2021-2022

desi RAINBOW PARENTS & ALLIES

YEAR IN REVIEW

MISSION & VISION

Desi Rainbow Parents & Allies seeks to build a community where diversity of sexuality and gender are valued, affirmed and celebrated by all.

In 2015, one Desi mother in New Jersey struggled to find support from her community after her child came out. Not finding anything at all, she decided to start her own community resource. Now, we are a national community of Desi parents, allies and LGBTQ+ people dedicated to the idea that being proud and visible, supporting each other, telling our stories and advocating for community acceptance will transform the lives of LGBTQ+ children of all ages, and of their families.

WHO WE ARE



Our members are mostly in the United States, but our virtual reach extends to other parts of the South Asian diaspora across continents. We welcome and celebrate diversity of religion, class, caste and experience, and are united by our desire to support our Desi children and loved ones.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Creating A Circle of Support, Acceptance and Healing

SUPPORT GROUPS

34 trained, caring, compassionate Support Group Faciliators who are LGBTQ+ identified and parents of LGBTQ+ kids

24 Support groups, twice a month

95% said they left the group feeling hopeful

360 group members over the year

> "Desiness is more multilayered than the biggest onion you can find. Desi Rainbow has helped me navigate my Desiness one layer at a time, from family to community to myself."

> "We have been struggling since our child came out. It's good and comforting to see a forum with all of us who come from the same culture and upbringing."

SUPPORT THROUGH SAATHI

desi saathi PEER SUPPORT

We launched Saathi, a peer support program that connects Desi Rainbow volunteers to LGBTQ+ people and parents who are seeking someone to talk to. We trained our first cohort of 13 volunteers - 5 LGBTQ+ folks and 8 parents of LGBTQ+ children ranging from 10 to 35. Our Bilingual volunteers speak **Hindi, Gujarati, Punjabi, Bengali, Telugu, Konkani, Kannada, Tamil, Marathi, Malayalam.**

100% of Saathi support recipients said that they felt better prepared to face their challenges after speaking to a Saathi

> "Saathi support is a true blessing for people living in a closet. I was able to share my feelings, challenges, fears without feeling ashamed or guilty. Talking to my Saathi helped me feel better and super happy."

> "My Saathi made it a very comfortable and safe space. I felt like I was talking to a long lost relative or friend."

PROUD POSSIBILITIES

Virtual interviews featuring LGBTQ+ icons and allies who are building relationships, families and communities. We show the Desi community that there are many possibility models for our children's future. We featured Possibility Models like **Feroza Syed, trans and political activist**; **Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal, proud parent of a trans child**; and **Priya Arora, journalist and Queering Desi host.**

208
attended live and 100s more watched on social media

100%
said they learned more about life and career possibilities for LGBTQ+ people

STORYTIME

7
episodes of Story Time, featuring drag artists, parents, performers & LGBTQ+ activists reading affirming children's stories.

78
families with young children and allies came to listen and enjoy



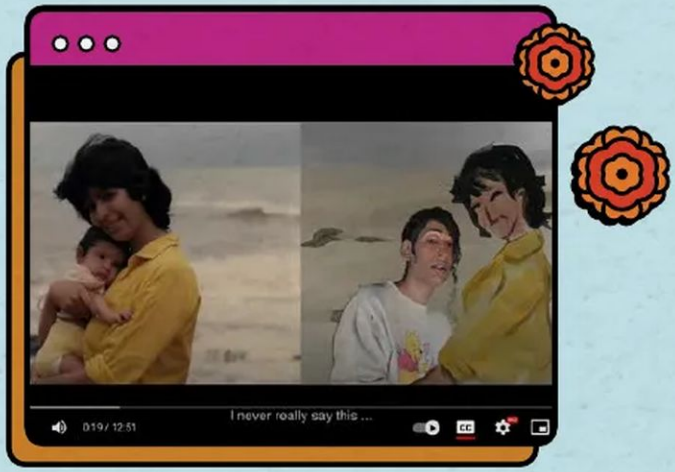
100% **agreed that they learned about inclusion through Story Time, and that they would recommend the program to a friend.**

ASK ME ANYTHING WITH MEERA MOHAN-GRAHAM

A series of Allyship workshops with Meera, a queer South Asian artist, writer and coach who brings radical honesty and insight into telling her story and bringing allies closer to understanding the queer and trans experience. Storytelling was followed by in depth Q & A that changed hearts and minds.

SPECIAL EVENTS

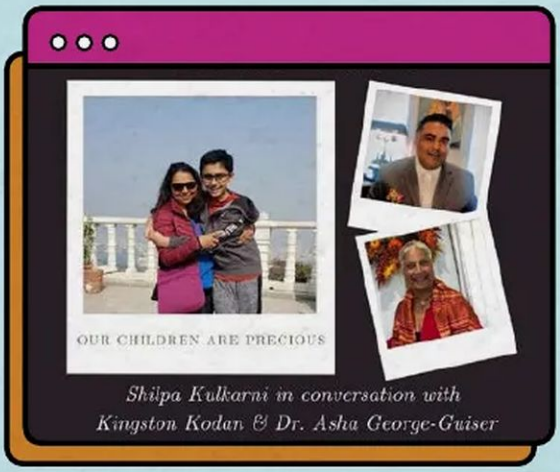




Ally with Pride Community Talent Showcase



Faith & Family Celebrations: Eid, Gurpurab, Dussehra and Christmas



Mental Health Discussions



Breaking the Silence Workshops: Building Community Allyship

JOIN OUR FOUNDING FAMILIES

If your company or organization has matching or giving programs, please consider supporting Desi Rainbow Parents & Allies! We are a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and contributions are tax-deductible. Our EIN is 85-3352073.

Thanks to our 2021 Donors and Supporters for believing in our work! Over 99% of our funding comes from community donors. YOU make it possible for us to move forward in building an accepting community. Join us to become Sustaining Donors who make a recurring monthly donation at:

www.desirainbow.org/donate

You can also send donations by mail to *Desi Rainbow Parents & Allies PO Box 4454, 195 Central Ave, Metuchen, NJ 08840-9997.*

Pinnacle Circle
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8 Anonymous Donors

Pride Circle
18 Anonymous Donors

Acceptance Circle
10 Anonymous Donors

Supporter Circle
45 Anonymous Donors

Friends Circle
25 Anonymous Donors

Booster Circle
32 Anonymous Donors

THE TEAM

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Aruna Rao, she/her Executive Director



Vidya Mohan, she/her Finance Coordinator



Stephen Jiwanmall, he/him Support Groups Coordinator



Hima Sathian, they/them Saathi Coordinator



Sri Chivukula , she/her Publications Coordinator



Anitha Chennat, she/her Events Coordinator



Sapna Pandya, she/her Development Consultant

Our deepest gratitude goes out to the dozens of team members who offer their time, skill and support to keep our programs of support, education and advocacy operational. We couldn't do it without you!

desi RAINBOW PARENTS & ALLIES
info@desirainbow.org

desirainbow.org
@desirainbowparents
@desirainbow1

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