

Annual Report 2021



Point of
Pride

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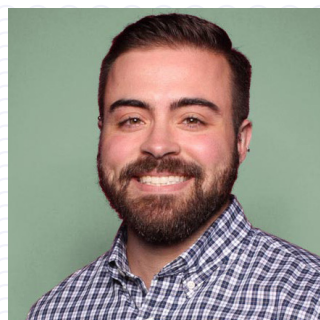
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Message from our co-founders



Aydian Dowling (he/him)

Co-Founder & President,
Board of Directors



Jeff Main (he/him)

Co-Founder & Secretary,
Board of Directors

2021 Board of Directors

Liz Byrne	Nikki Minard
Aydian Dowling	Chris Mosier
Meryl Lumba	Tyler Rodriguez
Jeff Main	Rob Voorhees

Dear Friends,

We're beyond thrilled to be sharing our first annual report with you. Though Point of Pride gets its roots over a decade ago and has been a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization for more than half of that time, we haven't before pause to reflect in this way. Simply put, we've been too busy. Serving our community for the last six years has been an honor and a privilege, and the trust of our community and word of mouth about our work has generated a significant outpouring of requests—and generous support from people like you.

2021 was a challenging year for us all—from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic to the multitude of ways the trans and gender diverse community was attacked. Poignantly, 2021 was the deadliest year on record for transgender people, a harrowing statistic that has been studied to be directly causally linked to anti-transgender rhetoric. Vitriolic lawmakers across the country introduced a record number of pieces of legislation targeting our community—in fact, more anti-trans legislation was proposed this year than in the last 10 years combined. In such trying and dangerous times, our community needs support now more than ever, a fact reflected in the high number of requests for help that we receive every day.

When we incorporated as a non-profit organization six years ago, we had a simple mission: get as many gender-affirming garments as we could into the hands of trans people in need. We both knew, personally, how life-changing a single chest binder can be. While our binder and shapewear programs remain a cornerstone of the work we do, our programs have grown and matured to reflect the needs of our community and the incredible support of our generous donors and partners. In the pages that follow, we'll dive into each of our core programs focused on supporting trans people in need as they navigate the many and various aspects of transition and healthcare including gender-affirming surgery, hormone therapy, garments, and permanent hair removal services.

In a world that doesn't always support us, we support each other. Our community and our allies are energized—and, together, we're changing, and often, saving lives. And, as a 100% volunteer run and led organization, every dollar donated to Point of Pride goes directly into the programs.

We're so glad to call you a friend of the organization. Thank you for your partnership and your generosity. We look forward to what we'll accomplish together for our community in 2022!

With gratitude,
Aydian Dowling & Jeff Main

Guiding Principles

Our mission

Life-changing access. Life-saving affirmation. Point of Pride provides financial aid and direct support to help the most vulnerable members of our community feel seen and supported through access to life-saving health and wellness services. Our work is guided by five key principles that act as a foundation for everything we do:

1 Affirmation

The heart of our mission is to provide powerful affirmation for the people we serve. Trans people who feel seen, supported, and valid are able to live their authentic lives.

2 Access

We aim to serve the members of our community who have the biggest hurdles in accessing the care they need—whether it's financial, geographical, or institutional.

3 Equity

Our equity-based processes seek to address the failures of disparate levels of privilege and access.

4 Empowerment

The results of our programs work must always have a transformative impact beyond direct service.

5 Celebration

With so many narratives and stories around trans hardship, we work to instead foster trans joy! We aim to celebrate the resilience and beauty of the people we serve.



50 countries served in 2021

To date, we've served trans folks in 98 countries (and counting)



All 50
states, too!

**2021 was the first year
we provided support to
people in...**

Argentina	Mexico
Brazil	Algeria
Lithuania	Guernsey
Estonia	Russia
Belgium	Singapore
Netherlands	Portugal
Uganda	

2,093 people served in 2021



1 in 3

people are living with a disability or chronic illness

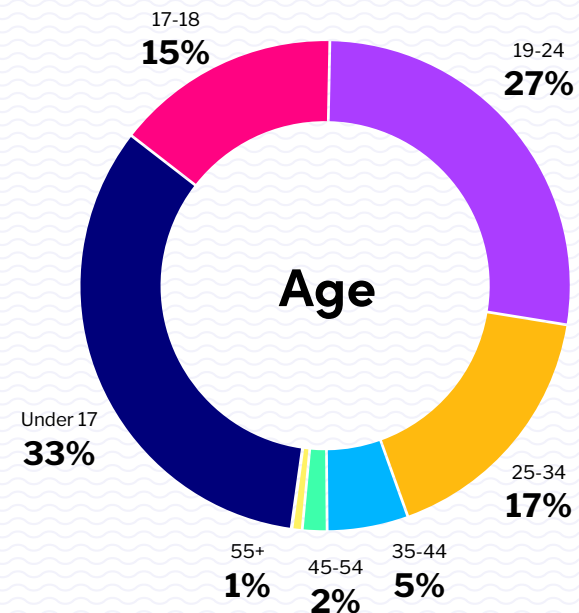
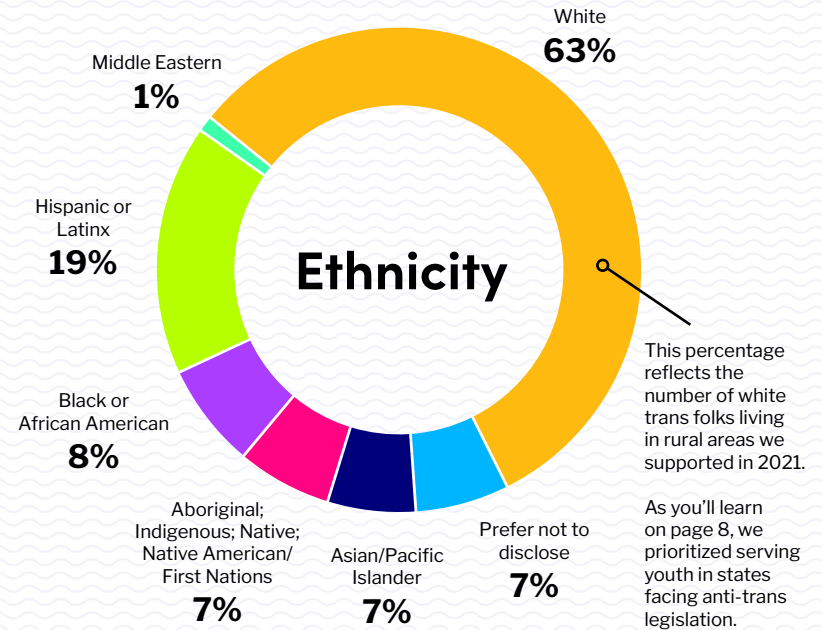


29%

have experienced homelessness or housing insecurity, either now or in the past

Gender identity

Agender.....	4%	Intersex.....	1%
Androgynous.....	6%	Non-Binary (NB; Enby).....	28%
Bigender.....	2%	Questioning/Unsure.....	7%
Demifemale.....	1%	Trans Female (MtF; AMAB).....	22%
Demimal.....	1%	Trans Male (FtM; AFAB).....	44%
Gender Fluid/ Gender Queer.....	17%	Two-Spirit.....	1%
Gender Non-Conforming (GNC).....	2%		



Program **HIGHLIGHTS**

Real-time support for trans people under attack

More anti-trans legislation introduced than prior 10 years combined

2021 was a poignant record year for anti-trans legislation; more than 100 pieces of legislation were introduced, many of them targeting trans kids and their parents. Lawmakers' efforts, whether borne of vitriol or perceived political gain, attacked every aspect of daily life for trans people, endeavoring to ensure they couldn't show up safely as themselves in the workplace, school, or elsewhere. Some of these bills included...

- **Texas** attempting to charge parents of trans children and their doctors with child abuse for helping their children get gender-affirming care
- **Arkansas** passing a bill restricting gender-affirming care for trans youth
- **Tennessee** governor signing bill banning gender-affirming care for trans youth into law

...alongside bills targeting trans student athletes' ability to participate in sport, trans people's access to healthcare, and even trans people's ability to use a public restroom.

With threats against trans kids coming from every angle, we quickly zoomed in on states where their rights were most under attack and their ability to access medically necessary, lifesaving healthcare was being directly threatened. We quickly launched a campaign to expedite access to gender-affirming garments to young people in states including Texas, Arkansas, and Tennessee.

With the help of a generous \$10,000 match from Dr. Scott Mosser of the Gender Confirmation Center, we quickly raised more than \$20,000 dollars and sent out over 1,500 chest binders to youth in need alongside messages of affirmation to let them know they are valid, seen, and loved, despite the political environment surrounding them.

“

I had been binding with painters tape for the past two years, leaving me with scars. From the bottom of my heart, I sincerely thank you for this chest binder: for stopping my bad habits, making me feel better in my body, and giving me a reason to smile.

—RYLEE, 15, TEXAS

Garments that save lives

More than just apparel

Point of Pride provides free chest binders (specially-designed chest compression garments) and femme shapewear (specially-designed compression underwear/gaffs) to trans folks who need them.

Each garment comes with a unique handwritten card created by volunteers. These cards are a tangible reminder that the recipient is enough—that they are valid and valued.

These garments are more than just apparel: they are instrumental in helping people feel safe. For many people we serve, they help with “passing” and/or “living stealth,” which can be a matter of survival, especially in places hostile towards LGBTQ+ people.

Without a binder, for example, many folks will resort to unsafe binding techniques in order to navigate public spaces more safely—techniques like Ace bandages or duct tape that can cause serious strain and injury.

→ Before getting their binder:

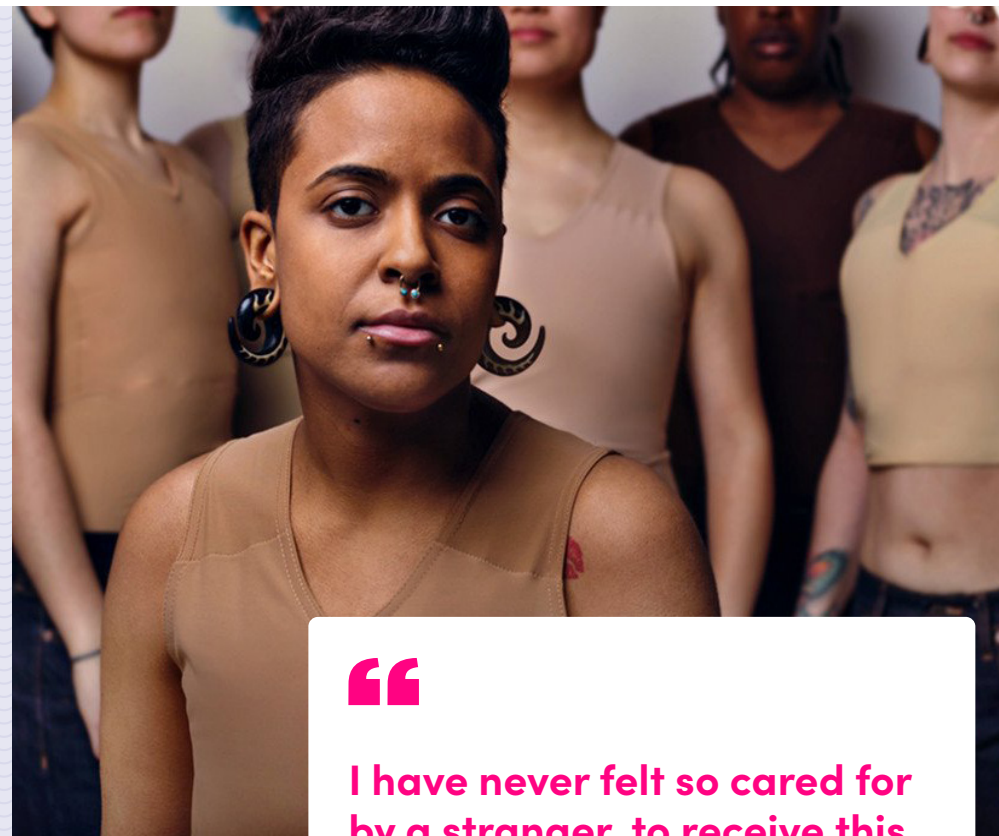
Half of recipients reported binding unsafely on a regular basis

→ After getting their binder:

75% of recipients reported feeling safer in public

70% said they no longer avoided leaving the house

69% noted an improvement in their mental health

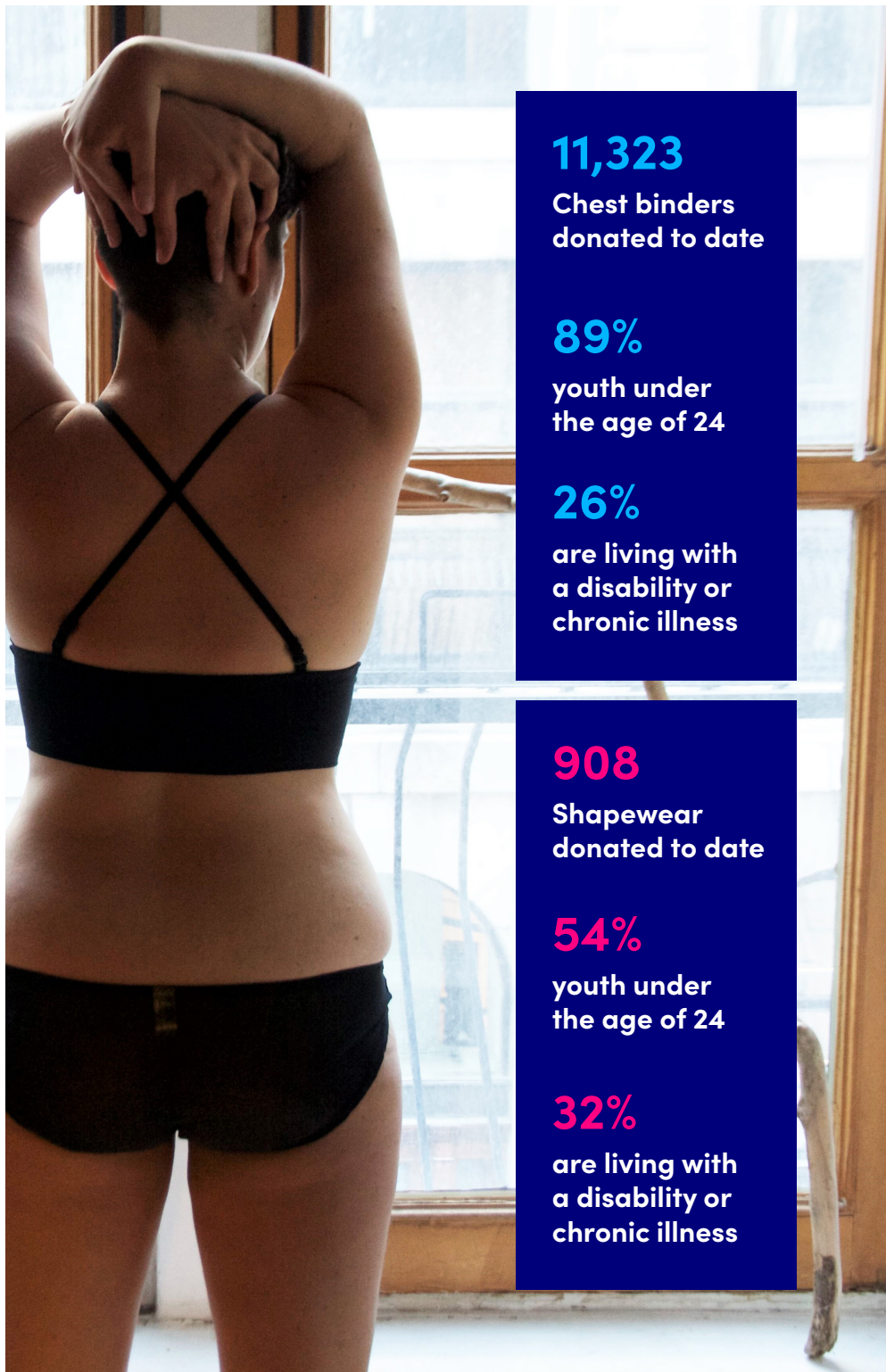


“

I have never felt so cared for by a stranger, to receive this gift that has such a large impact in my life.

“

Ever since I got my binder from you, I've felt better. My ribs hurt much less and I can actually take a full breath.



11,323

Chest binders
donated to date

89%

youth under
the age of 24

26%

are living with
a disability or
chronic illness

908

Shapewear
donated to date

54%

youth under
the age of 24

32%

are living with
a disability or
chronic illness

Binders & shapewear

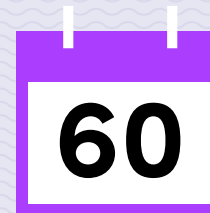
Program highlights

12,000+ garments sent to people in need

Point of Pride distributed more free chest binders in 2021 than any year prior—and continued to grow the free shapewear program, which is the first of its kind. As the largest international distributor of free gender-affirming garments, we received an average of 60 garment requests per day in 2021.

Life-saving affirmation

These garment programs are Point of Pride's cornerstone contribution to our community. We're proud to serve a broad community of trans and gender diverse people in need and to provide a small garment that can change, and often save, lives by allowing trans and gender diverse people to show up as themselves wherever they go—in the classroom, at home, at work, in social settings, anywhere—feeling supported and affirmed. The effect of access to these garments (and the letters of support that accompany them) is manifold, cascading positive impact through many aspects of our recipients' lives and improving their overall well-being.

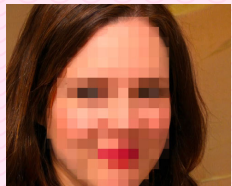


We received an average of 60
garment requests every single day.



While virtually all of our applicants were impacted by the pandemic, most applicants were also facing additional serious challenges.

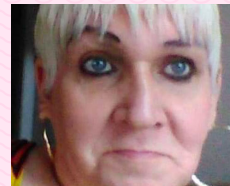
Misleidy, for example, is a 41-year-old Latinx trans woman originally from Cuba and currently seeking asylum in the US. As a result of her pending asylum case, she is legally unable to work, resulting in housing insecurity and other major struggles.



Angela



Zen, 41, Indiana



Dayna, 62, Maryland



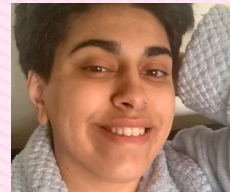
Maze, 23, South Dakota



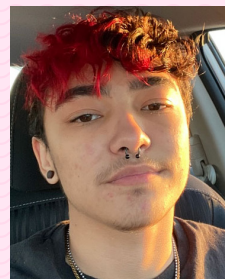
Blake, 20, Illinois



Declan, 24, Arkansas



Malik, 18, Michigan



Tristan, 20, California

Thank you to our 2021 surgeon partners, whose generosity helps make this work possible:

- **Dr. Scott Mosser** and **Dr. Alexander Facque** of the Gender Confirmation Center
- **Dr. Daniel Medalie** of Cleveland Plastic Surgery

"I feel whole."

Granting access to otherwise inaccessible life-changing procedures

For many trans people, there are few medical treatments as profound in their impact as surgery. Depending on the type of procedure, it can cost tens of thousands of dollars out of pocket, especially as it is still challenging to have trans-inclusive care covered by health insurance.

For our recipients, Point of Pride's Annual Transgender Surgery Fund—a scholarship-like program that provides direct financial assistance—is their only way to access a type of medical care that will permanently and immeasurably improve their well-being.

2021 Application Cycle	Applied	Awarded
Number of applicants	1259	9
% youth under age of 24	48%	67%
% identify as people of color	53%	67%
% living with a disability or chronic illness	27%	44%
% living with past or current housing insecurity	55%	67%
% without access to inclusive health insurance	69%	100%
% experiencing past or current discrimination by healthcare provider or employer due to trans identity	69%	44%

\$211,645

Total awarded to date to 40 recipients

100%

of 2021 recipients lacked trans-inclusive health insurance coverage

365 days of medical care

Creating equitable access to essential medical care

For many trans and gender diverse people, access to HRT is a lifeline. But, it's a form of necessary and essential medical care that's not available to everyone. Some insurance companies don't cover it while others explicitly exclude it from their coverage. And some towns and cities, especially in rural areas, don't have providers to prescribe it. Even with insurance coverage and providers who can prescribe HRT, the experience of those providers is often limited to working with cisgender clients.

Through our telemedicine partnership with Plume, we're able to help our recipients access quality medical care regardless of where they live.

Recipients of the HRT Access Fund receive 12 months of free healthcare including personal consultations, lab monitoring, letters of support, all prescription costs, and travel vouchers to and from lab appointments.

\$48,067

Total awarded to date

94%

of recipients are people of color

All-time	Applied	Awarded
Number of applicants	1,779	31
% youth under age of 24	82%	100%
% identify as people of color	58%	94%
% living with a disability or chronic illness	27%	43%
% living with past or current housing insecurity	59%	77%



“

Not only has this program helped me to start testosterone again, it has helped me to start feeling like myself again.

—RIKKI, 21, OKLAHOMA

Unique support for femme folks

A first-of-its-kind program

The Electrolysis Support Fund provides financial assistance towards permanent hair removal services (including electrolysis and laser hair removal) for trans femme folks who cannot otherwise afford them—and it is the first and only program of its kind.

This program prioritizes supporting femmes of color, especially those seeking hair removal on their face; access to hair removal often equates to safety against anti-trans violence or discrimination. It's common for applicants to note issues with employment and public safety, particularly if their facial hair is dark or thick.

A recent grant recipient wrote in their application, “I’ve needed it for years but being shunned from job opportunities for disability, it’s been impossible to save for what I believe is a necessity. Electrolysis would not only relieve the pangs of dysphoria I feel in my body, but would also relieve the purely physical pain of my coarse hair growing through my sensitive skin.”

\$36,000

Total awarded to date
to 30 recipients

1 in 3

recipients in 2021 are
over the age of 35

2021 Application Cycles	Applied	Awarded
Number of applicants	509	22
% youth under age of 24	27%	27%
% identify as people of color	40%	68%
% living with a disability or chronic illness	49%	59%
% living with past or current housing insecurity	64%	82%

“

Having gender-affirming hair removal will literally alter my whole lifestyle: it will help me occupy spaces and feel seen in those spaces.

—LAITH, 26, GEORGIA

“

I was able to get my estrogen and testosterone blockers and restabilize my body back to normal. Thanks for real, because I was getting sick without my medication.

KIRAN-GRAHAM, 27, MISSOURI

“

I have so many prescriptions that need to be picked up at the pharmacy right now. Thank you for this lifeline!

ASYADI, 31, WASHINGTON

Nimble providing emergency assistance

Rapidly-dispersed crisis support at the dawn of the pandemic

From March 2020–July 2021,* Point of Pride offered the COVID-19 Emergency Fund to offset the unexpected hardships that impacted our trans community. The fund connected microgrants to recipients who had lost their income and lacked the financial means to cover short-term health and wellness expenses. Grants were awarded on a rolling basis and issued to recipients quickly for immediate crisis relief.

These microgrants were used for needs such as:

- hormone replacement therapy (HRT) or other prescription refills
- therapy or mental health services
- medical supplies

*On July 31, 2021, this program ended. While the world is by no means post-pandemic and historically excluded communities continue to be disproportionately impacted, requests for support through this Fund decreased, while interest in our other programs grew significantly. As part of our ongoing commitment to best serving our community, we shifted our limited financial resources back into our other programs in the hopes of addressing these needs.

\$38,978

Total awarded to 531 recipients

82%

of recipients identify as people of color

84%

of recipients have lived with housing insecurity at some time in their lives

42%

of recipients were housing insecure at the time of applying

71%

of recipients are living with a long-standing illness or disability

67%

have dealt with discrimination from healthcare providers

Fostering inclusive workplace cultures

Gender-focused diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) training

In 2021, Point of Pride introduced a new and exciting way to support our community—diversity, equity, and inclusion workplace training focused on understanding gender, supporting transgender people, and creating an inclusive and safe environment for everyone.

Over a series of multiple sessions, Point of Pride trained and facilitated meaningful conversations, creating a safe space of learning and growth for all participants, from the conscious ally to the resistant learner. These trainings expanded Point of Pride's impact beyond individuals to the broader contexts in which our community exists.



“

This training perfectly met the needs of our staff, whether they were self-proclaimed novices or experts on gender in the workplace. The trainers, Aydian and Nikki, tailored the content beautifully to hold a brave and empathetic space to discuss what it means to simultaneously be teachers, healthcare workers, and community members where your peers and students may be queer.

—THE ACADEMY FOR PRECISION LEARNING