



# CASAQ

**YOUR PLACE TO BE YOU**

## 2025 ANNUAL REPORT



# Life at Casa Q

*Every person at Casa Q is intentional about creating an affirming space for both the youth and the staff. Many of the youth that come to us have not been in a place where they've been accepted for who they are, and to see them experience and grow from being accepted and encouraged as who they are is transformative. - Casa Q Staff*



Casa Q provides a place where young people in our community can feel safe, begin to rebuild, and develop a strong foundation for their lives. Our residential and transitional living programs offer more than a bed: they offer consistency, dignity and everyday support that creates the opportunity for queer youth to regain a sense of belonging. Whether working to finish high school, build confidence in basic life skills, or take the next steps toward college and independence, Casa Q is there with wraparound care that meets them where they are and helps them move forward.

The community supporting Casa Q makes it what it is. Our staff and supporters show up with compassion and persistence, day after day. Our team provides steady encouragement, practical coaching, and access to academic and mental health support so our youth can plan for the future and heal from the past. In a time when our queer youth are too often targeted or dismissed, Casa Q remains a place of protection, opportunity, and love. We are grateful to everyone who makes that possible.

*- David Snead, Board Chair 2023 - 2025*

## Our Safe House

Casa Q's Youth Safe House is a safe haven for unhoused LGBTQ+ youth ages 14-17. In 2025, fourteen youth found support through our trauma-informed care model, which prioritizes stability, empowerment, and individualized pathways toward the future. Our dedicated staff worked alongside all of the young people who came into our Safe House, providing life skills workshops, personalized planning, and so many ways of supporting and encouraging each one to embrace their full selves. Casa Q strives to create vibrant opportunities to all of the youth we get to serve by fostering a strong sense of community and possibility for our youth. Casa Q is more than a safe place for our youth to live, it is a place of growth and belonging.

## Transitional Living Program

Casa Q's Transitional Living Program (TLP) is now in its fourth year and is a vital source of stability and opportunity for LGBTQ+ young adults ages 18-22 in New Mexico. In addition to offering young adults housing where they can live independently in safe, fully equipped studio apartments, TLP also provides Case Management, which provides wraparound services and intensive case management. The young adults participating in TLP get to build essential life skills, including budgeting, self-care, communication, and job readiness. Our TLP youth also receive mentorship in navigating critical legal processes such as name and gender marker changes. Our clients made incredible strides in 2025 toward building their futures and the program has expanded with 2 more apartments this year!



# Year in Reflection

In 2025, Casa Q celebrated 10 years of providing safe, affirming housing and support to LGBTQ+ youth and young adults experiencing housing instability. Through the Casa Q Safe House for queer youth and our Transitional Living Program, we continued to serve as a critical safety net while supporting young people in building pathways toward stability, independence, and long-term housing.

This year was also personally meaningful as it marked my first year as Executive Director of Casa Q. I am continually inspired by the resilience, strength, and courage of the clients we serve, and deeply grateful for the dedication of our staff, board, volunteers, and community partners who show up for this work every day.

As we look ahead, I am excited for Casa Q's continued growth and for the opportunity to strengthen community support and expand affirming housing and services for queer and trans youth. Together, we are building a future where every young person has access to safety, affirmation, and the resources they need to thrive.

*- Shannon Darrell, Executive Director of Casa Q*



## 10 Years with Casa Q

This year marked Casa Q's 10-year anniversary, a decade of building home, safety, and belonging for LGBTQ+ and BIPOC youth in New Mexico. In November, we celebrated with "Home Is Where the Heart Is", a powerful gathering made meaningful by the overwhelming support of community who showed up to honor this milestone and invest in the future of our work. Especially in times like these, collective celebration and deep generosity affirm the strength of our community and the critical importance of sustaining safe, affirming spaces where youth can flourish. As we look ahead, we do so grounded by the shared belief that the next decade of Casa Q will be even more impactful, with, for, and because of this community.

## Seasons of Community Support

From Pride season through the fall, Casa Q felt the power of community. During Pride Month, we showed up across New Mexico at Pride celebrations, gatherings, and events like the "Holding Back the Tide" screening at The Guild, and were deeply supported by community members, including artist Anthony Hurd, who uplifted LGBTQ+ youth through his art, advocacy, and a beautiful studio visit. That same spirit carried into the fall through two community-led drag workshops, where LGBTQ+ and BIPOC youth explored self-expression and built confidence in affirming spaces designed by Teen Mpower and the Transgender Resource Center of New Mexico. All of these moments reinforced a shared truth: our youth belong, their creativity matters, and showing up for one another is powerful and essential.



*Working with young folks who are so unafraid to be themselves has been incredibly inspiring. I love seeing the moments of joy, curiosity, and celebration. These youth have gone through a lot, and there are still reasons to find joy. - Casa Q Staff*



# Who is Casa Q?

*Casa Q is doing amazing work that many would not dare to undertake. The obstacles and challenges seem to be endless, but the lives of every youth who walk through the front door and feel safe, or the young adults who are able to live on their own as they begin to navigate and forge their path in this world, makes every hurdle worth it. - Casa Q Board Member*

## CASA Q STAFF

Joelle	Lizz
Rachel	Rosa
Maddie	Lexi
Amanda	Anjo
Kaissa	Jericha
Kat	Shannon

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Randy Martinez, Chair  
Brett Harman, Treasurer  
Jason Anderson, Secretary  
David Snead, Board Member  
Susan Seestrom, Board Member  
Tony Weaver, Board Member  
Christopher Papaleo, Board Member  
Kalynn Jaramillo, Board Member  
Jules Ozan, Board Member  
Robbie Adair, Board Member

*Casa Q has been an amazing part of my life journey and my growth as a person and a human service worker. It is an honor to serve the youth daily and to work with some of the most amazing staff members around. Casa Q is a light in a currently dark world for LGBTQ+ youth. From the lowest of days, when we are in a staffing crisis to when the youth are not in the best of moods to the happiest of times, this work will forever be worth it for me. A special part of the work we do at Casa Q is that we do after care. Being able to follow a youths journey and knowing that they are alright in this world is incredibly powerful and an important way to show our youth continued care. I am proud to be a part of Casa Q because I understand and support its mission. I am a social worker who cares deeply about helping my community, and being able to serve youth that I identify with is important and special to me. My favorite part about working with Casa Q is the youth we serve. The youth deserve so much, and I want to make at least part of our world better for them. - Jericha Lee, Program Director*



**In 2025, several individuals reached out to us seeking support and guidance beyond our services, and thanks to our incredible network of community providers, we were able to connect them with the care they needed. We are in this together, and we are grateful to serve our LGBTQ+ community!**

# By the Numbers

90

PERCENT OF CASA Q STAFF ARE LGBTQ+

80

PERCENT OF CASA Q STAFF IDENTIFY AS BIPOC

95

CLIENTS IDENTIFY AS QUEER AND/OR TRANS

75

CLIENTS IDENTIFY AS BIPOC

90

PERCENT OF THE BOARD IDENTIFY AS LGBTQ+

10k+

MEALS PROVIDED TO LGBTQ= AND BIPOC YOUTH

6

TOTAL YOUTH ENROLLED IN OUR TLP PROGRAM

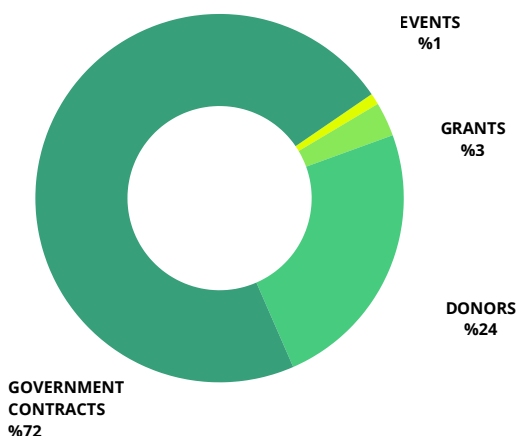
300+

HOURS OF CASE MANAGEMENT AND LIFE SKILLS PROVIDED TO OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

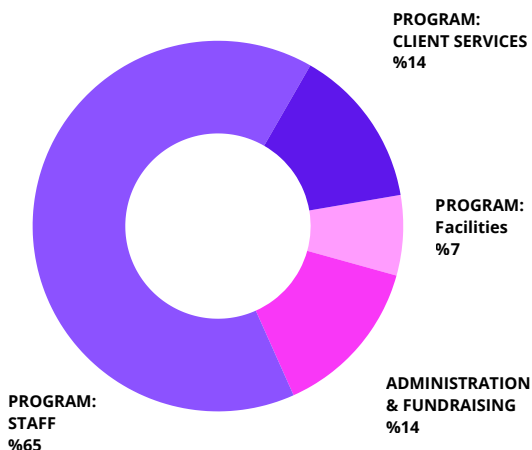
14

YOUTH LIVED AT THE CASA Q SAFEHOUSE

## REVENUE



## EXPENSES



## DONORS & FUNDERS

Casa Q is possible because of the incredible support from our community. This year, we were funded by grants from the Behavioral Health Services Department, Bernalillo County's Behavioral Health Initiative, Children, Youth, and Families Department, local companies, foundations, and generous contributions from corporate partners and donors. We are grateful for the uplifting drag workshops from Teen Mpower and TGRC, and for the continued support of the Assistance League, Buffalo Exchange, Church of the Good Shepherd, Central United Methodist, St. Chad's Episcopal Church, Monte Vista Christian Church, the beloved Donut Lady, and the staff and programs at YDI, Serenity Mesa, and New Day. In addition to 571 generous donors, community members supported Casa Q by checking off wishlist items, sponsoring youth outings, preparing meals through our Meal Train, and contributing in countless other ways.

## Fundraisers and Campaigns

This year, Casa Q was uplifted by incredible community partnerships and grassroots fundraisers, including United New Mexico, Jam in the Van, NM Brujos Rugby, NM OUT Big Gay Golf Tournament and benefit, as well as service days from HP, PNM, and Stronger 505. Our community also came together through two successful fundraising campaigns: the Summer campaign "Blooming With Pride" raised \$54,430, and our winter "Home Is Where the Heart Is" 10-year anniversary campaign raised \$106,873, with an additional \$25,295 from ticket sales and contributions during the anniversary celebration event itself. These efforts were a powerful demonstration of solidarity, generosity, and commitment to supporting LGBTQ+ and BIPOC youth in New Mexico.

For many, Casa Q is the first place where they hear that their voice and identity matter. Because of you, they have a safe space to heal, grow, and build a future on their own terms.