

"I was still 17 [when I entered the host home program.] ... I didn't have any local identification or connections ... I was able to visit with them at their home, to see the home first . They gave me a tour. I was able to go to lunch with them and have a conversation with them and get a feel for them before I was expected to just move in with these strangers. **And you feel more like a person involved in your own life than a peg looking to be put into a slot.** I went from that [homelessness] to not only being on firmer footing but being in a village, feeling like I was in a village of supportive involved people... who I could actually be involved with and support, as well."

Qamar was a youth participant in the GLBT Host Home Program at Avenues for Homeless Youth in MN, which has served as a model and guide for COR's host home program. We can't wait to share homegrown success stories as queer Alaskan youth move from homelessness into safe stable homes with supportive communities and full involvement in their own lives!



Choosing Our Roots

Safely Housing Queer Youth

2018 Community Report

The mission of Choosing Our Roots is to ensure that all queer Alaskan youth and young adults have access to safe homes, supportive communities, and opportunities to thrive.

COR Values: Dignity & Respect · Empowerment · Cultural Relevancy · Community · Hope

**"This is all anyone wants
And the very least everyone deserves
Somewhere to call home
Somewhere to keep the storms out
And the hope in"**

Vanessa Kisuule

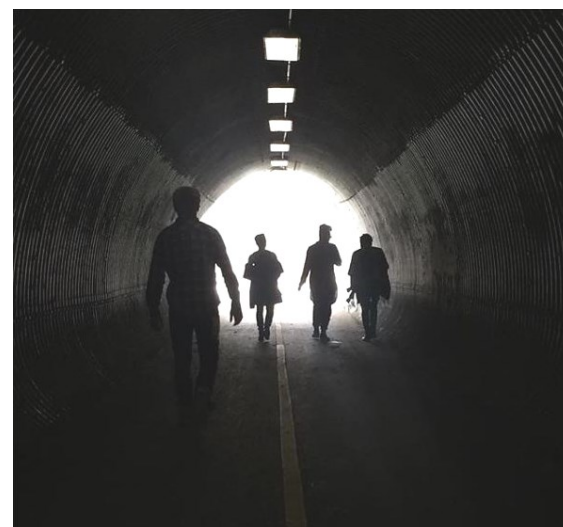
40% of Homeless Youth Nationwide Identify as LGBTQ.

YOU are helping to shift the balance in Alaska.

To learn more about ways that you can make a difference—hosting a youth, being a mentor, sharing your expertise, giving your time or your treasure—please get in touch.

Board of Directors

- Ariel Berg
- Katie McKay Bryson
- Naomi Cat Chythlook
- David Clark
- Bryson Corbett
- Luka Kondratyeva
- Lillian Lennon
- David Lockard
- Chris Terry
- Jamez Terry



Choosing Our Roots

307 E. Northern Lights Blvd.
Suite 101
Anchorage AK 99508

907-764-6233

info@choosingourroots.org

www.choosingourroots.org
facebook: @choosingourroots

EIN: 82-3583339

Amber was finishing her senior year of high school when her stepfather kicked her out. She had been accepted to college and would be living in a dorm that fall; she just had to survive the next six months. That night, she walked through downtown Anchorage, trying to think of anywhere she could go. As a transwoman, she feared for her safety in a shelter environment.

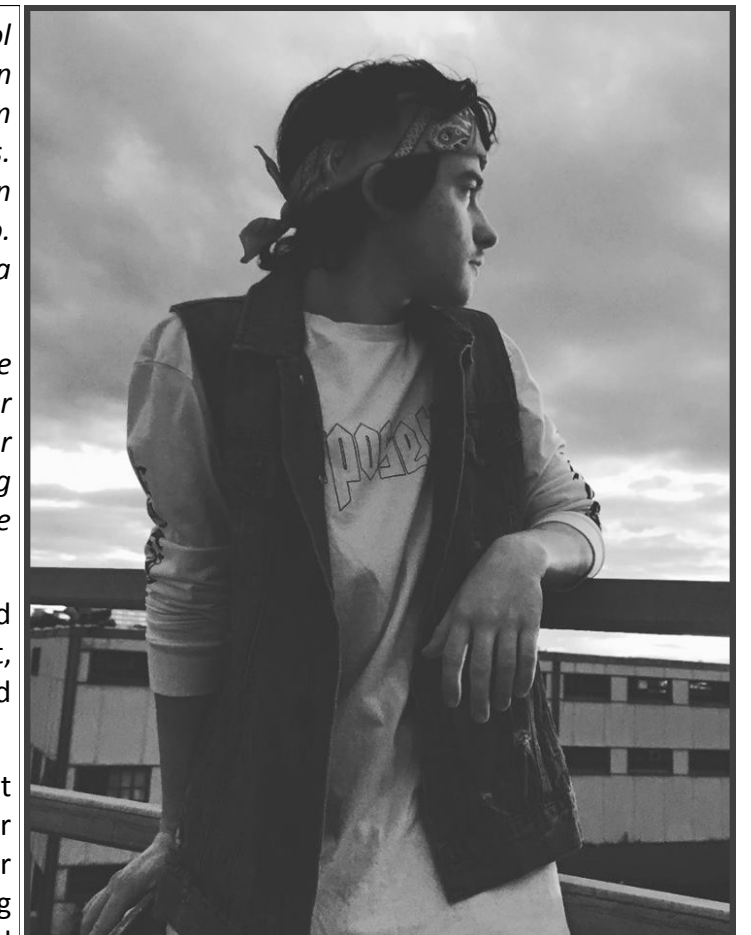
Kaden's family of origin mistreated him because he was different. He bounced from foster home to foster home. When he ended up homeless as a queer teenager, he didn't find the available sheltering systems to be safe or supportive of his identity. He struggled with suicidality and with substance abuse.

These stories reflect the harsh realities and limited options LGBTQ+ youth can face. Due to your support, COR is changing this reality, offering new hope and options to young Alaskans like Amber and Kaden.

We are so pleased to share with you COR's first annual Community Report. Understand that your generosity has an impact. Your donations provide for young people in crisis, support the costs of ongoing case management and wraparound services, and promote opportunities for youth to develop confidence, resilience, community, and hope.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you!

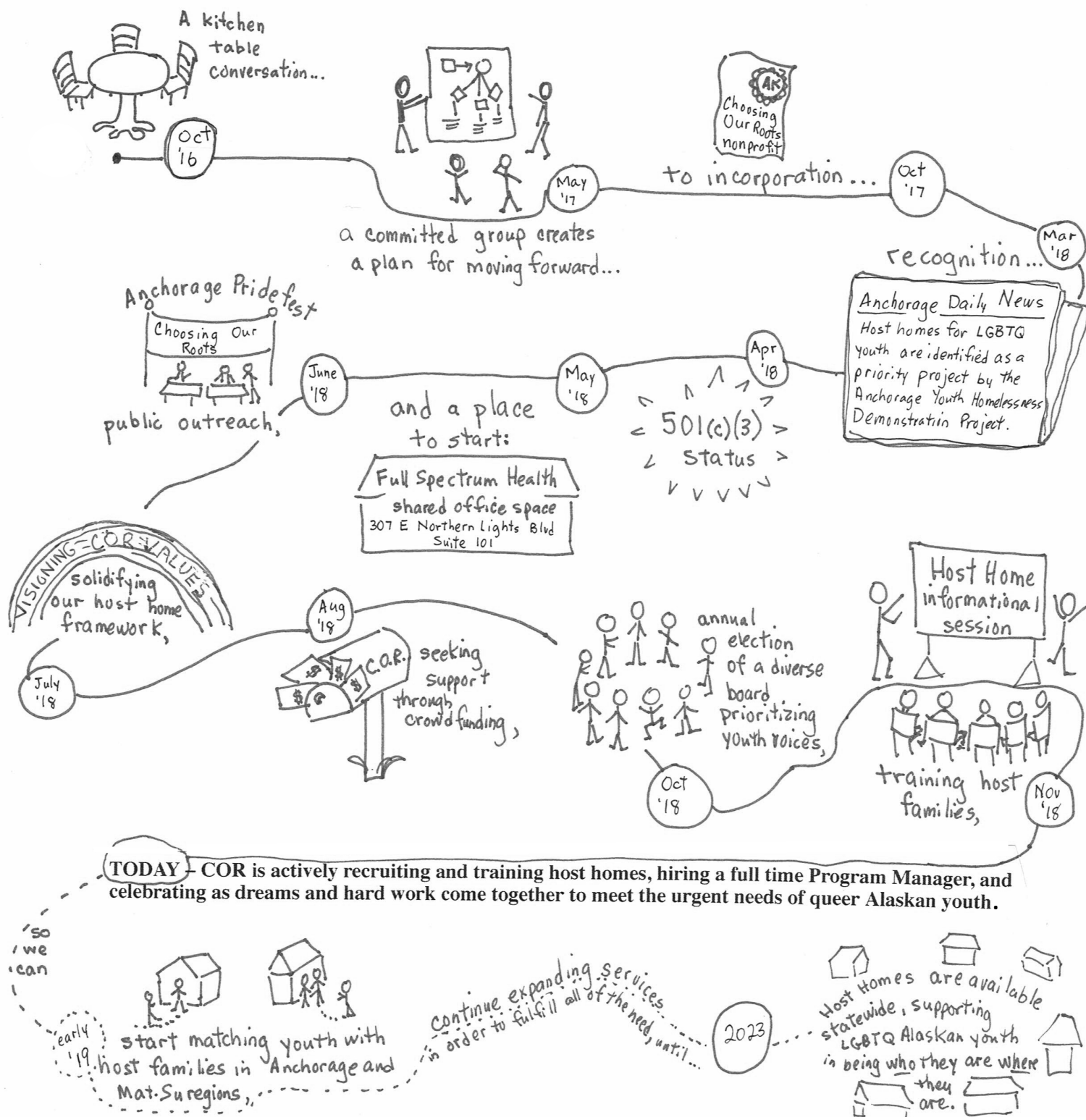
Ariel Berg
COR Board President



"I myself was drawn to this because I've experienced homelessness. And as an LGBTQI+ youth, I would've been more secure and confident in myself had I been given such a resource." — Damien Young

All pictures in this report are used courtesy of photographer Damien Young (pictured above).

It's been an exciting year! Since establishing COR as a nonprofit organization devoted to safely housing queer youth, grassroots supporters and volunteers have been hard at work: assessing needs and resources, envisioning possibilities, developing the detailed plans and policies that will turn those visions into realities, and building up the support to make programs sustainable. At every step, this process has been driven by youth, queer folks, and folks with lived experience of homelessness. Already this work is changing lives and creating hope as we engage in building community, youth leadership development, and advocacy within larger systems of care, as well as offering meaningful interventions and facilitating referrals for young people who seek our help. Today, we are right on the cusp of fulfilling the heart of our mission: matching queer youth and young adults who are currently experiencing homelessness with safe supportive host homes. Thank you for being part of this journey! Follow the milestone map below to see where we've been and where we're going together.



Normally, at this point in an annual report, you could expect to find financial data, clearly illustrating how your dollars are being spent. As a brand new organization, with less than a year of income and with program expenses that are just beginning, COR does not yet have meaningful data to offer. What we do have is a tremendous amount of gratitude. Together, you have raised enough funds to launch the host home program. We look forward to providing more detailed financial information after our first full year of operations. In the meantime, please know that COR is committed to transparency and good stewardship, and we would be happy to share additional information upon request.

THANK YOU for Your Generous Support!

Grantors & Corporate Donors

Alaska Mental Health Trust
 Authority
 Anchorage Log Cabin Quilters
 Causecast Foundation
 Doyon, Limited
 Fred Meyer
 GCI
 Harnisch Foundation (Awesome Without Borders)
 Pride Foundation
 RMG Real Estate
 St. Mary's Episcopal Church
 Mission Outreach
 UAA Drag+
 U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

Caitlin Cocilova
 Caitlin Dickman
 Candace Bell
 Carissa Sojka
 Catherine Flint
 Cherry Thomas
 Clare Boersma
 Cristy Willer
 Danielle Desormier
 Dantea Ziel
 Dave Milburn
 David & Debbie Lockard
 David Terry
 David Wieland
 Debra Hardmann
 Dennis Chase
 Elizabeth Ungerleider
 Emily Sousa

Jim Nolan
 Jo Tandy
 Joel & Darlene Terry
 John Myers
 Johnny Blazes
 Jonathan Rogers
 Jordan O'Connell
 Josh Hemsath
 Julia Seymour
 Julia Terry
 Julie & Patrick Myles
 Julien Jolivette
 K Dickman
 Karen Brandt
 Karen Lonardo
 Katelynn O'Connell
 Katie McKay Bryson
 Kim Ciccone

Meghan Chiampa
 Melissa Griffiths
 Nan Magrath
 Naomi Cat Chythlook
 Nathan Nicholls
 Nicole & Melsen Carlsburg
 Nicole Bucaro
 Patricia Wilson-Cone
 Peek Ehlinger
 Petra Davis
 Piri Jenkins
 Rachel Buckbee
 Rebekah Moras
 Rev. Dr. Gina Casey
 Rev. Susan Halvor
 Robin Lutz
 Roz Thompson
 Ryan Webb

Individual Donors

Anonymous (12+)
 Alexi Hooper
 Alice Gausch
 Alice La Pierre
 Alison Criscitiello
 Allison Carr
 Allison Mendel
 Amanda Alexander
 Amy Herberger
 Analise Hartnett
 Andrea 'Egg' Anderson
 Ann Du
 Ann McKay Bryson
 Annmarie Buckley
 Ariel Berg
 Ashley Daly & Alex Polta
 Barbara & Terry McCarthy
 Barbara Nock
 Bianca Frisby
 Bob Hancock & Chris Terry
 Bonnie & Don Bladow
 Brenna McCarthy
 Bryson Corbett
 C.E. Polta

Eric & Brigitte Miller
 Erik Martinez Resly
 Erin Fleschert
 Fallon Durant
 Gay Peterson-Berg & Mark Berg
 Grace Reppucci
 Grete Chythlook
 Hank Dorsch
 Hannah Hill
 Heather Cole
 Heather Davis
 Heather Dennehy
 Heather Harris
 Hope McGratty
 Issa Spatrisano
 James Welch
 James Terry
 Janice McCarthy & Martin Steinmeyer
 Jean McWatters
 Jean Mitchell
 Jen Pillis
 Jenna Strizak
 Jenni Diep
 Jess Limbird

Kim Jones
 Kim McWatters
 Kylee Smith
 Lanelle Horstmeier
 Laura Butcher
 Laura Herman
 Laura Melbin
 Leigh Ann & Kim Phillips-Knope
 Leigh O'Donoghue
 Leslie MacPherson Artinian
 Lindsey Hajduk
 Lisa Davis
 Lisa Jamieson
 Liz Lyke
 Lynn Roberts
 Madalene Mandap
 Margaux Delotte-Bennett
 Marianne Pellegrini
 Marsana Davis
 Mary Bristol
 Mary Kancewick
 Matt Allen
 Matt Carlett
 Matthew Crimp
 Megan McBride

Gifts Made in Honor / Memory of

Ariel Berg
 Dave Milburn
 Frances Wright

We are grateful to all our donors and do our best to maintain a thorough and accurate record of contributions received. If you believe there was been an error or omission, please let us know: info@choosingourroots.org or 907-764-6233