

CASAAQ

YOUR PLACE TO BE YOU



2024 Annual Report

Life at Casa Q

"What I love about working at Casa Q is that every single person here chose to be part of this mission. We're not just an organization—we're a community that centers queer people and actively works to create a safe, affirming space."

-Casa Q Team Member



Changes at Casa Q!

We are thrilled to share some incredible news about the growth of our leadership team! Shannon Darrell, who has served as Casa Q's Director of Operations, has stepped into the role of Executive Director. Since joining Casa Q, Shannon has made transformative changes, built meaningful connections within the community, and strengthened our impact in countless ways. We are so grateful for her leadership and excited for all that's ahead under her guidance.

With this transition, we are also proud to announce that Jericha Lee, one of our longtime staff members and a steadfast leader in our home, is now Casa Q's Program Director. Jericha's deep passion, extensive experience, and unwavering commitment to our youth, team, and community make her the perfect person for this role. We couldn't dream of a better leader to continue fostering a safe and supportive space for the young people we serve.

These leadership changes will only deepen our ability to fulfill Casa Q's mission, ensuring that LGBTQ+ youth have the support, resources, and love they deserve. We are excited for this next chapter and grateful for the incredible team that makes our work possible!

Our Shelter

Casa Q's Youth Shelter is a safe haven for unhoused LGBTQ+ youth ages 14-17, offering more than just shelter—it's a place of healing, growth, and belonging. In 2024, five youth found safety and support through our trauma-informed care model, which prioritizes stability, empowerment, and individualized pathways toward the future. Our dedicated staff work alongside each young person, providing life skills workshops, personalized planning, and encouragement to embrace their full selves. Every interaction reflects Casa Q's commitment to creating vibrant opportunities and fostering a strong sense of community for the most vulnerable among us.

TLP

Now in its third year, Casa Q's Transitional Living Program (TLP) has become a vital source of stability and opportunity for LGBTQ+ young adults ages 18-22. This program offers housing, where four young adults live independently in safe, fully equipped studio apartments, and Case Management, which provides wraparound services and intensive case management. Through TLP, participants build essential life skills—budgeting, self-care, communication, job readiness, and more—while also receiving mentorship in navigating critical legal processes such as name and gender marker changes. In 2024, our clients made incredible strides toward independence, building futures rooted in resilience, self-determination, and hope.

Year in Reflection

A Message From Our New Executive Director

Casa Q is making extraordinary strides to support young BIPOC and LGBTQ+ people in our community. Through our compassionate and dedicated Transitional Living Program, we've been able to provide not only housing but also personalized case management and essential life skills to five incredibly resilient young individuals. By covering 100% of their rent, we ensure they have a secure and welcoming place to call home, where they can truly express their authentic selves without fear or hesitation.

In late 2023, we faced an unexpected challenge and temporarily paused our beloved 24/7 multi-service shelter due to staffing issues. However, during this period of reflection, our dedicated team and board of directors worked tirelessly to redevelop our innovative programming and train new, passionate team members. With renewed vigor, we proudly reopened our doors in July 2024, providing a safe haven and housing for five remarkable young people aged 14-17.

At Casa Q, we remain unwaveringly hopeful for the future and are deeply committed to continuing our mission with the invaluable support of our extraordinary donors. Together, we show up every day for the young people in our community, ensuring they have the support, love, and opportunities they need to thrive. With your continued generosity and dedication, we can create a brighter, more inclusive future for all. *-Shannon Darrell*



Pride Month was a time of celebration, connection, and visibility for Casa Q! Our board and staff proudly marched in the Albuquerque Pride Parade, showing unwavering support for LGBTQ+ youth. We also connected with supporters at Pride events in Las Cruces and Santa Fe, sharing our mission and building community. More than a celebration, Pride was a testament to our community's strength and resilience. Thank you to everyone who shows up, cheers us on, and stands with LGBTQ+ youth every day!

This year, Casa Q youth attended our first-ever LGBTQ+ Youth Dance Party—an unforgettable night of joy and celebration! For many, it was their first time dancing as their true selves, free from fear or judgment. This night of dazzling performances from the ABQ Dollz and a DJ'd dance floor was made possible by Albuquerque Community Foundation's PRIDE Circle and FUSION. Seeing our youth light up with music and community was a powerful reminder of why our work matters!



"I wanted to find a way to uplift and support the LGBTQ+ community, and when I found Casa Q, I knew this was where I needed to be. Seeing young people navigate incredibly difficult challenges and come out the other side stronger and more confident—it's inspiring. Casa Q changes lives, and I'm honored to be part of that impact." -Casa Q Board Member

Who is Casa Q?

"The moments that stay with me most are the stories of these remarkable youths—a young person landing their first job, receiving their first paycheck, or even gaining citizenship. Casa Q isn't just a shelter; it's a bridge from crisis to independence, and that's what makes this work so powerful. Our community plays a huge role in that journey—whether through fundraisers, donating goods and services, or offering pro bono support, there is a 'village' of people who step up time and time again. As a board member, I'm constantly inspired by our staff, who truly live and breathe this mission with a 'how can we help' mindset, and by my fellow board members, who ground every decision in what's best for the youth we serve—I feel immense pride in being part of this organization." -Casa Q Board Member



THANK YOU TO OUR CASA Q BOARD AND STAFF!

CASA Q STAFF

Shannon Lucy
Jericha Marsha
Jasper Rosa
Brad Izzy
Alex Chuy
Adrienne
Delta Management Group

CASA Q BOARD OF DIRECTORS

David Snead, Chair
Chris LaFleur, Treasurer
Susan Seestrom, Secretary
Jon Drury, Board Member
Randy Martinez, Board Member
Jason Anderson, Board Member
Christopher Papaleo, Board Member
Brett Harman, Board Member
Kalynn Jaramillo, Board Member
Jules Ozan, Board Member

"Casa Q is more than a shelter—it's a lifeline for LGBTQ+ youth experiencing homelessness or instability. Every day, I have the privilege of working alongside these young people, witnessing their growth, resilience, and self-discovery. There is something incredibly powerful about making a difference in a community that I, too, belong to."

One of the most striking aspects of Casa Q is the unwavering support from the broader community. I'm especially moved by the way churches have stepped up—historically, faith communities and LGBTQ+ spaces have often been at odds, but here, I see churches showing up without judgment or hesitation. That kind of solidarity is everything.

One of my favorite parts of Casa Q's work is aftercare and the Transitional Living Program (TLP). For system-involved and at-risk youth, community is everything. When they transition out of Casa Q, they still need support, and staying connected with them—sometimes years later—is one of the most meaningful parts of my work. TLP is another game-changer, bridging a critical gap in services for young adults aging out of systems that often fail them. The fact that Casa Q provides a place where they can find stability, build their futures, and thrive."

-Jericha Lee, Program Director



By the Numbers

70

PERCENT OF CASA Q STAFF ARE LGBTQ+

70

PERCENT OF CASA Q STAFF IDENTIFY AS BIPOC

90

PERCENT OF THE BOARD IDENTIFY AS LGBTQ+

5

TOTAL YOUTH ENROLLED IN OUR TLP PROGRAM

6

YOUTHS ENGAGED IN AFTERCARE CASE MANAGEMENT

12

NIGHTS OF EMERGENCY HOUSING IN HOTELS

50

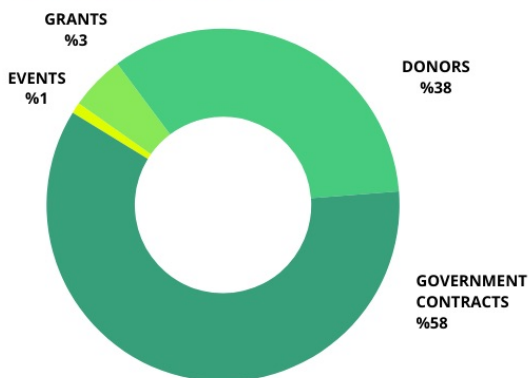
HOURS OF CASE MANAGEMENT PROVIDED TO OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

16

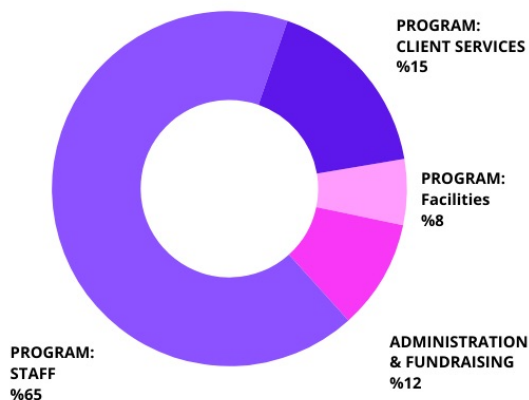
YOUNG PEOPLE SERVED

We are grateful to serve our LGBTQ+ community. In 2024, 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!

REVENUE



EXPENSES



Our community came together in incredible ways to support Casa Q and the youth we serve this year. 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 grow, heal, and build a future on their own terms.

DONORS & FUNDERS

Casa Q thrives because of the incredible support from our community! This year, we were funded by grants from CYFD, Bernalillo County's Behavioral Health Initiative, local companies, and foundations, as well as the generous contributions of our corporate partners and donors. We are especially grateful for the support of BHSD, CYFD programs and staff, NMPower, U-21, Assistance League, Buffalo Exchange, The Range, YDI programs and staff, Serenity Mesa services and staff, New Day programs and staff, Church of the Good Shepherd, St. Chad's Episcopal Church, and the beloved "Donut Lady." And of course, a huge thank you to the 231 donors who contributed this year and to everyone who helped check off items from our wishlists, sponsored youth outings, and supported us in so many ways. Your generosity makes Casa Q a place of safety, hope, and home. We couldn't do this without you!

Fundraisers and Campaigns

This year, we were uplifted by incredible partnerships and community-led fundraisers, including support from United New Mexico, The Gallery ABQ, Brujos Rugby's Drag Show, Albuquerque Community Foundation's PRIDE Circle and FUSION's LGBTQ+ youth Pride dance party, Sandia Pride Alliance Network's Santa Hat Social, Poof the Game, and more!

We also held two successful fundraising campaigns— "They Didn't Know We Were Seeds" raised \$67,591, and "We Are the Ones We Have Been Waiting For" brought in \$66,135. Thanks to this generosity, Casa Q can continue providing life-changing support for LGBTQ+ youth.