



"OUT MetroWest, its program and community, saved my child's life. I will always be forever grateful."
-Supportive Parent of an Alum

Year in Review July 2024-June 2025

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CARE. INTENTION. COMMUNITY STRENGTH.

Dear OUT MetroWest community,

Having joined the board in 2022, I'm honored to now serve as Chair and amazed at the growth and impact OUT MetroWest has had in three short years. As I reflect on our 2025 fiscal year—our 14th year of uplifting LGBTQ+ youth—I'm deeply proud of what our dedicated team and community have made possible.



While national support for LGBTQ+ spaces diminishes, the need for our programs has only grown — OUT MetroWest has continued to meet this need with care, intention, and community strength. Thanks to your generosity, we raised a record-breaking \$700K this fiscal year from individuals, businesses, and faith communities. You all strengthen our ability to respond to increased demand as we continue to provide free, supportive programming for LGBTQ+ youth.

Now over a year into their leadership, Executive Director Mel Pace (they/she) continues to guide our work with clarity, compassion, and collaboration. This year, we launched a strategic planning process, ensuring our efforts remain youth-led, responsive, and rooted in purpose and possibility. At a time when so many LGBTQ+ young people are navigating fear and uncertainty, OUT MetroWest remains a steady, joyful presence. Through healing conversations and creative expression, queer youth continue to lift each other up with courage and joy.

Thank you for being in this work with us. Your support helps ensure that LGBTQ+ youth are not only safe—but seen, celebrated, and held in community.

With gratitude,

Ashley Seeley (she/her)
 Board Chair, OUT MetroWest



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

Thursday, October 30th at Jack's Abby in Framingham!

Get ready for a night of fun and inspiration! Our annual Come OUT & Celebrate Gay-la is on October 30th, 2025. Join us at Jack's Abby for an evening with friends and community members as we come together to raise \$150,000 for our FREE LGBTQ+ youth programs.

Enjoy staff and youth stories, lively entertainment, an outdoor fire pit, raffle, and more! Tickets include 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.

We've sold out three years in a row, so get your tickets TODAY! Early bird tickets are \$45 for Adults, and \$35 for youth/students before September 30th.

Get your tickets TODAY!



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



'24-'25 YEAR IN REVIEW

IMPACT & ENGAGEMENT

Programs and Community

- 470+ hours of FREE programming offered to LGBTQ+ youth
- 375 Unique Youth served, including 120 NEW youth!
- 100+ LGBTQ+ books added to our queer library
- 85 youth and families celebrated at our 14th Birthday Party
- 75 community events attended across the state
- 35+ Volunteers greeted youth, tabled, and painted our center
- COUNTLESS community members educated about mental health in the LGBTQ+ community, as we **Changed up the Conversation** in partnership with the Boston Red Sox

Fundraising and Financial Support

- \$60,000+ donated to our winter appeal, themed “write the next chapter for LGBTQ+ youth” - our **biggest appeal to date!**
- \$146,000+ raised at our Come OUT& Celebrate Gay-la, from **233 community members and Sponsors**
- \$22,000 donated during Trivia Night and the Spring Auction, a revived OUT MetroWest tradition
- \$80,000 donated to our ‘Emergent Needs Fund’ to **support increased demand** for programs and mental health services

GROWTH & EXPANSION

This year, we expanded our team, strengthened community collaboration, and increased access to resources for LGBTQ+ youth. We welcomed a **new full-time team member**, the Events and Operations Coordinator, who organizes community events such as Trivia and Gay-la, and streamlines our financial processes. We partnered with the **City of Framingham** for our biggest **OUT on the Block** Pride Celebration ever! **Over 300 community members** came together to enjoy local vendors, a drag story hour, a zine making workshop, food trucks, and more. In collaboration with **GEMS at the Arts**, we launched a **Gender Affirming Clothing Closet** and a **Community Pantry** for food and personal hygiene products. Our youth can access these resources during programs, free of charge, **bolstering their ability to thrive.**



OUTLOUD Music Festival



Gay-la 2024



14th Birthday: Drag Brunch!



Pride 2025



Red Sox Pride Night

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Celebrated Gender Expression



With over 200 clothing items, shoes, and accessories donated to our Clothing Swap & Gender Affirming Haircuts event, we curated a mini boutique experience in our space for youth to expand their wardrobes. Any remaining items were organized into our Gender Affirming Clothing Closet, a permanent resource in our space. The folks at SuperCuts and Fleet St. Barber Shop did a fantastic job offering FREE gender affirming haircuts, and seventeen youth went home with a new style.

Expanded Programs for Trans Middle Schoolers



We're proud to announce that Umbrella—our Wednesday night program for transgender and non-binary youth—is now open weekly for middle schoolers! Previously held weekly for high schoolers and only monthly for middle schoolers, the program now offers four times the fun, support, and community for younger youth—creating more opportunities to connect with transgender peers and role models.

Processed Politics, Fostered Joy



Since the 2024 election, we've seen an increase in youth attendance and a 30% increase in use of therapist support at programs. Our Adult Advisors have guided several hard conversations, helping youth process attacks on LGBTQ+ rights on the national and local level. Through these conversations, youth developed concrete ways to stay safe, support each other, AND express queer joy—including crocheting, bird house painting, and playing basketball.

Building communities where LGBTQ+ youth thrive.

outmetrowest.org | @outmetrowest

