desirainbow



2025 YEAR IN REVIEW

This year has been filled with extraordinary challenges to the health and safety of the queer and trans community. In spite of this, our community has demonstrated the power of community building and resiliency during difficult times.

Thanks to you, we have been able make a real difference and continue to support, educate and advocate for the rights of South Asian LGBTQIA+ people and their families. We wanted to highlight some of all the great work you've helped us accomplish this year!







SUPPORT

- Offered **300 people direct support** through support groups and individual peer support
- Hosted **special groups for Moms, Dads and Grandparents**
- Trained 14 new volunteers to join as support group and Saathi peer support facilitators. This brings our **core group of support volunteers to 50**!

"Being in a space with other Desi trans, gender non-conforming and non-binary folks – let alone LGBTQ+ muslims! – for an hour and a half has been so **affirming**, **validating** and **confidence-boosting**. Knowing **I am not alone** in my path or my experiences, remembering what everyone shared, I feel I can push through the next month **with more hope and self-assurance than I've felt in a long while**."





OUTREACH & ADVOCACY

The current outlook for LGBTQIA+ rights is grim - there has been a huge escalation in threats to fundamental rights, access to healthcare, and safety. With your help we have been able to successfully mobilize in response to these threats. This year we had:

- 123 community members joined our advocacy group!
- 127 community members signed our Trans Ally Pledge!
- Built a national chat group of 463 to disseminate information!
- Built out our staff to include 5 new members as well as 1 new board member!



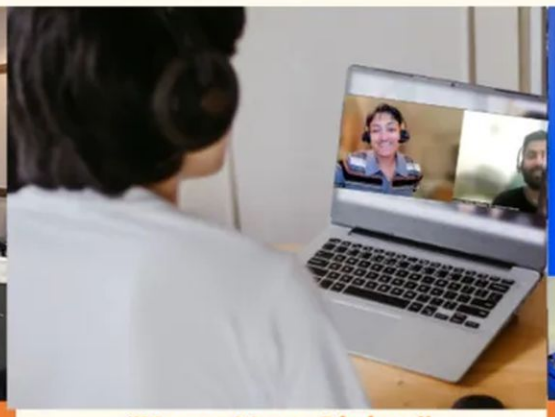


Your support has also helped us join Advocates for Trans Equality and Muslim led organizations in submitting an amicus brief to the Supreme Court supporting LGBTQ+ inclusive education, developing a policy explainer with the South Asian American Coalition, and lead efforts to urge school boards to protect trans children (pictured above).

This is just the tip of the iceberg! Pictured below are more of our outreach and advocacy programs from this year.



Representing Desi Rainbow at the South Asian Bar Association conference



"Know Your Rights"
A legal briefing with experts on immigration and LGBTQ+ law



Representing Desi Rainbow families at the Human Rights Conference



Held a community discussion with Alok and the Desi and allied community in Edison, NJ



Represented Desi Rainbow families at the South Asian Literature and Art Festival



Represented DRPA families during the Impact Summit and at first South Asian Hill Day!



CELEBRATION

Now more than ever, joyful and affirming in-person and virtual events and celebrations are so important for our community.

We have held events ranging from healing circles to picnics, concerts, panels and afternoon chai. These gatherings are transforming the experience of LGBTQIA+ Desi's and their families, offering safe spaces to experience joy, grief and healing.



Bay area gathering for Queer Desis and allied community



Affirming Navratri Garba celebration in Chicago



Intergenerational Pride Picnic in New Jersey







Queer Diwali Ball and Mela held in New York City!



Pyaar is Pyaar, our annual fundraiser, hosted in Manhattan.



Marching in Atlanta Pride for the first time ever!

This year we were so happy to see so much queer Desi art!

Throughout the year we have co-sponsored and supported screenings and performances of queer themed documentaries, films, and plays including:

***'Never Stand Down', 'Ammas Pride', 'Queen of My Dreams', 'Nice Indian Boy', 'Pooja, Sir'* and *'Ammigone'*!**



At the Philadelphia Screening of 'A Nice Indian Boy'.



At a New York Screening of 'Amma's Pride'



National Coming Out Day 'Never Stand Down' Screening in New York and virtually



100%

All of our funding comes directly from those who feel the impact of our work: family members and allies of LGBTQIA+ loved ones and the LGBTQIA+ community.

All of the work we outlined above is because of you continuing to show up for us!

To help better serve you, we will be conducting a national survey of South Asian LGBTQIA+ and allied family needs that will collect important data on community needs.

We are also embarking on a strategic planning process to review our mission and vision to continue best translating our goals into action and to build a resilient, thriving community.

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