

### Measuring SMYAL's Impact



#### Housing

SMYAL provided housing, resource navigation, and case management to **54 residents**.



#### Workshops and Trainings

SMYAL supported **22 trainings to 26 different organizations** to ensure that we have created culturally competency throughout the district.



#### Mental Health

This year, **37 clients** successfully completed their therapy journeys at SMYAL.



#### Street Outreach

SMYAL expanded and strengthened its **bilingual street outreach program** through partnerships with Capital One and two community organizations. From July to December 2023, the program has supported **over 70 youth**!



#### Camp Free2Be

In July 2023, Little SMYALs partnered with Camp Free2Be and was able to send **40 youth to camp for free!**

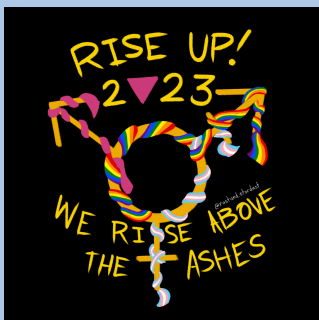


#### Drop-In Programs

Drop in Programs engaged **176 youth ages 13-24** across in-person, virtual, q-chat, and special programming this year.

### Youth Development & Community Engagement

**90 youth leaders** from across the country attended SMYAL's 4th annual Rise Up! organizing conference. Workshops included:



Queering Kinship:  
Exploring Healthy Relationships



LGBTQ+ Solidarity, Being an Ally While Being a Part of the Community



De-Centering Cis-ness:  
Supporting the T as LGB Activists



Rising Above Queer Ashes

**"Queer youth are strong, powerful, and we can make our world a better place for us by organizing ourselves."**

-Rise Up! 2023 Attendee

# Youth Development & Community Engagement



10 youth took center stage at the Kennedy Center to share their talents through storytelling, poetry, singing, dancing, puppetry, and more.



Youth Pride made its grand return for the first time since 2019 at Ballou Stay High School.

Youth got to see live performances, play games, win raffles and contests, and more!

“ [Our child] sometimes is uneasy talking about being nonbinary. **However, at SMYAL, they told me, they can be exactly themselves, and feel great. It means a lot to them, and us as parents to have that.**”

- Little SMYALs Parent

2023 ended with a fabulous holiday celebration!

120 attendees, including youth of all ages and their families, gathered for performances, a gift giveaway, and holiday cheer.

Thank you to the Kiwanis Club of Washington, D.C. for their event support.



Thank you to the Mayor's Office of LGBTQ+ Affairs for their support of youth special event programming!



# Clinical Services

This year, SMYAL deeply invested in increasing access to affirming counseling by hiring a Play Therapist to work with elementary and middle school-aged youth as well as a Bilingual Therapist to more comprehensively serve Spanish-speaking youth.

**16 %** of SMYAL therapy clients received bilingual services since we hired our first Bilingual Therapist this year.

As of December 2023, SMYAL's play therapy program is at full capacity, serving **20 clients ages 6-12**. We currently have a waitlist for future play therapy spots.

**“Through therapy, I had been working on shifting my perspective to not just see the challenges ahead of me, instead I focused on the opportunities.”**

- Lahni, Former SMYAL Therapy Client

Thank you to CareFirst and Kiwanis Club of Washington, D.C. for their support of SMYAL's Clinical Services program



# Housing + Bilingual Street Outreach

In 2023, **15** Street Outreach clients received assistance in **changing their names or gender markers** and **52** received **legal assistance**.

**“I am now on a path towards independence and success, and I owe a significant part of this journey to SMYAL.”**

- Bilingual Street Outreach Client



On November 29th and 30th, SMYAL served as a core planning partner of the first-ever DC LGBTQ+ Housing Summit. The summit brought over **200 voices** from across the housing space together in conversation with one another to share resources, perspectives, and identify areas to continue collaboration. Both SMYAL's Executive Director, **Erin Whelan**, and Bilingual Street Outreach Manager, **Sierra Barnedo**, spoke on panels at the event.



Thank you to Capital One and the Moser Family Foundation for their support of Bilingual Street Outreach

# 26th Annual SMYAL Fall Brunch

Over **900 dedicated supporters** attended the 26th annual SMYAL Fall Brunch in October to raise more than \$500,000 to support LGBTQ+ youth. This was SMYAL's largest Fall Brunch yet!



**"This safe space became a sanctuary where...I learned about courage and resilience. I really felt like I belonged. Through programs that fostered healthy social environments, I found my voice and embraced the strength to face my challenges in a community of other queer people."**

- Chris, SMYAL Alumni + Brunch Speaker

**"Let your passion, your personal connection to this work, and your rage and anger at the state of LGBTQ+ rights motivate you to show up time and time again—our collective power enacts real change and tangible impact in the lives of queer and trans youth."**

- Erin Whelan, SMYAL Executive Director



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## SMYAL's 2023 Brunch Sponsors

