

Dear Friend,

For more than a decade, iNSIDEoUT has played a vital role for LGBTQ youth in the Triangle, connecting them to each other and empowering them to lead in an organization that is all their own. Over the last ten years, we have built a strong organization with innovative programs to support and encourage LGBTQ youth, including:

- **Upsidedown** - our group for children 12 and younger has helped middle school students start Gay-Straight Alliances, continues to meet every other weekend, and is planning a camping trip this April.
- **Fabufest** – in February we brought together youth from around the Triangle for our annual weekend retreat filled with activism training, leadership development, workshops, art, networking, bonding, and fun.
- **GSA Networking** - we continue to visit middle and high schools around the Triangle and beyond, organize hundreds of youth to march in NC Pride, and develop materials and support for students organizing for LGBTQ liberation in their schools. The iNSIDEoUT Senate networks student leaders from schools around the region, allowing them to support one another.
- **Hangouts!** - Thanks to Calvary United Methodist Church, iNSIDEoUT has a permanent space, where we hold hangout hours every other week. Youth receive life-changing and sometimes life-saving support and friendship.
- **Backwords** – We are hard at work on *Backwords*, the magazine of youth art and poetry that we publish each Spring.
- **NC Queer Youth Power Coalition** – We helped found NCQYPC, which strengthens and unites multiple local LGBTQ youth organizations through joint projects such as Queernival, our Southern Celebration of Youth Liberation!

This work has all been nurtured and supported by our amazing crew of youth and their adult allies, including volunteers, staff, and the broader community. This year, in addition to two staff members, we have been able to provide youth leaders with compensation for the tremendous amount of work they do for iNSIDEoUT and queer youth liberation. As we continue into our second decade, we seek funding to be able to sustain and compensate current and future staff members and youth leaders, so that we will continue to grow our organization into one that can survive another ten years and beyond.

That's where you come in! We are looking for ten generous donors who are willing to make a long-term financial commitment to iNSIDEoUT by joining our "Gold Star Major Donor Program" and donate at least \$1,000 each year for the next three years. As someone who has supported iNSIDEoUT over the years, we hope you will consider making this major donor commitment.

I have decided to become a Gold Star Major Donor because, as a writer Ayesha A. Siddiqi has said, we should all strive to "be the person you needed when you were younger." iNSIDEoUT is the organization I wish I'd had when I came out as bisexual at 15 years old. My high school had no gay/straight alliance, and our attempts to start one were actively opposed by our school's administration. I did not know a single openly queer adult, and while I was lucky to have friends who were also exploring their sexuality, we all could have benefitted greatly from the opportunity to meet other LGBTQ teens and especially from some loving guidance from LGBTQ adults in our community. iNSIDEoUT provides that space for the Triangle's queer youth, and we are hopeful that with your support, we can move our organization into a place of long-term sustainability. Please visit insideout180.org/gold-star-donor to learn more.

Thank you so much for your consideration and your commitment to iNSIDEoUT.

Sincerely,



Jillian Johnson

P.S. If you aren't able to become a Gold Star Major Donor, you can still support our work at a different contribution level! Please consider becoming a monthly sustainer. You can visit www.insideout180.org to sign up!