



# LANCASTER COUNTY CHOOSES LOVE

Annual Report 2025



LANCASTER COUNTY  
CHOOSES LOVE



# MEET LCCL

## Our History

**Founded in 2021**, Lancaster County Chooses Love began as a grassroots movement after a Lititz resident reported multiple acts of vandalism against her pride flag. What started as a call to openly embrace love quickly grew into a mutual aid organization, inspiring our first-ever Pride event.



**Since then, we have expanded into a trans-led 501(c)3 organization**, committed to advocating for LGBTQ+ individuals across Lancaster County.

## Our Mission

We create **safe spaces, connect community members with vital resources, and provide direct services to meet the community's growing needs.** Our annual Pride Festival in Lititz remains a celebration of our origins and the community's unwavering support.



**Serving Lancaster County, Pennsylvania**

104-106 E Main St  
Lititz, PA 17543

# OPENING STATEMENT



**2025 was a year of growth, transition, and intention for Lancaster County Chooses Love.**

We expanded our programs and services while also evolving how we lead, care for one another, and plan for the future, all within a political and social climate that continued to place added strain on LGBTQ+ communities locally and nationwide.

In response to heightened rhetoric, policy uncertainty, and increasing barriers to safety and well-being, we adapted and recommitted ourselves to meeting both urgent needs and long-term aspirations. A major milestone this year was opening our Resource Center, creating a dedicated, affirming space where community, care, and connection could come together under one roof. This move reflected our commitment to visible, accessible, and sustainable support for LGBTQ+ individuals and families across Lancaster County.

We also launched our executive partner model of co-leadership, an intentional shift designed to strengthen organizational resilience, share responsibility, and reflect the collaborative values at the heart of our work. While this transition brought learning and growth, it laid an important foundation for the years ahead.

As economic instability continued to affect households throughout the county, the need for direct support grew. Our Food Pantry served more people than ever before, reaching a peak of 3,900 individuals in a single month. Mutual aid efforts also expanded, with increased requests for housing and utility support as community members faced rising costs and housing insecurity. This work reflects our belief that safety, dignity, and belonging begin with meeting basic needs.

**2025 was also a year of transition within our team.** Parker Webb's departure marked the close of an important chapter for Lancaster County Chooses Love and for many in our community. Parker's leadership, care, and vision helped shape the organization into what it is today, and his impact continues to be felt in the programs, relationships, and values that guide our work. We remain deeply grateful for the foundation he helped build.

# OPENING STATEMENT CONT.

Despite these challenges, we made space for joy, learning, and belonging. We launched the Inclusion Institute to expand education and training efforts and hosted our first-ever LGBTQ+ Adult Homecoming, affirming that everyone deserves celebration, connection, and recognition.

Throughout 2025, we balanced responding to immediate needs with planning for long-term stability and sustainability. This report reflects an organization navigating change with intention, compassion, and care, and choosing love as a daily practice.

With love, care, and gratitude,

**Jessica Purdy**, Executive Partner for Culture and Operations

**Laura Sabatini**, Executive Partner for Development and Strategic Initiatives



# OUR RESOURCE CENTER



**Downtown Lititz!**



**104-106 E Main St  
Lititz, PA 17543**

**At our Resource Center, you'll find our:**

- **No-barrier Food pantry**
- **Gender-affirming clothing closet**
- **Library with books focused on social justice issues**

We began our Resource Center at St. Paul Penryn Church in 2022. By November 2024, our Food Pantry was serving an average of 2,000 clients each month, making it clear we had outgrown our space.

In January 2025, we moved into our Resource Center in Downtown Lititz. This space now serves as our home base for LCCL—supporting food access, connection, and care. We hosted ongoing groups like Queer Peers and A Time & Place for Caregivers, and we look forward to expanding events and programming to meet our community's needs.

**27K+**

**clients served in  
2025**

an increase from 18,100 in 2024

**700+**

**families served  
per month**

an increase from 462 in 2024

**401,352 lbs**

**of food provided  
in 2025**

an increase from 338,176 in 2024

# Food Pantry & Community Support

Our Food Pantry is sustained by dedicated volunteers and community partners, ensuring LGBTQ+ individuals, families, and all neighbors in need have access to nourishing food and essential resources. In 2025, this collective support allowed us to meet growing needs with dignity, care, and consistency.

## Community Drives & Donations

Throughout the year, local businesses, schools, and community groups supported our pantry through food drives, hygiene item collections, and clothing donations.

**The partners listed here represent only some of the many who contributed in meaningful ways:**



- Armstrong AQUA
- Sephora
- Lancaster Friends School
- Lancaster's Gayest Happy Hour
- Erica Joy Bakes
- Hotel Rock Lititz
- Velvet
- High Fever
- Snake & Skein
- Pocket Books
- The Charlee
- Warwick Middle School Robotics Team
- Fulton Bank (Lititz branches)
- Dutchland Roller Derby

## Grocery Recovery Partnerships

In addition to drives and donations, our pantry is supported by regular grocery recovery pickups. Volunteers collect food at least four days a week from local stores including **Lititz and Belmont Target, Lititz Weis, Lititz Giant, and Ephrata Walmart**, helping keep shelves stocked with meat, frozen items, pastries, produce, and more.

While not every contributor is named here, each played a vital role in sustaining our pantry in 2025. Together, these partnerships reflect a community committed to meeting basic needs with compassion and care.

# Adult Homecoming

This year, we hosted our first Adult Homecoming Fundraiser on National Coming Out Day. It was an incredible night filled with joy, connection, and community.

Adult Homecoming was more than a fundraiser. It was a celebration of love, resilience, and the power of showing up for one another. Every smile, dance, and shared moment reflected the strength of our LGBTQ+ community here in Lancaster County.

Because of your generosity, we raised just under **\$15,000** to sustain Lancaster County Chooses Love's year-round programs.

## Save The Date:

Adult Homecoming returns on October 10, 2026 at Pour Man's Brewing | Ephrata



A special thank you to The Vineyard at Hershey for hosting our event at an extremely generous discount.

And thank you to our event sponsors Bayer, Bodhi Yoga, Pilgrims Mennonite Church, Sanctuary Counseling, and Shifted Focus Photography!

# The Inclusion Institute

## Creating Cultures of Belonging

In 2025, Lancaster County Chooses Love soft launched the Inclusion Institute, expanding our work beyond direct services and into education and systemic change. The Institute partners with **businesses, schools, faith communities, healthcare providers, nonprofits, and local governments** to help build safer, more affirming environments for LGBTQ+ people.

In its first year, the Inclusion Institute conducted trainings across multiple sectors and secured additional partnerships for 2026. Offerings include workshops and consultations on LGBTQ+ foundations, bias, equitable policy development, leadership, and systems-level change.

Inclusion Institute services are offered on a sliding scale, with fees helping sustain our programs while maintaining accessibility.

Want more info? Email  
[Jessica@lancasterchooseslove.org](mailto:Jessica@lancasterchooseslove.org)

## What We Offer

**Training and Workshops** on topics such as LGBTQ+ 101, Transgender 101, Allyship, Anti-Bias Practices, and Equitable Policy Development.

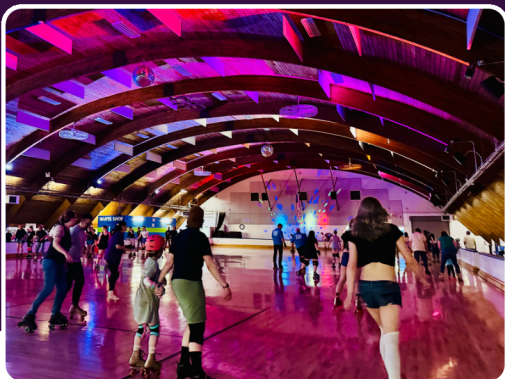
**Sector-Specific Training** tailored for workplaces, schools, healthcare systems, and other community organizations.

**Policy Review and Development** to ensure internal practices are inclusive and affirming.

**Equity Assessments and Culture Surveys** that help organizations identify areas for growth.

**Support for Employee Resource Groups (ERGs)** to strengthen internal advocacy and connection.

Each program is designed to help organizations create safer, more affirming spaces where LGBTQ+ people can thrive.



# Programming

A core part of our mission is **creating safe, affirming spaces where LGBTQ+ people can connect, express themselves, and feel supported.** In 2025, our programming continued to grow in both scope and variety, offering opportunities for creativity, wellness, and community-building throughout the year.

We deepened our partnership with Gracie's House through events like Pride Karaoke, pottery workshops, rock climbing, and Skate Night. New in 2025, **Skate Night quickly became a community favorite and returned again this year.** Pottery programs also remained especially popular, offering a welcoming space for creative expression and connection.



## Wellness Focused

Alongside social and creative offerings, we continued to expand wellness-focused programming, including Reiki sessions that offered moments of rest, care, and grounding. Our Community Garden also remained an important gathering space, bringing people together around shared care, nourishment, and time outdoors. Together, these programs reflect our commitment to meeting our community where they are and creating spaces rooted in joy, creativity, and belonging.

## New for 2025

- Cats, Coffee, & Queers
- Music Therapy for Teens
- Adult Game Lounge
- Makers Meetup
- Group hikes
- & more!

# PRIDE FESTIVAL 2025



**Last June we celebrated our 5th annual Lititz Pride Festival at Lititz Springs Park!**

What began with approximately 300 attendees has grown into a powerful expression of love and belonging. In 2025, more than 4,700 people gathered in the park alongside 80 vendors, performers, and community partners, making this our largest Pride celebration yet.

We are deeply grateful to Lititz Springs Park and to everyone who has supported Lititz Pride over the past several years. Your support has helped make this festival a joyful, affirming space for LGBTQ+ people and allies across Lancaster County.

**4700+**  
**attendees**

**80**  
**vendors**

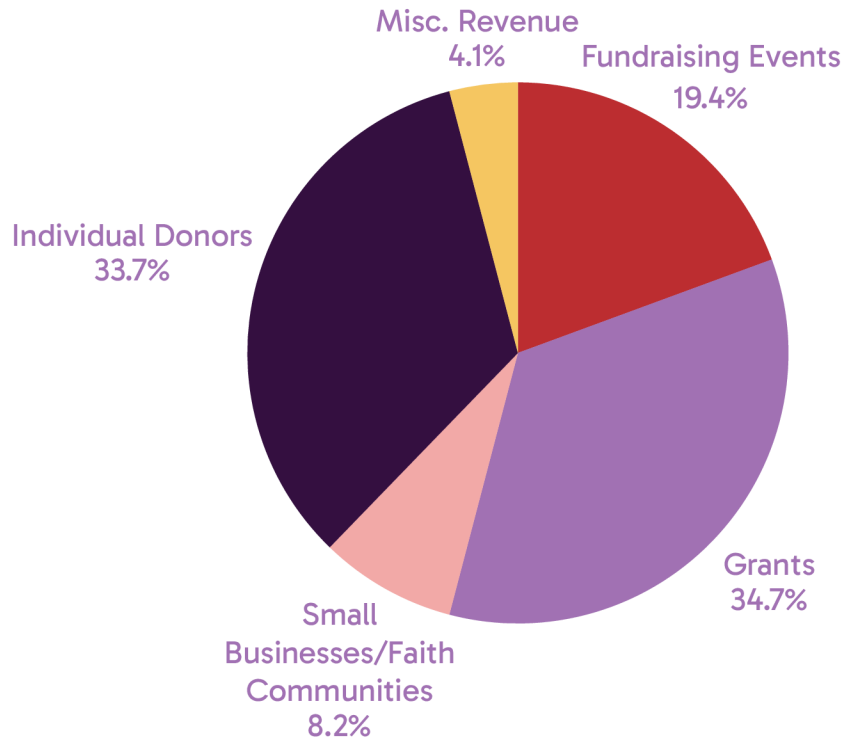
**PRIDE 2026: Sat, June 6th, 11am-6pm**

727 Furnace Hills Pike, Lititz, PA 17543 | a Rock Lititz property

# FINANCES

## Funding

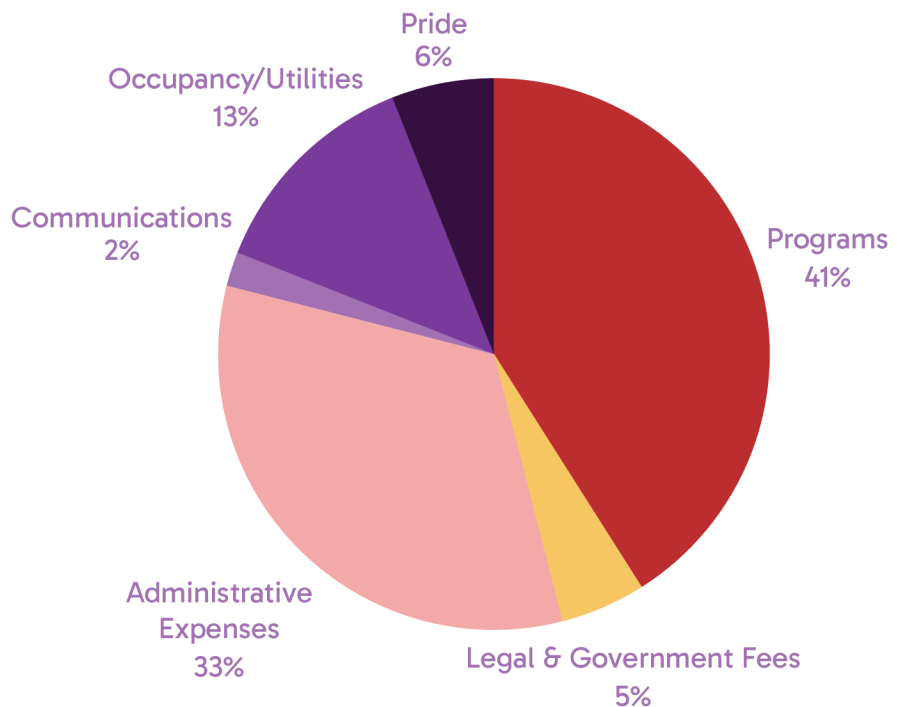
As a 501(c)(3), our work is sustained through the generosity of individual donors, grant funding, and community-driven fundraising events like Pride and Homecoming. We're also grateful for the support of small businesses and faith communities, whose contributions help make this work possible.



## Expenses

We are committed to using our funds responsibly to best serve the LGBTQ+ community, prioritizing programs and services that create real impact.

In 2025, we experienced meaningful growth as an organization. With that growth came increased administrative expenses, including legal and government fees tied to our name change. These investments are part of building a stronger foundation so we can continue to show up for our community now and into the future.



# WHAT'S AHEAD FOR 2026

## Direct Services

We will continue supporting community members through mutual aid, direct financial assistance, and our Resource Center, helping meet basic needs such as housing, utilities, legal support, and gender-affirming care.

In 2025, we distributed more than \$15,000 in mutual aid, and in 2026 we will continue strengthening access to timely, equitable support as needs grow.

## Youth Advocacy

We are deepening our commitment to youth advocacy in 2026, building on the strong foundation of safe spaces we've created. With the expansion of Stephanie's leadership into Youth Advocacy, we will focus on local engagement, education, and relationship-building to ensure LGBTQ+ youth and families have stronger representation and support across Lancaster County.

## Building Sustainability

We remain focused on building long-term sustainability and strengthening our organizational capacity. In 2026, we will expand diversified funding efforts, grow earned revenue through the Inclusion Institute, strengthen leadership and volunteer infrastructure, and refine internal systems to support continued growth. These investments position Lancaster County Chooses Love for lasting stability and impact.

## Providing Education

Education remains central to building a more inclusive and supportive community. In 2026, we will grow the Inclusion Institute while expanding accessible workshops, public trainings, and community resources that equip individuals and institutions with practical tools for advocacy, allyship, and lasting change.





# SUPPORT LCCL

Our work is made possible by the generosity of our community. Here's how you can help us continue our mission in 2026!

## **DONATE-** Your donations help fund the following:

- Community events
- Mutual aid
- Staff salaries
- Food for our Resource Center
- Technology
- Venue rentals
- Staff transportation
- Client transportation
- Legal name changes

Donate online at [LancasterChoosesLove.org/donate/](https://LancasterChoosesLove.org/donate/)

## **VOLUNTEER-** We're always looking for volunteers! Help out once, as your schedule allows, or volunteer weekly!

- Unload items at the Resource Center
- Run the Resource Center during its open hours
- Be a Pride Peacekeeper at our Pride Festival

Apply to volunteer at [LancasterChoosesLove.org/get-involved/](https://LancasterChoosesLove.org/get-involved/)

## **SHARE-** Spread the word about our organization!

- Repost our events on your Facebook & Instagram
- Tell your friends and family about LCCL
- Bring friends and family with you to our Pride Festival