

NoVA Prism Center

Nova Prism Center, a 501(c)3 non-profit, serves LGBTQ+ individuals, their families and allies in the northern Virginia area by providing a variety of resources, activities, services and events. That's still a pretty broad definition, so here are some specific examples:

- We hold a physical space that allows us to hold activities and house resources, and a virtual protected space online that allows for interaction and sharing from home.
- We host activities, from practical (a legal fair for folx who need help with LGBTQ issues), to cultural (standing workshops for writers) to social (a regular gaming night); and allies can also use our space to hold activities.
- We provide mutual aid micro-grants to help our community members; examples from the past three weeks include: pay out to reconnect gas and electric for households with vulnerable folks or kids, underwrite the rent of a storage unit for a month so an eviction doesn't mean losing a household's worth of belongings, cover the balance for life-saving medical equipment so a patient with a serious new diagnosis can safely leave the hospital.
- We have created a free lending library of over 1500 volumes and growing, because books specific to our experiences are validating and supportive. We share our books out and about in the form of pop-ups, too.
- We have a community pantry and fridge, because we see a growing need and anticipate even greater food insecurity for our community in the current political zeitgeist.
- We maintain Your Community Closet, a free (and often gender affirming) boutique of donated items with a binder exchange and harm reduction supplies
- We grow and share a mini maker space with free equipment and supplies for the community to explore and experience healing through creating.
- We make and share connections to resources in our community: county services, healthcare providers, spiritual leaders, businesses, legal consultants, etc.

It's evident from daily news that these are challenging times for our community members. As more and more folx need support, our need for resources will increase. This year, we are broadening our funding outreach to more foundations and focusing on stewardship and growth of our larger individual donors.

As for advocacy efforts, because of our 501c3 status, we do not engage in political action or lobbying. We DO, however, keep our community updated about specific legislation that is likely to impact them in negative ways. And, we share specifics about how to productively contact elected officials if they wish.

Thank you again for reaching out to learn more about our work. If you have additional questions please don't hesitate to ask. Email Board President, Laura White Laura@novaprismcenter.gay or Executive Director, Leon van der Goetz at Leon@novaprismcenter.gay.