For over

25 YEARS

We’ve been working side by side with LGBTQ+ youth to

MEET THEIR NEEDS AND SUPPORT THEIR DREAMS

Founded to support LGBTQ youth in Richmond, Virginia, Side by Side has grown into a national leader in working with LGBTQ+ youth on a broad range of challenges and opportunities in their lives.
LGBTQ+ youth are amazing. We make a difference in their lives, and they make a difference in ours.

85% of youth report increased feelings of self-worth and self-esteem after attending the Side by Side middle school program.

99% of youth feel that volunteers and facilitators at Side by Side care about them.

95% of youth feel like they matter when they are at Side by Side’s youth group.

“I would not be the person I am today without the guidance and support I have received from the staff at Side by Side.”

“A lifesaver not only for my son but for our entire family.”

“It’s a place where there’s someone who can relate to you, no matter where you’re at in life.”

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While full equality for LGBTQ+ Virginians is closer now than ever before, LGBTQ+ youth continue to face unique challenges.

Nearly 4 in 10 are physically harassed and 88% feel deliberately left out or excluded.

LGBTQ+ youth commit suicide at nearly four times the rate of their heterosexual peers.

40% of homeless youth identify as LGBTQ+.
OUR MISSION
Side by Side is dedicated to creating supportive communities where Virginia’s LGBTQ+ youth can define themselves, belong and flourish.

OUR CORE VALUES
• Diversity
• Safety
• Quality
• Accountability
In 2017, we established **four strategic priorities** to guide our continued progress:

- Youth Centered
- Vibrant Community
- Tradition of Support
- LGBTQ+ Voice
STRATEGIC PRIORITY #1

We base every decision on what’s best for LGBTQ+ youth, working to meet their needs and support their dreams.

By meeting LGBTQ+ youth where they are we are side by side with all LGBTQ+ youth in central Virginia and beyond.

By being open to learning from LGBTQ+ youth we provide important programming and services.

By remaining youth centered we prioritize our work to support LGBTQ+ youth survive and thrive.
We are a community of diverse and fabulous individuals, who recognize the power of working together to support youth and each other.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY #2

By working with others, we build partnerships.

By supporting each other, we foster a healthy community.

By seeking to support adults who love, educate and work with LGBTQ+ youth, we constantly expand our community.
We remember and celebrate our history of supporting LGBTQ+ youth, as a way to help us build a successful future.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY #3

By maintaining our connection to our past we remain a national leader in working with LGBTQ+ youth.

By building on our history we grow our financial strength.

By learning from our successes and failures we evolve.
STRATEGIC PRIORITY #4

We are a voice for our community, one of comfort, education and progress.

By embracing intersectionality we are a powerful voice for all.

By consistently speaking out we create dialogue.

By educating and training we empower others.
YOUTH CENTERED
VIBRANT
COMMUNITY
TRADITION OF
SUPPORT
LGBTQ+ VOICE