Indiana Youth Group (IYG) serves young people ages 12-24 who self-identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual/pansexual, transgender, queer, questioning, and others, as well as their allies. All programs and services are offered to youth 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 queer 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 OUR CEO

I’d like to start this annual report by thanking each and every individual who supported IYG this past year. I truly mean it when I say that our work would not be possible without your support. So, whether you contributed financially, volunteered your time, or simply boosted the signal of our message, we are deeply grateful!

Like 2020 before it, 2021 was a rather unpredictable year. The constantly shifting circumstances of COVID-19 kept us on our toes. Despite it all, we kept our doors open to continue serving youth in person. Virtual IYG, which was launched at the start of the pandemic, also continued to serve youth who couldn’t join us onsite. This allowed us to offer programs in a hybrid format connecting youth who joined us both onsite and online, limiting the isolation that so many have faced throughout the pandemic.

Speaking of isolation, we are more committed than ever to connecting LGBTQ+ youth to each other and the resources they need. This led us to initiate the Indiana Youth Group Expansion Project, or IYGX, which will help establish ten new IYG locations across the state over the next five years. To prepare for this endeavor, we took part in the Innovation Catalyst (iCat) cohort, a nine-month program that allowed us to work directly with consultants to strengthen and focus the project, as well as prepare us to effectively seek the necessary funding.

And, finally, I want to give you all an update on Project Prism, the housing program we launched at the end of 2020. In the first year, our team was able to move 70 clients off the streets and into safe, secure housing of their choosing. I am extremely proud of this program and our employees who made it happen.

Again, all of this is possible thanks to the dedication and support of the Indiana community. With your help, we can remain flexible in meeting the ever-growing and ever-changing needs of the LGBTQ+ young people we serve. We look forward to serving our youth over the next year and stepping up to serve them in new ways. We need your help more than ever to make this happen.

Therefore, I invite you to join us in serving these youth and watching us grow.

Sincerely,

Chris Paulsen
Chief Executive Officer
### DATA PROVIDES A SOBERING LOOK AT HOW FAR WE MUST STILL GO TO PROTECT YOUNG LGBTQ+ LIVES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>42%</td>
<td>of LGBTQ+ youth seriously considered committing suicide in 2021, including more than half of transgender and nonbinary youth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>94%</td>
<td>of LGBTQ+ youth reported that recent politics negatively impacted their mental health.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48%</td>
<td>of LGBTQ+ youth reported wanting counseling from a mental health professional in the last year but were unable to receive it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75%</td>
<td>of LGBTQ+ youth reported facing discrimination of some kind based on their sexual orientation and/or gender identity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50%</td>
<td>of LGBTQ+ youth of color also indicated that discrimination was further compounded by their race, ethnicity, or cultural identity.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: The Trevor Project National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health 2021

### 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.
- **Housing**: Secure, long-term housing selected by the client provides a permanent safe place to live and flourish.
- **Basic Needs**: Many LGBTQ+ youth face homelessness. IYG offers them resources.
- **GSA**: Support for Genders and Sexualities Alliances in Indiana schools.
- **PARENTS**: Education and support to parents, guardians, family, and other caring adults.

### INTRODUCING HUGS

HUGS, or “Help Us Grow Stronger,” is IYG’s new mental health counseling program for LGBTQ+ young people. This free service makes therapy with a mental health professional accessible to all queer people ages 12-24 regardless of their socioeconomic standing or access to insurance. Counseling is available in both one-on-one and group settings. We are so excited to be offering this much-needed service. For more information or to enroll a youth/young adult client, please contact our Mental Health Therapist, MJ Heinz (she/they), at counselor@indianayouthgroup.org or call (317) 541-8726 ext. 103.
The work we did in 2021 would not have been possible without your support! On behalf of IYG and our youth, we thank you for your generosity.

THANK YOU

GET INVOLVED

Donate
Give to IYG to support LGBTQ+ youth

Volunteer
Become a volunteer at IYG

Advocate
Talk with friends, family, and coworkers 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

CONTACT
www.indianayouthgroup.org
317-541-8726
info@indianayouthgroup.org