

2022 Programmatic Highlights



Housing

In Spring 2022, SMYAL opened **2 new housing programs**: Rapid Re-housing and a partnership with the Department of Health. SMYAL is now the **largest LGBTQ+ youth housing provider in the region**.



Mental Health

SMYAL's clinicians supported **90 clients** on their therapy journeys in 2022. The Clinical Services Department is actively expanding to further meet the needs of current clients and youth on the waitlist.



Scholarships

\$26,000 in scholarships were given to **6 outstanding LGBTQ+ student leaders** in 2022 through the Youth Leadership Awards and the new Sophie's Live Out Loud Award.



Street Outreach

SMYAL launched a new **bilingual street outreach program** to better serve Spanish-speaking LGBTQ+ youth. In the first 3 months, the program supported **60+ youth**.



Rise Up!

Nearly **100 young LGBTQ+ activists** from across the country attended the 2022 Rise Up! youth advocacy conference sharing resources, building skills, and creating community.



Little SMYALs

Little SMYALs continues to be **one of the only outlets in the country for LGBTQ+ youth under the age of 13**, providing affirming programming to youth in the DMV area and beyond.

What SMYAL Participants Are Saying:

"Me gusta el programa de SMYAL y estoy muy agradecida con ellos por que me brindan muchas ayudas como citas gratis con un psicóloga, me ayudaron a poder inscribirme a una escuela, y también me ayudaron a poder tener un lugar propio donde vivir. **Los mejor de todo es que lo hacen en Español.**"

-Alisson, Street Outreach Participant

"I like the SMYAL program and I am very grateful to them because they helped me a lot like connecting me with free appointments with a psychologist, they helped me enroll in school, and they also helped me to have my own place to live. **Best of all, they do it in Spanish.**"

"Therapy at SMYAL has helped me open up a lot after a **very difficult year**. I am really grateful that I was given the opportunity to improve and grow."

-Clinical Services Client

"Being in community with other kids that are a similar age has been **life-affirming and life-giving** to our child."

- Little SMYALs Parent



In September 2022, SMYAL welcomed Erin Whelan, LPC-S to the organization as the new Executive Director!

"I wake up every day fiercely pursuing the idea that everyone—especially queer and trans youth— deserves an opportunity to build a life they love, a chance to feel celebrated, and to be affirmed for exactly who they are.

It was SMYAL's commitment to this same philosophy that drew me to the organization. Over the last few months, I've seen how SMYAL drives the work supporting LGBTQ+ youth —identifying gaps in services, building programs to fill these gaps, and creating transformative and empowering spaces for young people."



25th Annual SMYAL Fall Brunch

Over 800 dedicated supporters attended the 25th annual SMYAL Fall Brunch in September to raise more than \$400,000 to support LGBTQ+ youth



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empowering LGBTQ youth