

Thanks to your generous support, since this Summer we've been able to strategically and effectively mobilize resources and offer support directly to LGBTQ Southerners needing it most. As a major donor and supportive force in our community, you've enabled us to launch our ["Meeting the Moment Campaign"](#) which has involved the following:

July 22: Official launch of the new strategy, [Meeting the Moment in the LGBTQ South](#), which harnesses the Campaign for Southern Equality's resources and power – including staff, funding, infrastructure, supporters, and communications program – to respond to new attacks of LGBTQ rights, continue to advance LGBTQ rights, help people protect their rights and access care, and ensure that LGBTQ Southerners feel connected.

Supporting LGBTQ+ Youth headed back to school:

- August/September: CSE assembled and **distributed 300 "Back-to-School" care packages** for youth, partnering on distribution with direct service organizations across the South. The care packages included school supply essentials, the *Supportive Schools* guide, and hundreds of messages of solidarity from the CSE community. Special thanks to The Ally Coalition and Bombas Socks for contributing pairs of socks to the care packages. Distribution partners included the Magic City Acceptance Center and Prism United in Alabama; Time Out Youth, the LGBTQ Center of Durham, and Youth OUTright in North Carolina; the Uplift Outreach Center in South Carolina; and the Oasis Center in Tennessee.

Advocating for the Respect for Marriage Act:

- **We mobilized hundreds of supporters** to call on members of Congress in NC and SC to support the Respect for Marriage Act, and we've made the case for the bill in Senate offices and in the media. In November we reactivated families that participated in our "We Do" campaign from the first years of CSE to call for this crucial federal marriage equality bill. **Three dozen "We Do" participants signed onto the letter**, and letters were sent to U.S. Senators by **2,000 CSE supporters**.

Releasing data and research about LGBTQ young people:

- August 30: The [Campaign for Southern Equality](#) (CSE) and [Campus Pride](#) released [Coming of Age as an LGBTQ Southerner: Family, Faith, Education & Health](#), a report detailing the findings of the 2021 Survey of Southern LGBTQ Experiences, a survey of 4,186 LGBTQ people who live in the South. [Click here to read the full report](#). The report was seen by several thousand users and was featured prominently in [NBC News](#), [The Advocate](#), and the [Los Angeles Blade](#).
- On November 3, the Campaign for Southern Equality (CSE) and Campus Pride **released a new report** focused on LGBTQ Southerners' voting behaviors and beliefs related to political engagement. The report was released just a few days ahead of the 2022 Midterm Election, which will shape policy outcomes of the 2023 legislative session and the prospects for LGBTQ-inclusive legislation at the federal level. This breakout is a supplement to [Coming of Age as an LGBTQ](#)

[Southerner: Family, Faith, Education & Health](#), and was accessed several hundred times.

Sharing information on rights/protections, etc. through pop-up clinics, family law workshops, and more:

- July 26: LGBTQ Family Law: Know your Rights community law workshop, led by attorneys Dizzy Walton and Meghann Burke, about LGBTQ family rights and how you can protect your family in a post-*Dobbs* era. This workshop presented legal analysis of LGBTQ family rights in the South, concrete steps you can take to protect your family, and time for discussion and Q&A. **Around 25 community members attended in Asheville.**
- August 3: Supported a virtual [Trans Youth Law Workshop](#) as part of the SC United for Justice & Equality coalition. **Around 15 community members attended this virtual session.**
- September: Supportive schools guide published: [Supportive Schools for LGBTQ+ Students: A Guide to Policies and Best Practices](#), a new 40-page guide with research, analysis, and model policies on many topics related to LGBTQ inclusion and dignity in schools. The guide, a project of our Supportive Schools Program, contains information for students and families, as well as administrators, faculty, and staff. Covered topics range from restrooms and facilities to records and documents to school athletic programs. The resource is available [here](#) and **was accessed by nearly 1,500 people.**
- September: Hosted Pop-Up Health & Resilience Clinics at Sylva Pride and Blue Ridge Pride, speaking with **350+ festival attendees** and providing access to: assistance for folks who need support getting their name changed, resource guides including the Trans in the South guide, items designed to assist attendees on their healing and resilience journeys, and LGBTQ-affirming healthcare resources.

Distributing funding to grassroots projects and local organizations that directly serve LGBTQ+ youth:

- Announced September 1: CSE and The Ally Coalition (TAC) opened an application for a special Back-to-School grant round, totaling \$45,000. Organizations or projects in the South that support LGBTQ+ youth were eligible to apply for up to \$2,000 in funding through the Southern Equality Fund (SEF). Applicants were not required to be registered 501c3 organizations. **(24 grants distributed to date totalling \$38,800, with remaining funds to be distributed by Jan 2023)**
- Announced on September 30: The Campaign for Southern Equality launched a new grassroots grant round in partnership with the [LGBTQ Fund of Mississippi](#). This grant round, totaling \$20,000, was disbursed to grassroots projects and organizations geared toward supporting LGBTQ people who live in Mississippi. Organizations and groups in Mississippi were invited to apply for grants of up to \$2,500. Projects could be focused on anything that improves the lives of LGBTQ people in Mississippi, including direct action, resilience and healing efforts, direct services, artistic endeavors, and more. **(\$20,000 distributed to 8 organizations)**

- **These Southern Equality Fund (SEF) grant rounds have led to a total distribution of \$220,000 to individuals and grassroots groups through our SEF program this year – which now totals \$1,000,000 in distributed funds over the life of the program.**

Supporting healing and resilience for LGBTQ people (Wellness workshops):

- This fall the Campaign for Southern Equality continues hosting “**Meeting the Moment Wellness Workshops,**” a series of conversations geared toward shared community and collective resilience. These Healing & Resilience Community Workshops will be hosted by Campaign for Southern Equality’s Director of Healing & Resilience Holiday Simmons, joined by special guests. The third in the Wellness Workshop series is coming up on November 30 and called “**Tis the Season: Reimagining Family and Celebrations.**” In this workshop we’ll explore ways to navigate the inflated pressure of the holidays and ensure that they are filled with dignity, respect and freedom. **More than 100 Southerners RSVP’d for these Wellness Workshops .**