OUT maine

MISSION IMPACT REPORT

FY 2025-2026

Youth art by Queerios member. Copyright 2026, all rights reserved.

FROM CHILDHOOD TO ADULTHOOD

Since 1996, OUT Maine's goal has been to support and empower LGBTQIA2S+ youth by creating welcoming and affirming communities statewide. **But our work doesn't stop when kids age out of programs.**

In FY 2025-2026 we piloted a workforce development program for the first time, with a goal of supporting young adults who had "graduated" from our youth programs and were now entering the professional world. We hired two Program Assistants to this end: **Alphie and Dani**. Their jobs would be to support the programming team with current events and programs, stepping in to facilitate and lead youth when needed. **Both had personally participated in OUT Maine programming as youth.** That firsthand perspective proved invaluable immediately, as they took the initiative to facilitate our weekly online group Fruit Loops for ages 9-13, relaunched the teen version of that group for ages 14-18 (aptly renamed Queerios), and even developed and implemented their own original and multigenerational program for the summer, Close Knit.

Alphie first attended OUT Maine programs when they were just 13 years old. They attended the ever-popular Rainbow Ball Weekend while in high school, returned as a volunteer, and served on our Youth Advisory Board. Now, a decade after that first interaction, they're bringing fresh ideas, advocating for accessibility, and effectively engaging with youth throughout our programs.

Dani has also engaged with OUT Maine for years, volunteering at both Rainbow Ball Weekend and our partnered Haystack Mountain School of Crafts' Studio Art Weekend. They were a part of the Youth Advisory Board, where we were able to watch their facilitation and leadership skills grow into adulthood. As a Program Assistant they have been eager to implement new ideas to constantly improve our program offerings.

"I feel really grateful to be working here with such a wonderful team and supporting our youth," says Dani. "Giving them safe spaces to connect and express themselves is beyond rewarding. Making a difference in their lives, supporting the development of their social/emotional skills, and getting to witness their creativity are such a pleasure. It feels so healing to be providing these kiddos with resources and support that I didn't always have access to but so desperately needed in my youth."

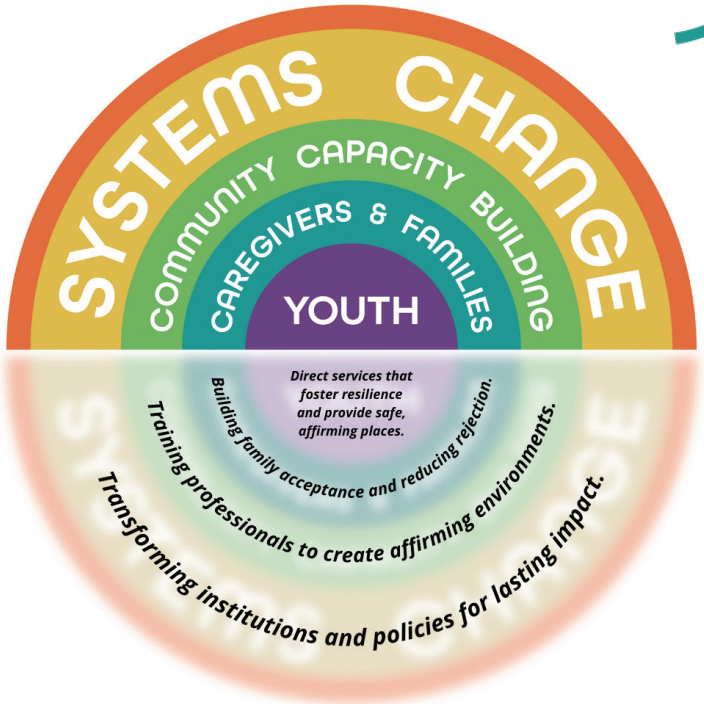
Dani

THEORY OF CHANGE

Both Alphie and Dani are prime examples of **youth in Maine who reached out for support, and then upon receiving it, turned around and spread those lessons learned and feelings of belonging to more queer and trans youth throughout the state.** That's what our work is all about. We're exceedingly proud of them and honored to be able to watch their lives and careers grow over time. In fact, their stories have inspired us to start a new branch of work: the **OUT Maine Alumni Network**, meant for anyone 19 or older who has participated in an OUT Maine program as a youth and wants to continue engaging with our mission while professionally networking with other LGBTQIA2S+ and allied adults.

Alphie

Now is the time to donate to a growing OUT Maine as we get our alumni program off the ground and persist in supporting Maine's queer and trans youth through our Theory of Change. Help us empower all the future Alphies and Danis that come through our doors and make our communities more welcoming, inclusive, and affirming!



Youth thrive when they feel safe, supported, and celebrated.

Our Vision: We're building a future where every LGBTQ+ youth in Maine, no matter where they live, has access to affirming people, programs, and policies. By centering youth, supporting families, empowering providers, and transforming systems, we are creating a comprehensive safety net across rural communities.

CLOSE KNIT

Close Knit is OUT Maine's newest all ages, textile-centric, remote crafting group spearheaded by Program Assistants Dani and Alphie! After seeing a need for a safe and creativity-focused multigenerational group, Dani and Alphie developed Close Knit as part of OUT Maine's summer programming. They brought in guest speakers and instructors for mini-lessons on the basics of knit and crochet, and then lead sessions on the history of craftivism. The program fosters a positive social environment where folks also had the opportunity to contribute to a joint philanthropic project, chosen by participants.

If any participants had trouble accessing materials to do their own crafts at home, OUT Maine was able to send them supplies for free as a result of the generosity of multiple yarn and craft stores! Pictured below is just a portion of the mountain of materials donated to get this program off the ground in FY 25-26, in preparation of running it through summer 2026.

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTS

As of January 2026, OUT Maine has been able to offer clinical mental health counseling services for LGBTQIA2S+-identifying or questioning youth in Maine ages 13-22! This is a grant-funded pilot program. These services are facilitated by OUT Maine's on-staff licensed mental health clinician (LCPC) and are HIPAA compliant. **Individual counseling services** are available for youth ages 13-22, as well as a **weekly online support group** for ages 13-18. The programs are additionally staffed by pracitcum students from the University of Southern Maine's clinical counseling program. Best of all, both the group counseling program and individual therapy sessions are 100% FREE for participants and their families. That means no insurance, billing, or co-pays necessary at any time. **It's important that mental health support is accessible to all, and OUT Maine is committed to seeing that through.**

OUT Maine received over 40 requests for mental health support services from youth across the state during the fiscal year, which far exceeded the capacity of the pilot program. Now, we're exploring new avenues for future expansion of these services to meet the needs of queer and trans youth here in Maine.

PROGRAM IMPACT FY 25-26

3,954 Youth Engaged

240 Caregiver Engagements

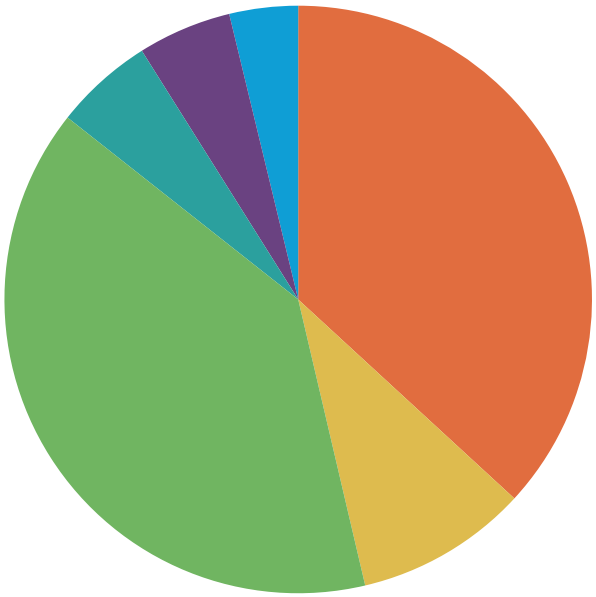
937 School Engagements

1,428 Adults Trained

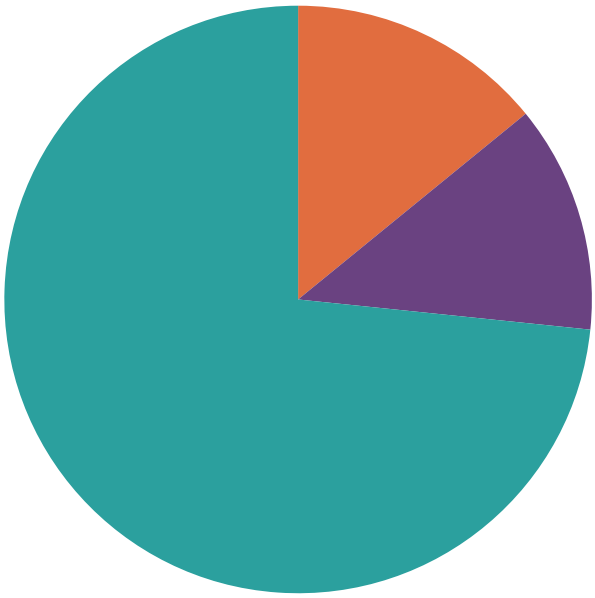
REVENUES & EXPENSES FY 25-26

Revenues $1,290,129

- Donations: $475,296
- Contracts: $122,515
- Grants $506,892
- Program Income $70,163
- Interest & Dividends $66,537
- Change in Value of Beneficial Interest in MCF $48,726



Expenses $1,116,092



- Fundraising $157,452
- Management $139,860
- Program Services $818,780

VOLUNTEERS FY 25-26

Volunteers at the 2026 Rainbow Gala.

"OUT Maine's volunteers continue to amaze me. We have seen so much support from communities across the state, and I can't express how appreciative we are. They are seriously amazing! We could not do our work without our volunteers, and I truly value each and every one of them. Thank you so much for your support this year!"

*- **Kiana Joler**, Volunteer & Operations Coordinator*

Administrative	106 hours
Online Work	18 hours
Board	196 hours
Event Volunteer	1,290 hours
Tabling	121 hours
Baking	13 hours
Flyers	24 hours
Youth Programming	179 hours
Youth Programming - Presenter	132 hours
Advocacy	2 hours

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OUT Maine's board members advise, govern, support, and promote OUT Maine's mission, programs, and organizational needs. The board is legally and fiscally responsible for the organization. Board members serve 3-year terms, with a limit of two consecutive terms.

STRATEGIC PLAN

We developed a five-year Strategic Plan in 2024. Our focus has been dedicated to achieving three overarching goals by June 2029:

1. Establish and implement a comprehensive, multi-tiered support framework that enhances inclusivity and fosters a safe, affirming environment for LGBTQ+ youth, parents, and families through targeted programming and systemic transformations across organizational structures.

2. Enhance OUT Maine's capacity by implementing targeted staff development programs, technological infrastructure upgrades, and strategic partnerships to expand the organization's outreach and impact within the LGBTQ+ community across the state.

3. Strengthen OUT Maine's financial sustainability and resilience by diversifying funding sources with an emphasis on developing and nurturing strategic partnerships with key stakeholders, both private and public.

The whole plan, with more details about each goal, is available to read at outmaine.org under About Us/Strategic Plan.

OUT in the Park: Sebago Lake

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

You make the work we do possible! We want to know how you learned about us, if you want to engage in other ways, and if we are keeping you up-to-date on all the different types of programming we offer across Maine.

Scan the code to take the survey or fill out and mail the short survey below to OUT Maine, PO Box 1723, Rockland, Maine 04841. You can also email rachel@outmaine.org.

Scan to take this survey with your phone!

Your name and pronouns:

Who inspired you to connect with OUT Maine?

What part of OUT Maine's work speaks most strongly to you?

What options to support OUT Maine do you want to know more about? Circle all that apply.*

Volunteering
Planned Giving
Other (please specify)
Scheduled donations
Event sponsorship

How do you stay updated on the work you are supporting with OUT Maine? Circle all that apply.

Reading this report
E-Newsletter
Other (please specify)
Social Media

Is there anything else you would like us to know?

☐ I agree for OUT Maine to use quotes from my responses in marketing materials or for grant activity reporting. I understand that my name will not be associated with any data.

***Ready to update your giving?**
Go to outmaine.org/donate, scan the QR code, or email rachel@outmaine.org.

THANK YOU

Our 2025-26 mission work was supported in part by grants and other donations from The Clowes Fund, CREWE Trust, Jane's Trust Foundation, Leonard-Litz LGBTQ+ Foundation, Little Island Fund, Long Cove Fund, Maine Cancer Foundation, Maine Community Foundation, Maine Health Access Foundation, The Onion Foundation, Rocking Moon Foundation, and United Midcoast Charities.

OUT maine

LIFTING UP MAINE'S QUEER YOUTH

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OUT Maine is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organization.
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