WHAT WE DO

Indiana Youth Group (IYG) serves young people ages 12 – 24 who self-identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (or questioning), and others (LGBTQ+), as well as their allies. All programs and services are offered free of charge. IYG strives to provide safer spaces to build self-confidence, explore individualism, and develop friendships within the LGBTQ+ community. IYG promotes a space for acceptance, equality, and restorative practices. We also advocate for LGBTQ+ youth in schools, the community, and through family-support services.

Mission: IYG creates safer spaces to foster community and provides programming that empowers LGBTQ+ youth and magnifies their voices.
LETTER FROM CEO

With the onset of COVID-19, 2020 was a year like none other. Because the safety and health of our staff, youth, and volunteers, is of the paramount importance to us, Indiana Youth Group made the decision to transition all programming to an online format in March of last year. However, we also knew that our assistance was needed more than ever by our youth experiencing homelessness and food insecurity; therefore, we continued to keep our doors open to provide these youth with in-person Basic Needs services such as food, clothing, showers, and laundry facilities.

Our staff was able to develop and launch the Virtual IYG program in less than two weeks. This online platform offered 19 unique programs with over 50 sessions per month. As the pandemic has worn on, our staff has continued to expand and revise these programs to meet the needs and requests of our youth. We have also been able to welcome more than 150 new youth who now have access to IYG’s services and resources for the first time.

While everyone has been greatly impacted by this pandemic, studies show that LGBTQ+ youth have been disproportionately affected by the loss of income, family support, and housing. In October, IYG was able to begin housing individuals experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity through Project Prism, our new rapid rehousing initiative, which is offered in partnership with HealthNet’s Homeless Initiative Program (HIP). Through this program, young adults ages 18-24, can choose their own stable, secure housing with the support of a case manager. The case managers also assist these young adults in meeting personal goals on the way to becoming self-sufficient adults.

Independent Living Skills (ILS) is one of the new forms of support that is offered to our clients. This program teaches skills such as resume building, job interviewing skills, basic home maintenance, and financial literacy. Through this program, it is our goal to build self-sufficiency in our clients and help them to live independent, fulfilling lives.

As we approach the one-year mark of the “new normal,” IYG continues to adapt and expand in order to effectively meet the needs of all those we serve. It is our plan to begin offering IYG services in new locations around the state in 2021. We will also be working to establish an endowment fund to ensure that our community’s LGBTQ+ youth will continue to receive life-saving services and resources for generations to come.

I would be completely remiss if I failed to acknowledge all those who gave gifts of their time, resources, and finances to support our mission last year. On behalf of all of us here at IYG, I wish to thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Our team couldn’t do the lifesaving work we do without your support.

Sincerely,

Chris Paulsen
CEO | Indiana Youth Group
INTRODUCING PROJECT PRISM

This rapid rehousing program was launched in October of 2020. The program was built from the ground up in just eight weeks. In that time, our case managers were able to securely house four young adults. Independent Living Skills (ILS) training is offered in conjunction with this program. ILS prepares our clients to live independently by fostering educational and workforce development, as well as the necessary skills to properly manage their household. Our goal for 2021 is to house 65 young adults through this program.

DATA PROVIDES A SOBERING LOOK AT HOW FAR WE MUST STILL GO TO PROTECT YOUNG LGBTQ+ LIVES

- **25%** LGBTQ+ youth that come out to their family are kicked out of their home.
- **33%** Young adults experiencing homelessness identify as LGBTQ+.
- **25%** Youth ages 13-17 experiencing homelessness identify as LGBTQ+.
- **87%** LGBTQ+ students are experiencing harassment or assault.

HOW WE SERVE OUR YOUTH

- **CASE MANAGEMENT**
  - Guided action plans to help youth access resources for housing, therapy, and more.

- **PROGRAMS**
  - Programming that builds community, youth leadership, and increased self-efficacy.

- **GSA**
  - Support for Genders and Sexualities Alliances in Indiana high schools.

- **BASIC NEEDS**
  - Many LGBTQ+ youth face homelessness. IYG offers them resources.

- **PARENTS**
  - Education and support to parents/guardians, family, and other caring adults.

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WWW.INDIANAYOUTHGROUP.ORG
THANK YOU

The work we did in 2020 would not have been possible without your support! On behalf of IYG and our youth, we thank you for your generosity.

GET INVOLVED

DONATE
Give to IYG to support LGBTQ+ youth

VOLUNTEER
Become a volunteer at IYG

ADVOCATE
Talk with friends, family, and co-workers about IYG and encourage them to get involved

PRIDE YOUR RIDE
Show your support for LGBTQ+ youth by selecting an IYG license plate through the BMV

WWW.INVISIBLEGROUP.ORG