

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



"It still confuses me that the people [at Casa Q] care about me so much. And I think every Queer kid needs to know that feeling of having people who care about them so much."

— Casa Q youth



2022 In Reflection

"As I look at the growth of Casa Q since its inception, I am extremely proud of what they have been able to achieve. But I am even more encouraged about the possibility for an even more promising future and growth. Among our most important assets is our dedicated staff. They encourage and empower our youth to follow their passions and become leaders in our community. From our Board to our Leadership Team and frontline Youth Advocate Team, everyone is committed to delivering the highest quality service and support to our LGBTQ youth. Casa Q is committed to the communities in which our services are needed.

Through our work with the State, County, City, businesses, and individuals; we are aligned both professionally and fiscally as we continue to assess the needs and work hard to identify creative solutions for very complex issues. As our partnerships grow, each new day offers a chance for us to work together, pursue new opportunities and improve upon the past. We work hard to establish in-depth relationships with our clients by learning their environments and the challenges they face. In doing so, we are better equipped to offer tangible solutions— and that puts us at the forefront of CHANGING LIVES."

- Cindy Myers, Executive Director

48

**THERAPY / COUNSELING
SESSIONS PER RESIDENT
PER YEAR**

22

**LIFE SKILLS
WORKSHOPS
WITH TLP YOUTH**

16

**LGBTQ+
YOUTH HOUSED
& SUPPORTED**

Executive Director



In 2022 we hired Cindy Myers to serve as Executive Director. Cindy has worked in residential and clinical outpatient social work field since 2010 in urban, rural, and Tribal settings. She has worked with multiple populations and has a background in strategic community prevention work as a clinician, case manager, presenter, program director, grant writer, and deputy director.

Welcome, Cindy!

Roundtable with ADM Rachel Levine, MD



In May, Casa Q was invited to participate in a roundtable with Admiral Rachel Levine, MD, the 17th Assistant Secretary for Health for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and first openly transgender four-star officer in any of the United States uniformed services.

Casa Q was honored for the opportunity to participate and is could not be more proud to have ADM Levine representing our communities.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Our community really showed up this year, hosting events at local breweries to benefit Casa Q and providing spaces for the youth to enjoy. Some of these included Drag Queen Bingo with Tomahawk Martini at Canteen Brewhouse, Mean Girls Trivia at Bosque Brewhouse, the Amazing Brewery Quiz at High and Dry, and Santa Hat Social at O'Niell's. Harwood Art Center has continued to open their doors for youth activities.



**Mean Girls Trivia at
Bosque Brewhouse**



Santa Hat Social at O'Niell's



**Drag Queen Bingo at
Canteen Brewhouse**



**Youth Activities at
Harwood Arts Center**

Who is Casa Q



Mav (he/him) moved into the Casa Q house because his parents do not accept his queer identity. Mav's parents have a history of domestic violence and Mav did not feel safe returning home after being admitted into the hospital for self-harm. The Program Director conducted the intake process from the client's hospital room. Mav moved into Casa Q at the end of 2021 and has enrolled into GED classes and started his personal journey of self-acceptance. Mav is an independent leader and since being at Casa Q, Mav said he feels no guilt or shame for being his true self. Mav said he's never been around as many LGBTQ+ people before and loves that he now has a support system of LGBTQ+ adults and peers.

"Working at Casa Q is the first time in my life where I feel safe to come out as gay in the workplace. Thank you for creating a beautiful space for youth and staff to grow and learn together."

- Casa Q Staff Member

THANK YOU TO OUR 2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF!

CASA Q 2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Jon Drury, Board Chair
- Mark Hartman, Immediate Past Board Chair
- John Blair, Vice Chair
- Chris LaFleur, Treasurer
- Steve Nadolny, Secretary
- Susan Seestrom, Board Member
- Chris Papaleo, Board Member
- David Snead, Board Member
- Michelle Sabatel, Board Member

PRIDE

The Casa Q board and volunteers showed their pride with a banner and float in the ABQ PRIDE Parade. It was so great to be out on the streets again with our community - due to COVID, this was the first parade our current residents were able to experience!



CASA Q 2022 STAFF

- | | |
|----------------|---------------------|
| Steven Serrano | Erin Ham |
| Jericha Lee | Anjo Stewart |
| Carlie Going | Katie DeRaps |
| Jamie Stevens | Dre Rivera |
| Cindy Myers | John Lasky |
| Jordon Billot | Danielle Richardson |



"Every staff at Casa Q plays special role with each youth living in the shelter. It takes the power of our whole team and community to help our youth move forward. We empower our youth and hopefully giving them a deeper understanding of their own mind and body, which gives each youth a sense of control and power. Casa Q gives each youth the gift of time and safety. Priceless."

- Steven Serrano, Casa Q Program Manager



Life at Casa Q



"Casa Q is sooo queer, it's amazing. I love it at Casa Q, I want to stay forever."

- 15 year old Casa Q youth

After Care Youth Poem:

*All this time passing
Dark turns to light
No more time wasted
Cause I made my mind*

*Seems like just yesterday we were still kids
Maybe I'm still holding on*

*So take me back
bed checks all day and all night
Food locked in cabinets and
fighting with the other kids
When I left I knew it felt wrong*

*Today's a new day and im doing way better
Even have a safe place to stay
You still need a car and you don't have a license
Okay, but I'm on my way*

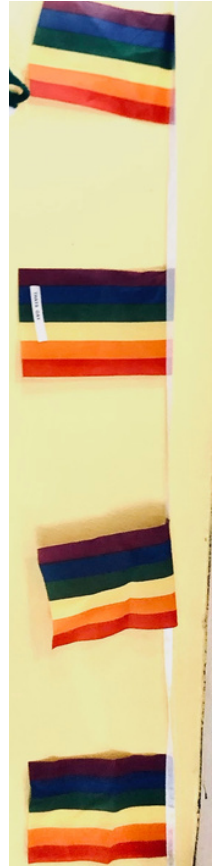
*Group home life sucks but I can't lie I miss it
Maybe I left them too soon*

Take me back

*To sharing secrets with the other kids
and the pronoun wall made out of chalk
Annoying staff in the office and talking
bout my progress*

Best placement I had and I couldn't be wrong

*So maybe I'm grown out
Feel more alone now
But I'm okay because I know
That I can come back home*



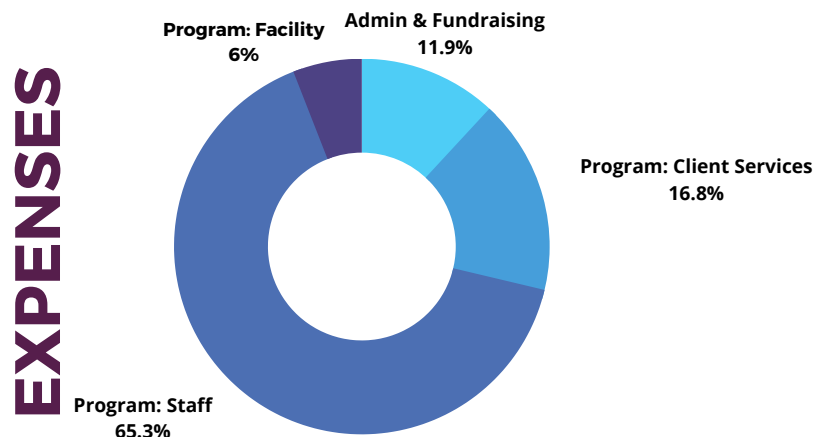
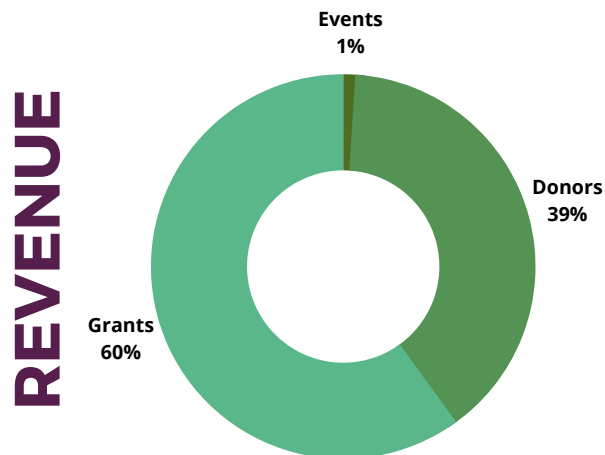
"I'm thankful for all the support (emotionally and financially). I couldn't of finished my CNA program and start my gender transition without Case's support."

- TLP youth



By the Numbers

The major expense for program services is 24/7/365 professional direct care staff who serve both residents and youth in aftercare. These staff members work with schools, CYFD, and community partners to identify youth who may need the services of Casa Q and to identify partnership and fundraising opportunities. In 2022, we saw an overall increase in revenue, helping us secure our ability to serve even more youth in 2023 and setting us up for more financial stability in the coming years.



2022 was another year of growth and change for Casa Q. We hired a new Executive Director, Cindy Myers, to help Steven and the dedicated staff take the organization to a new levels of client success in the house, aftercare, and transitional living programs. I think that we have the leadership and staff to continue our commitment to excellence.

- Jon Drury, Board Chair

DONORS & FUNDERS

In 2022, the Casa Q house, program, and staff were supported by grants from CYFD, Bernalillo County's Behavioral Health Initiative, grants from local companies and foundations, and the generous contributions of corporate partners and donors. Casa Q received 856 donations, totaling nearly \$200,000. Gifts ranged from \$5 to more than \$10,000. In 2023, we hope to host more in-person events and engage with our incredible community.

CAMPAIGNS & SOCIAL

In 2022, Casa Q ran two fundraising campaigns: one in the winter and one in the summer. Our summer campaign generated \$40,731 while our winter campaign brought in \$63,897, the most successful campaign to date.

This year was a big year for social media engagement. We increased our Instagram followers by 77, received 2,586 Facebook likes, and our newsletter now has 2066 subscribers.

Casa Q has supported homeless LGBTQ youth throughout the state and fostered their individual development and growth. Recently, we have been able to provide a Transitional Living Program in which has impacted 12 young adults. I look forward to guiding Casa Q from managing critical housing issues for our youth to gathering even more the support for our community and establishing strategies to help assist even more adolescence through programming. It is satisfying to know that Casa Q has the support of our local and state agencies, community and staff to build the necessary resources to reach our goals. As the Executive Director, I look towards the future with excitement and optimism at all the possibilities that are open to us through thoughtful collaboration and planning.

- Cindy Myers, Executive Director