



ANNUAL REPORT

2026 Fiscal Year

July 2025 - June 2026

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LETTER FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Dear friends,

2026 marks my tenth year of working on this project called Prism United. Ten years of meeting LGBTQ youth and families in southwest Alabama. Ten years of engaging with businesses, organizations, and faith communities to advocate for queer young people.

If you were to rewind the tape of my life ten years before I began working on Prism—from 2006 to 2016—you would find a Corey in crisis, a mostly-closeted 18-year-old whose mental health was deteriorating. That Corey wrote letters to his future self, trying to imagine some better horizon. In one of those letters, he wrote:

"Dear future self... if we are still unhappy... do something."

Even after I came out of the closet and began to heal, I carried that letter in my heart.

In late 2015, when my mom called to say, "Honey, my church is starting a support group for gay high-schoolers," I threw all my belongings into my Honda Civic and drove home. The following year, I began facilitating the support group that would become Prism and became the person my younger self needed me to be.

This annual report details the latest chapter of our growth—the story of a grassroots effort that has grown from a fledgling support group into a cultural and institutional staple of our community. We have fostered generational impact: youth who started in our preteens program are now in college. Others serve in leadership roles, actively shaping the organization's trajectory.

Prism is the living dream of lost teenagers who found belonging and chose to "do something." It is a practice of remembering and being moved to action—for the young people still struggling, and for the younger selves we carry with us.

Today, at Prism Teens, we invite the youth to write a letter to their future selves. Because of Prism, they'll never have to wonder what belonging feels like. Because of this community, they get to become the version of themselves that they want to be.

Corey Harvard

Prism United Executive Director



IT STARTS WITH BELONGING

When a young person walks into Prism and realizes they can show up as themselves, possibilities open. They find community, build friendships, ask for help, discover their strengths, and begin to imagine what comes next.

That's at the heart of our mission: *addressing the psychological, social, and academic barriers LGBTQ+ young people face by creating the support, connection, and opportunities they need to thrive.*

This year, that mission pushed us to think more deeply about how we show up for our community. We expanded the ways young people can grow with Prism, invested more deeply in mental health access, strengthened the network of people and organizations surrounding them, and created more opportunities for youth to shape the work themselves. Through it all, we kept listening, learning, and building toward what our community needs next.

Because belonging is where the journey begins. Becoming is what grows from it.



“

Prism has made me more willing to make new friends and step out of my comfort zone. It has also given me the courage to speak up for myself when I believed I couldn't.

— Prism Youth

MEASURING OUR IMPACT

This year, Prism reached more people and created more opportunities for connection. In-person **program attendance grew 27%**, from 772 to 984, across 98 gatherings. We also hosted 114 digital gatherings on Discord. More than 800 people joined us at flagship events, and youth leaders contributed 444 hours of service.

As Prism grows, we want to better understand the impact of that growth. After completing our previous three-year strategic plan, we moved to a two-year adaptive strategic framework that gives us clear priorities while allowing us to respond to changing community needs and the world around us.

The framework focuses on five areas: Protection, Communication, Fundraising, Program Expansion, and Operational Development. These strategic pillars guide how we protect and preserve our work, connect with our community, build financial sustainability, grow our programs, and strengthen the systems that support it all.

This year, we made real progress on those systems through more consistent data collection, outcome tracking, and quarterly reporting. That means we can capture more of what happens across Prism and tell a fuller story of our impact, while using what we learn to shape where we go next.



GROWING WITH PRISM: CORE PROGRAMS

With the launch of Prism Pathways, young people can now grow with Prism from ages 10 through 24, finding community and support at every stage.

Prism Preteens. Find Your Place.

Throughout the year, preteens ages 10-13 found a place to settle in, open up, and feel comfortable being themselves. Facilitators saw new and quieter participants build trust, form friendships, and grow more connected over time. One participant shared, “I’ve grown up so much since I started coming here!”

Prism Teens. Find Your People.

For teens ages 14-18, weekly gatherings provide a consistent place to build friendships, navigate challenges, and grow together. This year, **89% felt more connected** to LGBTQ+ peers, **85% contributed to the group**, and **82% grew more confident** managing emotions and stress.



Prism Pathways. Find Your Path.

Young adults asked for a space of their own, and this year we answered that call. Designed for ages 19-24, this new program offering pairs affirming community with college, career, and life skills support, helping young adults build connections and take their next steps with confidence.

“

Having a consistent and active connection
to queer adults my age is vital to my mental health.

— Prism Pathways Participant

BEYOND THE YOUTH ROOM: FAMILY SUPPORT

Young people thrive when the people who love them feel supported, connected, and confident too. Prism Parents and Prism Families create opportunities for caregivers, siblings, and loved ones to connect, learn, and experience affirming community together.

Prism Parents. Find Support.

Parents and caregivers built a community of their own, sharing experiences, resources, and real-life challenges while growing more confident supporting their LGBTQ+ children. This year, we added a second monthly gathering at a local coffee shop, creating another casual space for parents to support one another.

Prism Families. Find Belonging.

Families came together throughout the year for Prism at the Park, Prism Creates, Prism Illuminates, Prism Open House, Prism Families Spirit Night, and our first-ever Boo Boulevard trunk-or-treat. These shared experiences gave families space to have fun, meet one another, and build relationships beyond our regular programs.



412

total attendances
across six
family gatherings

BECOMING CHANGEMAKERS: YOUTH LEADERS

The Prism Leadership Initiative gives young people the chance to move from participating in community to helping shape it. Youth leaders complete the program in 50-hour semester-long cohorts, a structure that mirrors the language and rhythm they may encounter in college and other professional settings. Each cohort combines hands-on service and independent projects with leadership training that helps participants explore their strengths and put their ideas into action.

Across this year's Fall and Spring cohorts, youth leaders completed **444 service hours**, supporting younger participants at programs, sorting gender-affirming clothing for Prom, designing original Prism swag, representing Prism at Pride, and taking on projects that gave them a meaningful role in Prism and the wider community.



“

Being part of the Prism leadership team has really helped me feel like I have purpose in my life. I feel useful and fulfilled for once. I feel much more confident and comfortable in my community overall.

— Leadership Initiative Participant

BECOMING WHOLE: HEALING SERVICES

For many young people, the hardest part of getting mental health care is knowing where to start, finding a provider they trust, and figuring out how to afford it. This year, Prism took a major step toward making care easier to access.

With support from the **Johnson Family Foundation x CenterLink Mental Health Capacity-Building Initiative**, we strengthened the systems behind our Healing Services and added a dedicated Mental Health Coordinator to our team. Care navigation, client communication, provider coordination, and tracking are now managed in-house, allowing Prism to stay connected with young people throughout their care.

Today, our Healing Network now includes **18 affirming mental health providers**, giving young people access to a growing network of professionals who understand and affirm their identities. Prism helps clients find the right provider, navigate funding and referrals, and stay connected once therapy begins.

Today, the Healing Fund does more than help pay for therapy. We are building a stronger system of care that removes barriers and helps young people get the affirming mental health support they need.



“

Client reported he was relieved to be beginning therapy for the first time in his life. He said he was grateful for the support of the Healing Fund because he could not afford therapy without it.

— Prism Healing Network Provider

My first appointment went amazing! I really like [my therapist]. I was way quicker to open up to her than I usually do. Thank you so much for this opportunity. I have had to quit going to therapy so many times due to cost-related issues.

— Prism Healing Fund Client

”

HONORING OUR COMMUNITY: LEADERS & ADVOCATES

The Prism Awards recognize individuals and businesses whose leadership, advocacy, and support help strengthen LGBTQ+ community. Each award honors a different way of showing up: the **Guardian Award** celebrates a parent whose advocacy extends beyond their own family to support LGBTQ+ youth and families; the **Beacon Award** honors a local business that proudly and openly supports the LGBTQ+ community; and the **Changemaker Award** recognizes an individual creating meaningful progress through leadership, courage, and action. This year's honorees, featured below, reflect the many ways people across our community continue to show up for LGBTQ+ young people and the communities they call home.



Prism
Guardian
SAVANNA
PARKER



Prism
Beacon
ANGELA TRIGG
owner of



Prism
Changemaker
REV. DAVE
CHATEL

COMMUNITY IN MOTION: OUR FLAGSHIP EVENTS



WIG WALK

Wig Walk brought the community together again for a pub crawl with wigs, with 12 local businesses partnering along the route for brews, bubbles, and bites. Beyond the fun, teams turn that energy into support for Prism. This year, fundraising grew 64%, fueled by 617 donors, 113 individual fundraisers, and 16 fabulous teams!



COME OUT MOBILE

Through the Trailblazer Initiative, Come Out Mobile continues to honor and preserve the stories of those who have shaped our local LGBTQ+ community. In 2025, we celebrated Dr. Shey Thorn, Rev. Marge Ragona, Kelmyah Turner, and Danni Bond, preserving their stories and connecting their legacies to the generations that follow.



PRISM PROM

Every young person deserves a prom where they can celebrate as themselves and know they are fully accepted. This year, 68 LGBTQ+ teens came together for a night of dancing and making new friends. As one teen shared, "I was just happy to get to openly be with my partner without crippling anxiety."

COMMUNITY IN ACTION: VOLUNTEERING & ENGAGEMENT

Community is something we build together, through every hour given, every shift filled, and every connection made.

Showing Up

Volunteers make more of Prism possible. This year, 61 active volunteers gave 1,098.5 hours across 159 shifts, bringing their time, skills, and care to youth programs, events, and the work behind the scenes. Every hour strengthened our capacity to create consistent, welcoming spaces for the young people and families we serve.

Reaching Out

Volunteers also helped carry Prism beyond our own doors. Through 21 outreach activities, we connected with approximately 1,717 people at community events, resource fairs, and other opportunities to share our mission, build relationships, and help more people know that Prism is here.

1,098.5
volunteer hours committed



INVESTING IN THEIR FUTURE: OUR DONORS

This year, **individual donors contributed more than 68% of our overall income**, turning community generosity into direct impact for LGBTQ+ young people and families. That support kept programs free, expanded access to affirming mental health care, created new opportunities for young adults, strengthened youth leadership, and helped families find community together.

With more than **60 Sustaining Members providing ongoing monthly donations**, that impact continues throughout the year. Consistent giving gives Prism the stability to show up week after week while continuing to grow alongside the young people who count on us.



“

It's very nice to have a safe space full of other LGBTQ+ teens just like me. It makes me feel more seen and more connected to those around me.

— Prism Teens Participant

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Income

Despite a changing funding landscape, Prism ended the year with continued growth. Corporate support declined by 59%, while pathways to federal funding became increasingly limited. Individual philanthropy helped close that gap, growing to more than \$200,000 and demonstrating the strength of a community increasingly invested in sustaining Prism's work. That incredible support helped increase overall income by 4.4%.

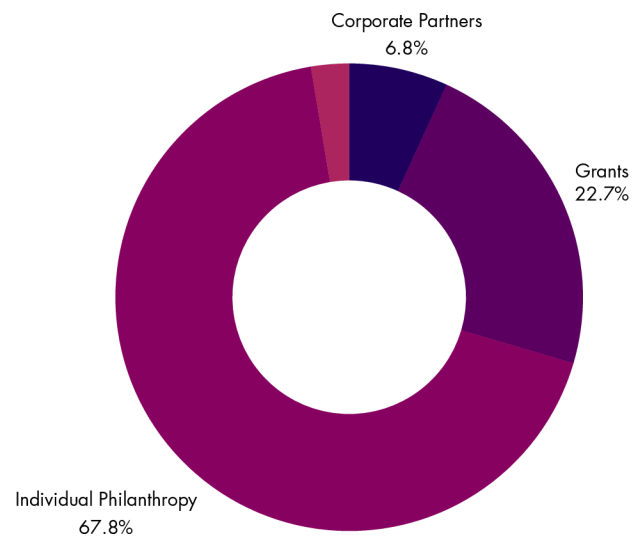
Individual Philanthropy: \$200,642.28

Corporate Partners: \$20,250.00

Grants: \$67,214.33

Other Income: \$7,768.54

TOTAL : \$295,875.15



Expenses

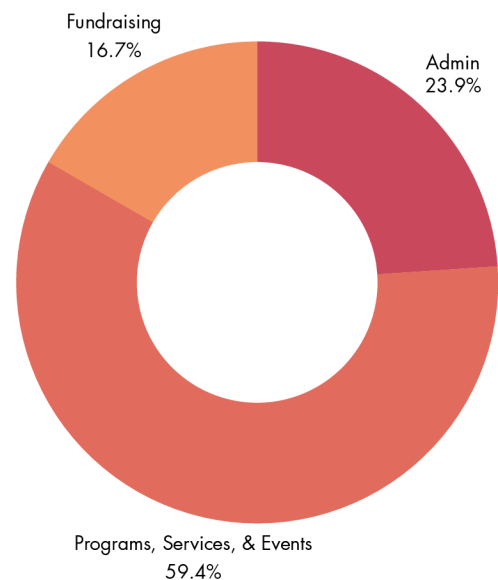
With total expenses of \$275,808.60, Prism United directed the largest share of its resources to programs, services, and events that create connection, support, and opportunity for the community. Nearly 60% of expenses supported this work directly, while administrative and fundraising investments provided the staffing, systems, and resources needed to sustain and grow Prism's impact.

Admin: \$66,007.80

Programs: \$163,825.23

Fundraising: \$45,975.57

TOTAL : \$275,808.60



BUILDING MOMENTUM RECOGNITION & GROWTH

This year, Prism received two awards totaling \$62,500, providing new resources to support our continued growth and strengthen our work across the community.

Courage Project 2025 Awardee

Prism was selected as a Courage Project awardee, receiving \$25,000 in recognition of local nonprofits taking meaningful action to build bridges and strengthen their communities. The award celebrates Prism's work to champion equality, foster connection, and create a stronger, more inclusive community for LGBTQ+ young people and their families.



Johnson Family Foundation x CenterLink Mental Health Capacity-Building Initiative

Prism received a \$37,500 capacity-building grant through the Johnson Family Foundation and CenterLink to strengthen our mental health support for LGBTQ+ youth. This investment is helping Prism expand access to affirming care, strengthen our network of providers, and build the systems needed to make that support sustainable for years to come.



UNITED IS THE WAY: IMPACT THROUGH PARTNERSHIP

Our partnership with United Way of Southwest Alabama continues to strengthen the spaces where young people connect, grow, and lead. This year, \$8,400 in allocations supported program supplies, meals, transportation assistance, facilitator support, and youth leadership development.

That investment supported the Leadership Initiative and helped launch the **Prism Café Series**, interest-based programs that create new ways for young people to connect through shared experiences. Through Adventure Café, youth gathered around tabletop gaming and D&D, while Book Buffet brought young people together through books, conversation, and creativity.

We are grateful to United Way for investing in programs that give young people more ways to build friendships, develop confidence, explore their interests, and find community.



UNITED WAY
Southwest Alabama



OUR BOARD



Dan Van Nostrand
Coordinating Officer



Aimee Clifford
Records Officer



Ariel Chavez
Member



Chenele Chapman
Administrative Officer



Kriston Sieber
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