



NOVEMBER, 2024

NEWS LETTER



Side by Side, November 2024

**YOU ARE
LOVED.**

SIDE
BY
SIDE

Dear Side by Side Community,

After this week, many of us are feeling a mix of emotions – from deep concern to perhaps numbness, and maybe even exhaustion. I'll be honest: like so many of you, I am deeply hurt by the direction some recent outcomes suggest. But that very ache fuels my commitment to stand even more steadfast with LGBTQ+ youth, who rely on us for hope, support, and a safe place to be their authentic selves.

As we look forward, we acknowledge the road will be challenging. We know that advocacy, resources, and allyship for LGBTQ+ youth and their families are essential. And while the journey might feel daunting, our mission has never been clearer, nor our dedication stronger. At Side by Side, we are unwavering in our commitment to create a world where all LGBTQ+ youth are supported and celebrated.

To our youth, the message is simple. **YOU ARE LOVED.** We will continue to show up for you both loudly and proudly. To those in our community who are uncertain of what to do next, this is where we all come in. Now, more than ever, your support, engagement, and presence matter. Take this newsletter and take stock of all the opportunities we have for you to contribute.

But today, my ask will be straightforward: Donate. We have no idea what 2025 will look like for us and to ensure we are able to keep our doors open for our queer youth, WE NEED YOUR HELP. We are already feeling the effects of this loss. Where others have waived, I ask that you commit to standing on the side of our young people who need places and services like those at Side by Side.

Side by Side is only as strong as the community that holds it up, and I know that together, we will continue to create a future rooted in love, respect, and justice for all LGBTQ+ youth. Let's harness this moment to propel us forward and keep fighting for the brighter future we know is possible.

In solidarity,

Marquis D. Mapp, QMHP-C
Executive Director

DONATE, IF YOU CAN

Side by Side and others like us, continue to dedicate ourselves to respond to the needs of our community. Your contribution allows us to keep providing space for our youth especially during these uncertain times.

VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME

Regardless of election results we anticipate emotions to run high and the need for support to be great. Your help can make a difference as we prepare for the challenges ahead in 2025.

4 WAYS TO SUPPORT SIDE BY SIDE



ATTEND OUR EVENTS

Fundraisers, workshops, events. These are more than just community gatherings. They are a display of connection and resilience and your support is vital. Our goal remains the same and that's to build vibrant and inclusive communities for our LGBTQ+ youth.

ADVOCATE. EDUCATE.

Elections come and go but advocacy is year round. Support for LGBTQ+ youth is year round. Spread the word and help us educate the community on challenges impacting our queer youth.

Upcoming Opportunities to Donate

END OF YEAR SUPPORT



www.sidebysideva.org/donate

End of Year Support (Now until 12/31/24)

Help sustain our mission into the new year! Your year-end gift fuels our work, providing crucial resources and support for LGBTQ+ youth to thrive in safe, affirming environments. Make an impact that lasts beyond the holiday season—every donation is a step toward a brighter future!

[Donate Today](#)

Giving Tuesday! (12/3/24)

This Giving Tuesday, join Side by Side in empowering LGBTQ+ youth! Your support on this global day of giving enables us to create safe, inclusive spaces where young people can be themselves. Every dollar counts in building a community where all youth can grow and thrive.

#GIVINGTUESDAY



12.03.2024

Glitter Glam Jam (1/25/25)

Be part of our most dazzling event of the year—Glitter Glam Jam! Start a team **today**, or become a sponsor to show your support for LGBTQ+ youth at Side by Side. Join us on the day of the event, January 25, for a night of dancing, fun, and fundraising for a fantastic cause!

GGJ is proudly supported by friends of Side by Side and is a 21+ event.

[Learn More](#)



Volunteer

Youth Center Clean Up Day

Join us for a volunteer day at the Side by Side Youth Center! Lend a hand as we spruce up our space together. Sign up through the link in our bio or visit <https://htru.io/SKDL>!

When: Sunday, November 17th from 12-4 PM

Where: Side by Side 2311 Westwood Ave, Richmond, VA 23230

[Sign Up Today!](#)



For Our Youth and Parents



[Register!](#)

Open Mic Night!

Calling all **poets, singers, storytellers, and performers!** Join us for an unforgettable *Open Mic Night* where YOU can take the stage and share your talents with a supportive, fun, and uplifting crowd. Whether it's your first time or you're a seasoned performer, we can't wait to cheer you on!

Parents and Guardians: You're invited too! While the youth enjoy their own space upstairs for the performances, we'll host a special meet and greet for you with our staff downstairs. It's a perfect chance to connect with the team and learn more about Side by Side's mission and services.

To register visit our OLR here: [Open Mic Night](#)

If you already have a login, great! Select in "Activities" - Big Group: Open Mic Night. If not, register then select that same activity!

Youth Leadership Council (YLC)

The Youth Leadership Council at Side by Side is open to LGBTQ+ youth ages 14-20. This program provides a unique opportunity to acquire leadership skills through hands-on projects and being the voice of our youth at Side by Side. Youth leaders help plan and consult on youth programming, engage in community outreach and education, and plan Side by Side's annual Alternative Prom and GSA Summit. The youth leaders will meet monthly at the Side by Side Richmond Youth Center.

Applications for the YLC are currently open and can be completed [here](#). If you have any challenges accessing the application or would like to learn more, please contact us at info@sidebysideva.org.

Community Corner

Diversity Richmond is celebrating their **25th Anniversary!** Join them for food, music, and community on November 13th.

428 North Arthur Ashe Boulevard
Richmond, VA 23221



This is a **FREE** event! Please RSVP here:
<https://diversityrichmond.harnessgiving.org/events/2311>



Join **Equality Virginia** for the annual **Transgender Information & Empowerment Summit (TIES)** on November 16th. **TIES** is designed to empower and educate the trans and gender-expansive community, providing a platform for connection, learning, and advocacy.

This event is open to trans, non-binary, and gender-expansive individuals, their families, allies, service providers, and advocates. Youth ages 14+ are welcome if accompanied by a legal parent or guardian. We welcome attendees from all over Virginia and neighboring states, and encourage everyone to come together in celebration and solidarity.

You can register by visiting <http://bit.ly/TIES2024>. Registration closes Tuesday, November 12th!

Join **NationZ Foundation** on November 20th at 7PM for their **Trans Day of Remembrance and Resilience** event at Diversity Thrift in Richmond.



SIDE BY SIDE | 804-644-4800 | [Website](#) | [Email](#)
United Way - #3403 | Combined Federal Campaign - #70936 | Local Gov. & Schools - #162