



—Fin (he/they), 16, high school participant  
“Seeing queer people being happy for the first time, in a space that was made for queer people...I was like, ‘Oh, this is really worth it.’”

# Year in Review July 2022-June 2023

**OUT**  
METROWEST  
160 HOLLIS STREET  
FRAMINGHAM, MA 01702

## JOY. RESILIENCY. GROWTH. PRIDE.

These are the themes that stand out as I reflect on OUT MetroWest’s 12th year of building communities where LGBTQ+ youth thrive.

This past fiscal year – July 2022 through June 2023 – was our first year fully back in person, in our beautiful new space in downtown Framingham, where we continue to deepen roots and build relationships within the community. It was our first full year of several new programs: piloting Satellites in four surrounding towns, engaging young adults ages 19 - 29 at Nova, and expanding our support of elementary ages to include all LGBTQ+ identifying youth in Glow.

Despite internal and external challenges – including staff transitions and the harmful rise of anti-LGBTQ+ legislation and activity across the nation and right here in MA – OUT MetroWest showed resiliency and unity as we addressed these obstacles to better serve our community. Together, we showed up loudly and proudly for and with our queer and trans youth.

Over the past year, we welcomed over 175 new faces, tripled middle school Nexus participation, and, after 2 years of program growth, offered a record number of program hours (30+ hours per month: double that of our pre-pandemic schedule!) to reach even more young people in need of our support. We added two new part-time positions to build capacity for our still relatively young, growing organization. Demand for our popular Community Education Sessions ballooned to meet the critical need for organizations to build more inclusive cultures; our team trained an amazing 1,200+ individuals in the region!

After two years of virtual Come OUT & Celebrate events, we came back in person stronger than ever. Our SOLD OUT, re-imagined October Gay-la brought together over 300 attendees celebrating with us in a new format, raising more funds than ever before, and honoring the life-saving work of local gender-affirming healthcare professionals.

Of course, none of this would have been possible without the help of our wonderful community of supporters, including YOU. We are so grateful to our hardworking, creative staff; our committed trustees; our generous donors and corporate sponsors; our myriad community partners; and, most importantly, the incredible LGBTQ+ young people and their families – who continue to show up for themselves, every day, all year long.

Thank you for making this past year one where so many youth had the opportunity to feel joy, connection, and pride – in discovering and being their full, beautiful, authentic selves. We couldn’t do it without you.

With gratitude,

**Octavio González (he/him)**  
Chair, Board of Directors

**OUT**  
METROWEST

JOIN US FOR OUR 10TH ANNUAL  
**Come OUT & Celebrate Gay-la!**  
Monday, October 23rd, 6:30-9pm at Jack's Abby, Framingham

Get ready for a night of fun and inspiration! Enjoy games and activities for all ages, dancing with DJ Mocha, camaraderie with others who support LGBTQ+ youth, a photo booth, raffles, and more.

Get your tickets TODAY before we sell out! Tickets are \$45 and include a delicious buffet dinner from the Jack’s Abby kitchen and one drink ticket (alcoholic or non).

**Get your tickets at: [tinyurl.com/ComeOUT2023](https://tinyurl.com/ComeOUT2023)**

# '22-'23 YEAR IN REVIEW

*Wonderful first full year in our new space with expanded programs!*

## BY THE NUMBERS

### Programs & Community Impact

- 400 hours of FREE LGBTQ+ programming offered
- 1200+ individuals and 25+ organizations trained on LGBTQ+ inclusion
- 175+ NEW queer & transgender youth and young adults welcomed to programs
- 30+ towns represented among participants, spanning the entire MetroWest region
- 20+ Pride events attended across Boston and MetroWest
- 1 AMAZING community!

### Financial Support

- \$490K+ raised from 649 donors (529 individuals and 120 organizations)
- 310 first-time donors
- 189 donors consecutively giving 3 years or more
- \$125K+ raised at Come OUT and Celebrate Gay-la
- 49 monthly donors, 18 of which were NEW
- 100% investment in LGBTQ+ youth!

## PUTTING DOWN ROOTS

As we enter the second year in our new home, our space continues to grow and evolve. We have doubled the books in our LGBTQ+ library; devoted a space specifically for gender-affirming clothing and resources; and added a Parent/Caregiver waiting area, available during all programs at 160 Hollis Street. We continue to build relationships with local organizations, restaurants, and other youth and community resources in downtown Framingham and beyond. Follow us on social media to learn about local events!

## PROGRAM GROWTH



In our first full year of Glow, our new bi-monthly program for all LGBTQ+ elementary age youth, kids and their families joined us for nature mobile making, trampoline park fun, pool parties, and more – sharing in community and LGBTQ+ joy!



Nexus, our program for middle school LGBTQ+ youth, TRIPLED in attendance in its first year as a weekly offering! Youth benefited from the addition of a high school Peer Leader and increased hours with LGBTQ+ therapists.



Nova, our new program for LGBTQ+ young adults ages 19-29, launched in fall 2022. 50+ participants enjoyed monthly gatherings including archery, dinners at LGBTQ+-owned local restaurants, art nights, and more!



**We revived an old OUT MetroWest tradition: Youth and Families BBQ! The perfect way to kick off back-to-school.**



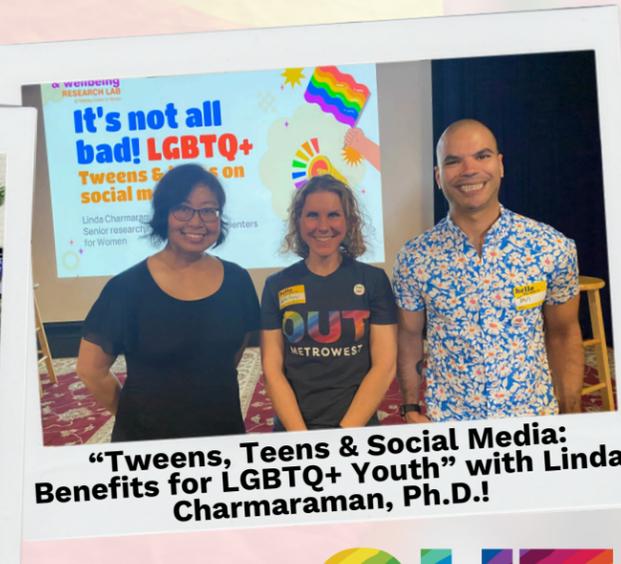
**Come OUT & Celebrate Gay-la! Back in person with a focus on community and accessibility.**



**Collaborative youth art for our space!**



**OUT MetroWest staff and volunteers at Boston Pride for the People. One of 20+ Pride events we attended this year!**



**"Tweens, Teens & Social Media: Benefits for LGBTQ+ Youth" with Linda Charmaraman, Ph.D.!**