal ideation and attempts
- Housing insecurity and homelessness



+ Ways COBG Can Help-Advocacy & Support

- Respect the names youth wish to be called and their pronouns. When unsure, ask the individual one on one with empathy and respect.
- Respect the clothing choices students make, supporting them as they figure out how they want to perform/express their gender
- Dialogue and discussion inside and outside groups are helpful and healthy so long as respectful. Don't shut down conversations about sexual orientation and gender identity, but make sure to facilitate the conversation down inclusive roads
- Insist that other family members include and respect all youth in your home.
- Humble yourself and apologize where necessary; learn from your mistakes, and always try to broaden your understanding.



+ Ways COBG Can Help-*Support Intersectional Identities*

- LGBTQ young people, are not a monolithic group
- Transgender youth were most likely to feel unsafe at school or in the community, with 80.0% of transgender students reporting that they felt unsafe at school because of their gender expression.
- LGBTQ youth of color report feeling more conflict in their efforts to combine their racial, ethnic, religious, cultural, sexual and gender identities.
- LGBTQ youth of color report having fewer adults to talk to, fewer supports

Kosciw, J. G., Greytak, E. A., Bartkiewicz, M. J., Boesen, M. J., & Palmer, N. A. (2012). *The 2011 National School Climate Survey: The experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth in our nation's schools*. New York: GLSEN.

+ **Ways COBG Can Help-*Creating Representative & Affirming Environments***

- Think about first impressions with LGBTQ youth
- Think about language on forms, fliers, signs, etc.
- Use gender-neutral language
- Respect youth's self-identification (gender pronoun, name, etc.)
- Use inclusive language; never tolerate abusive language
- Make no assumptions: do not assume you know someone's sexual orientation or gender identity
- Respond to anti-LGBTQ language immediately
- Treat the topic of sexual orientation as you would any other aspect of human diversity.
- Understand diversity within LGBTQ community
- Avoid making assumptions
- Use inclusive, non-gender specific language that does not assume heterosexuality
- Respond to anti-LGBT language and behaviors
- Support young people who come out to you
- Remember that sexuality is only one aspect of an individual's life.
- Be a visible ally & advocate