In February, SMYAL Executive Director Erin Whelan participated in a panel for Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day featuring high-level officials from the White House, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and D.C. Department of Health. After the panel, officials visited SMYAL’s demonstration transitional housing program which is a structural intervention to HIV/AIDS prevention and provides housing to 8 men-who-have sex-with-men.

SMYAL by the Numbers

**Housing**
Opened in Spring 2022, SMYAL’s Rapid Re-Housing Program is at full capacity providing financial and case management support to 20 residents who have been connected to their own apartments.

**Workshops and Trainings**
SMYAL offers workshops and trainings for youth and adults! Since the beginning of 2023, over 240 youth and adults have participated in healthy relationship workshops, cultural competency trainings, and GSA support!

**Mental Health**
This Spring, SMYAL hired a Play Therapist to serve youth ages 6-12. 78 youth are currently receiving mental healthcare through our individual therapy programs.

**Street Outreach**
SMYAL launched a bilingual street outreach program to better serve Spanish-speaking LGBTQ+ youth in September 2022. Since then, the program has provided support to 95 youth!

**Capital Pride**
Over 60 youth and their families joined SMYAL to march in the Capital Pride Parade! (Photo Above)

**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 over 30 youth in the DMV area and beyond.

**IMPACT REPORT JANUARY-JUNE 2023**

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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 over 30 youth in the DMV area and beyond.
This summer SMYAL teamed up with **Camp Free2Be** to host a week long day camp for transgender, nonbinary, and gender-expansive youth ages 6-14.

Camp Free2Be offers a safe, affirming space for the youngest youth in our community where they can be their full authentic selves.

“Camp is at full capacity this year, welcoming over 40 campers and 12 junior counselors for a week of fun, games, songs, crafts, science, skits, LGBTQ+ history, friendships, and community. This year’s theme was ‘Marvelous Monsters and Gender Joy’- an invitation for youth to face the monsters of dysphoria head-on and build a creative, joyful identity of their own.”

- Ty Kitchen, Little SMYALs Program Manager
Dr. Murthy met with program participants and clinical staff to gain insights into the loneliness and isolation faced by LGBTQ+ youth. Youth spoke passionately about the wave of anti-LGBTQ+ legislation spreading across the country and pressed Dr. Murthy to take further action to advocate on their behalf.

Clinical Services

Mosaic Support Group

In the first half of 2023, SMYAL launched a new support group for parents and caregivers of LGBTQ+ youth! Mosaic is facilitated by SMYAL therapists and designed to destigmatize LGBTQ+ identity and provide caregivers with the tools to support their children.

School Based Group Therapy

SMYAL's therapists and youth fellows are co-facilitating two separate 10-week groups that average 15 students each at Duke Ellington High School with the goal of expanding to more schools in the future. Therapists provide psychoeducation; facilitate conversations around topics such as gender identity, sexuality, healthy relationships, coming out; and building community with other LGBTQ+ youth.

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