

connected:

THE NEWSLETTER OF TIME OUT YOUTH

When Does it Get Better?

We've been hearing the phrase, "It Gets Better!" a lot lately and it's true, things will get better. However, the question our youth keep asking is, "When? When will things begin to get better for us?"

Think for a minute about when it got better for you or the ones you care about? Chances are it wasn't at 13, or 16 or even 18. The truth is, that for most of us, it didn't get better until we were adults and no longer dependent on others for transportation, safety, shelter, or food and until we developed the adult skills for coping with life's challenges. For many of the youth we work with, that hasn't changed. So, for them, our question then

becomes "What can we do to make it better?"

The length of time between when a young person begins to identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender and the time when he or she tells the first person can be months or years. Those months or years are frequently described as the loneliest period in their lives. The feeling of isolation is compounded by the frequent lack of understanding by parents and other adults. But the loneliness doesn't always stop there. Loneliness can turn to despair when that revelation is met with teasing, harassment or outright rejection.

Many people I talk to assume that life is easier for LGBTQ youth today than ever before. For some it is. The recent string of suicides, however, is a grim reminder that for many young people, life is still

a challenge. Suicide remains the leading cause of death among LGBT teens.

For LGBTQ youth in our area, Time Out Youth offers a positive alternative, one that is able to ease some of the loneliness by connecting LGBTQ youth with both peers and adults who understand the difficult path they are walking down. We offer support, comfort, and advice while setting expectations for successful behavior and results. With your financial support, we will continue to offer them hope while doing everything we can to make it better.

From Our Youth

No one speaks better about the relevance and importance of Time Out Youth than those who use our services. One of our youth wrote recently:

"I found Time Out Youth through a friend a year and a half ago. I think the main reason why I participate in Time Out is for the sense of community that I get by simply walking through the doors. Time Out has led me to meet some of my closest friends and most trusted mentors which in turn has led me to help me better comprehend my identity and who I really am. It has become my safe haven and my home away from home. It has given me confidence in myself and in others. It has reinforced my belief in humankind and a more beautiful understanding of individuality and the right to express oneself. It has supported and advocated, educated and loved, and in times of desperate need it has been there for me when no one else has. I love this program. 😊"

Peter Buckley Awarded Griffin Scholarship



UNC-Asheville student Peter Buckley

Thanks to the generosity of Tim and Neil Griffin, Time Out Youth provides an annual scholarship to a local lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender student enrolled in a North Carolina institution of higher learning. This year's scholarship went to Peter Buckley an active participant in TOY activities for three years. Peter is a freshman at The University of North Carolina at Asheville.

Interested applicants can find out more about the scholarship requirements on our website, TimeOutYouth.org, or call the office, 704.344.8335.

Youth Celebrate Halloween with Party at TOY

The Youth Events Council planned and executed a very successful Halloween celebration at Time Out Youth on Saturday October 30th. It was attended by more than 40 youth who enjoyed food, refreshments, music, dancing and lots of fun and friendship. Vampires were a popular costume this year...

Part of Time Out Youth's Youth Development initiative, the Youth Events Council is comprised of a group of youth from TOY who are charged with creating and carrying out youth-appropriate events with staff supervision and guidance. Other Youth Events Council events have included an alternative prom and a graduation party.

Thanks to all the youth, volunteers and staff who helped make the evening so much fun!



(L-R) Dang Pham, Steve Bentley and Loan Tran at the TOY Halloween 2010 Celebration!

TIME OUT YOUTH STAFF:

Steve Bentley, Executive Director, sbentley@timeoutyouth.org

Laurie Pitts, MSW, Youth Programs and Services Director, lauriepitts@timeoutyouth.org

Candice Langston, Development Director, clangston@timeoutyouth.org

Leigh Dixon, Office Manager, ldixon@timeoutyouth.org



Ean Woods speaking at the "It Gets Better Charlotte" vigil held at TOY

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Over the past year the board and staff of Time Out Youth have continued to work diligently on the implementation of a three-year plan adopted by the board in early 2009. The plan focuses on youth engagement, community visibility and financial stability.

Early in the year we were able to increase the hours for our Youth Services Director to provide nearly full time coverage by a professional social worker. The benefit of this resource has been tremendous. Our ability to respond to crisis situations and provide consistent on-site counseling support has allowed us to strengthen and deepen relationships with the youth who need it most. Having consistent positive contact with youth is directly correlated with their performance in school, on the job and in their general well-being. With funding from the Wesley Mancini Foundation, we launched a School Outreach Initiative that resulted in contact with every principal, assistant principal, guidance counselor, school social

worker and behavioral therapist at each middle and high school in our six county service area. Through this direct mail campaign, we provided information on issues faced by LGBTQ students and information about Time Out Youth. This was an important first step in establishing a supportive relationship with local school districts.

During the summer, we produced a video of our youth telling us about their lives. This short unscripted film, which was circulated by our friends and supporters, highlights the everyday challenges faced by young LGBTQ people. In partnership with other LGBT organizations, Time Out Youth co-sponsored and hosted the "It Gets Better Charlotte" vigil on October 11. We appeared with Mike Collins on Charlotte Talks (WFAE) and Charlotte Today (WJZY) and on October 24 we participated in a Crossroads Charlotte Forum with CMS administrator Deb Kaclik.

All these accomplishments have been and continue to be dependent on the invaluable financial support of our donors. Thank you!

PROGRAMS...AT A GLANCE

MONDAY NIGHT DISCUSSION
148 YOUTH SERVED
781 TOTAL VISITS

MOVIE NIGHT
35 YOUTH SERVED
145 TOTAL VISITS

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DISCUSSION
60 YOUTH SERVED
305 TOTAL VISITS

THURSDAY NIGHT DISCUSSION
35 YOUTH SERVED
101 TOTAL VISITS

TOTAL YOUTH SERVED: 188

TOTAL VISITS ALL EVENING PROGRAMS: 1,332

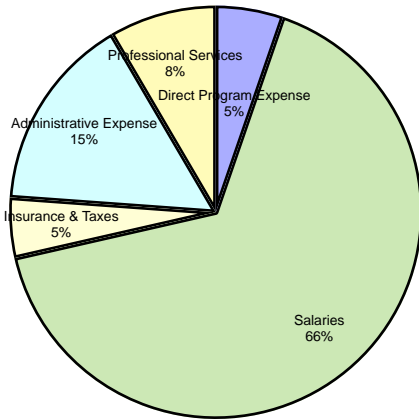
SPEAKERS BUREAU
53 ENGAGEMENTS
694 TOTAL AUDIENCE REACH

EMERGENCY HOUSING
6 YOUTH SERVED
4 NIGHTS HOUSED

(AUGUST 1, 2009-SEPT. 30 2010)

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Expenses (\$145,267)

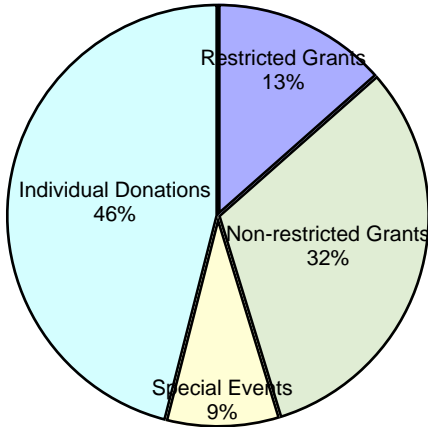


Time Out Youth ended the fiscal year on August 31 on solid footing. For the fourth consecutive year, the organization ended the year with a positive cash balance. Notably, we achieved a goal set by the board in 2008 of building a six-month expense reserve to guard against emergency needs or the sudden loss of funding from a particular source. Through careful expense management and stepped up fundraising efforts, we maintained the reserve for most of last year.

We are grateful to the following foundations and organizations which provided funding during the past year:

- Charlotte Lesbian and Gay Fund**
- Freeman Foundation**
- Wachovia/Wells Fargo Foundation**
- Food Lion, LLC**
- Alliance for Full Acceptance**
- The Wesley Mancini Foundation**

Sources of Income (\$152,654)



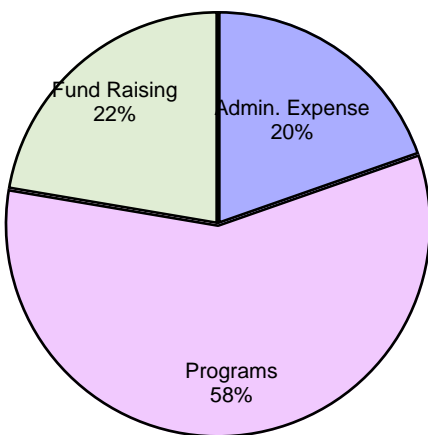
Additionally, Time Out Youth received major unrestricted funding from two private events:

- Farewell to Summer White Party**
- Southern Country Charlotte**

Toy Needs

We are always grateful for donations of goods or services that will assist us in providing the essential programs for our youth. If you have office furniture or supplies, tall bookcases or appropriate books and DVD's for our resource library, please feel free to contact us and we will help you in making the donation.

Allocation of Salary Expense



Making New Friends

Though TOY has been serving LGBTQ youth for almost 20 years, there are still people who don't know about us or are unfamiliar with our services. We want to change that. On October 7, Jon Bass and Rob Drag hosted an informal dinner in their home to introduce TOY to friends and neighbors. It was a huge success – over half of those attending are first-time supporters of TOY.

“Awareness events” could be dinners, lunches, coffees, or anything else you think would be appealing to your friends. We can advise you in how to set up the event, assist with invitations and provide help in carrying it out.

If you are interested in hosting an awareness event, contact Candice Langston at clangston@timeoutyouth.org.

New Time Out Youth Interns

Time Out Youth welcomes new interns: Melanie Pace and Emma Foster from UNCC and Sherika Jackson from Winthrop University. All three are pursuing a master's degree in social work. Having these exceptional interns allows us to maximize our program impact while keeping expenses to a minimum. Thanks to you all for your help and compassion!

Donor Appreciation Party at Actors Theatre

On November 18, Time Out Youth donors were invited to attend a special performance of "Talk of the Town" produced by Stephen Seay Productions and starring Sal Garcia. The play tells the personal story of the trials and tribulations of Johnny Holson, a young man who is coming out in a small Texas town. Much of the story is told from behind the counter at Dairy Queen where the young man works. Playing off that theme, a simple supper of corndogs, chips and ice cream was served. Special thanks to Jerry Brown and Mary Ann Ritchie for underwriting the production and to Stephen and Sal for sharing their time and talents.

Time Out Youth Volunteer Corps Kick Off!

Nearly every non-profit relies on volunteers for success. Time Out Youth is no different. Over the years, we have had a small dedicated group of volunteers who work selflessly with our youth. The time commitment

required for this type of volunteer opportunity just isn't practical for many who would like to share their time and energy. On November 4, TOY launched a new Volunteer Corps with a kick-off reception at Petra's Piano Bar. Led by volunteers Steven Wilson and Michael Holmes, this new group will supply man and woman power for events, administrative tasks and special events. If you are interested in joining this growing, fun group please contact volunteers@timeoutyouth.org.

Matching Funds Reminder!

If you work for an organization that offers a matching program you can double your donation to Time Out Youth! The process is simple and we can help. Call us at 704.344.8335 if you have questions.

Blumenthal Performing Arts Center Hosts Meet & Greet with Lily Tomlin for TOY

On Sunday October 24th award-winning actor/comedienne Lily Tomlin performed at BPAC's Belk Theater. Following her show she attended an informal meet and greet where she signed autographs and posed for photos with her fans--all to benefit Time Out Youth. We raised \$1,700 from the event.

Special ticket packages were offered through BPAC allowing guests to enjoy her show and admitted them to the private session afterward. A fabulous spread of desserts was provided by Amelie's French Bakery with rich fall flowers and decor by

Todd Murphy Events
(toddmurphyevents.com).



(L-R) Sam Gardner, Lily Tomlin and Jim DiMartino

Photography services for the meet and greet were provided by George Lanis from Catchlight Studios in Plaza Midwood (catchlightonline.com). Guests who attended received their photo compliments of Time Out Youth and Catchlight.

Special thanks to TOY supporter and friend Todd Murphy and the team at Blumenthal Performing Arts Center for making this a wonderful event!

Connect With Us!

Join our group of 1400+ friends on Facebook! You can also follow us on Twitter @TimeOutYouth. Keep up to date on information about our programs, events and news! It's a great way to stay connected or get connected to Time Out Youth!

Don't forget to visit TimeOutYouth.org and tell your friends!

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Tracy Russ
Principal Consultant, Russ Communications

Loan Tran, Youth Board Member
Philip O. Berry High School

Ean Woods, Youth Board Member
Central Piedmont Community College

Time Out Youth: Mission, Vision and Purpose

Our Vision:

Empowering lesbian, gay, bisexual,
transgender and questioning youth.

Our Mission and Purpose:

Time Out Youth offers support, advocacy and opportunities for personal development and social interaction to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) youth ages 13–23.

We will:

- **Provide a safe environment for LGBTQ youth and their allies by fostering interaction, learning and affirmation.**
- **Build a youth's self-concept to its fullest potential through uniquely targeted programming.**
- **Offer diverse opportunities for group activities that are open to all and closed to none.**
- **Promote awareness, understanding, acceptance and inclusion for LGBTQ youth.**

For more on Time Out Youth, our history and background, visit our website, TimeOutYouth.org.

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