



2025 SNAPSHOT

The Shenandoah LGBTQ Center



Keeping the light on for our community.



A message from our Executive Director

What a year. Amidst the bleak political landscape, rollback of critical DEI programs and initiatives, and unrelenting attacks on our most vulnerable communities, I (among many others) have struggled to make sense of these times and how to keep bending the arc towards justice. While we cannot escape our current reality, our organization remains rooted in our hopeful mission.

Our Center has welcomed a near doubling of visitors this year compared to last. Within our walls and beyond – we create unapologetic spaces of belonging and joy as our act of resistance. Community care is powerful and our programming has reflected this to help fill the gaps and better serve our community.

I'm sharing our 2025 Snapshot to highlight our impact this year. My personal highlight was our Can't Cancel Pride event, where we helped rally our local community to take a stand and ensure that everyone deserves a place where they are seen, valued, and cared for. Thank you for your incredible support this year.

-AnhThu Nguyen

Impact stories from our community

Filling the gaps when services have been shut down and access to care is uncertain

"In a time filled with an immense amount of stress and fear, the support they offered brought relief and reassurance, showing what it truly means to stand by people when they need it most and ensuring that compassionate, reliable health care is available." -Stephanie B, on our Community Health Clinics

Trauma-informed services for unhoused young adults

"Without help I would probably still be out there because it is so hard on your own. I would probably still be paying for a hotel, or staying in the shelter and working a part time job." - HH participant

Providing community-based learning opportunities

"This experience highlighted how culturally sensitive, community-focused interventions can help bridge healthcare gaps for at-risk individuals." - JMU SON Student



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Hope House of the Shenandoah, rapid-rehousing program

- Provided over **\$90,000** in financial assistance including rent and utility fees, and emergency shelter
- **9** clients are ending the year in permanent housing
- **5** clients are in stable emergency shelter and in active housing search

Community Health program

- Hosted **12** monthly Community Health Clinics in partnership with Augusta Health, serving **~130** individuals
- **2,854** safer sex items distributed: external/internal condoms, HIV at-home kits, dental dams
- Partnered with Virginia Department of Health, Central Shenandoah Health District, JMU Nursing, ARROW Project to provide health education and outreach

Staunton Pride - "We Belong Here"

- Our largest event to date, we collaborated with **90** partners, **20** performers
- An estimated **5,000** people in total attendance!

New this year!

- **Community Kitchen**: We upgraded our kitchen to increase our capacity to serve our community.
 - We hosted cooking classes, **6** potluck events serving **193** people, and established a regular community cook event called Souper Sundays.
- **Expansion of partner-led programs**: including skill-share events, book club, workshops, and trainings



Friendly City Safe Space, Harrisonburg location

- Under new direction by Dandy Knopf, FCSS saw a highly visible year focused on **community building** and **visibility**
- Overhaul of the physical space, including expansion of computer resources, education, and mutual aid supplies available for the community

Thank you!

We are grateful for your generous support.

Support our work in building an inclusive community of belonging.

www.shenlgbtqcenter.org/donate