



Year in Review July 2023-June 2024

A MESSAGE FROM OUR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Hello OUT MetroWest community,

My name is Mel Pace (they/she), and I am thrilled to be OUT MetroWest's new Executive Director! I joined the team in May 2024, just in time to connect with many of you at tabling events and speaking engagements during Pride month.

In my short time here, I have learned so much from this community, and I can't wait to explore what's next together. As we embark on this new chapter, I hope to deepen OUT MetroWest's commitment to youth-centered programming, queer joy, and community collaboration: themes highlighted throughout our July 2023 - June 2024 Year In Review.

I am tremendously grateful to each and every person who joins us in support of OUT MetroWest youth. It is the many ways that YOU - our staff, board members, community partners, volunteers, donors, and parents/caregivers - celebrate and center the needs of trans and queer youth that make our community flourish. And to our young people - you are not only the reason we do this work, but also leaders in our shared mission to build communities where LGBTQ+ youth thrive.

With gratitude,

Mel Pace (they/she)
Pace pronounced pah-chay
Executive Director



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Come **OUT** & Celebrate *Gay-la!*

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Thursday, November 7th | 6:30-9pm at Jack's Abby, Framingham |
|-----------------------------------|--|

Get tickets **HERE**
or on our website!



Get ready for a night of fun and inspiration! Enjoy a drag performance, music and dancing, a photo booth, raffle, and more.

Get your tickets **TODAY!** Early bird tickets are \$35 before September 20th, and \$45 after. Each ticket includes a delicious buffet dinner from the Jack's Abby kitchen, one drink ticket (alcoholic or non), and the **PRICELESS** knowledge that you are building communities where LGBTQ+ youth *thrive*.



Vibrant Community



Delicious Buffet

'23-'24 YEAR IN REVIEW

IMPACT & ENGAGEMENT

Programs and Community

- **Joined by 325 unique youth** - including 110 NEW youth - ages pre-k through 29 at our programs.
- **Attended 100+ community events** - 23 of which were Pride events - sharing our resources and connecting with community partners.
- **Sent 220+ outreach packets** to schools, libraries, and family centers, reaching youth across our catchment area.
- **Trained 380+ individuals** at our Education Sessions, cultivating LGBTQ+ competency amongst corporate partners and community members.
- **Renovated our Parent/Caregiver Space** providing a cozier environment in the waiting area and increased privacy for our youth.
- **OUTings** to Red Sox Pride Night, the Community Kiln to play with clay, and Brandeis University for a Drag Story Hour.

FUNdraising and Finance

- **Surpassed our Spring Appeal Goal** of \$25,000 to shelter trans and queer youth from the storm of anti-LGBTQ+ sentiments. Anyone who gave \$125+ received a rainbow OUT MetroWest umbrella.
- **Gathered with over 200** youth, partners, and community members at our 10th Annual Come OUT & Celebrate Gay-la. Peer Leaders gave speeches, Governor Maura Healey shared a special message, and the crowd supported LGBTQ+ youth by raising over \$148,000 in critical funds needed for our FREE programming.
- **Hosted Trivia Night in person** for the first time in 5 years. Missy Steak emceed for us at the Framingham Public High School for a night of facts, friends, and raising nearly \$25,000 for LGBTQ+ youth.



Building communities where LGBTQ+ youth thrive.

outmetrowest.org | @outmetrowest



Trivia Night



Parent/Caregiver Waiting Area



Community Kiln



Spring Appeal



Framingham Pride

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



Doubled programing for trans & nonbinary youth

Umbrella, our program for transgender and nonbinary youth, expanded from twice a month to once a WEEK gatherings for youth in high school, and added occasional offerings for youth in middle school. Umbrella featured a custom binder-making workshop and a presentation on healthy relationships for trans and gender expansive people.



Increased access to LGBTQ+ Role Models

Weekly programs are supported by the addition of 3 new Adult Advisors and 3 new youth Peer Leaders. These LGBTQ+ role models plan and facilitate our weekly programs, and foster a supportive environment that centers trans and queer youth. Our team represents a variety of LGBTQ+ identities to fully serve our community.



Engaged LGBTQ+ youth and their families

Over 125 youth and their families joined us for Shine and Glow, our programs for pre-k through grade 5. Activities included a pool party, mini golf, and a performance by Ants on a Log. OUT MetroWest also led the Elementary Age track at the Trans Youth Summit, providing a fun and supportive space for transgender youth.



Fostered queer joy with young adults

Nova, our program for LGBTQ+ young adults ages 19-29, drew more than 50 participants for programs such as Friendsgiving, a queer movie screening, and restaurant meet-ups. A record number of OUT MetroWest alums reconnected with us through Nova and leadership positions across the organization.