2019 ANNUAL REPORT
Dear Friends,

JASMYN had a spectacular 2019, thanks to you! The humble beginnings of this organization were the topic of many conversations during our 25th Anniversary Year, and all the progress we’ve made, missteps we’ve learned from and confidence to be the best we can be at any moment are because of the robust support of this community.

There is more than one way to do this work well, so we continuously learn from others like community partners, fellow LGBTQ youth centers throughout the country and less likely models too. The opportunities to partner in Jacksonville, throughout the South and across the nation yielded some very productive work for JASMYN in 2019. We are thankful for all who see us in this light.

A large part of how our work gets done to the highest degree is the Staff at JASMYN. They are courageous, creative, and passionate about working with young people. It took 25 years to build a professional crew this incredible, and there is no JASMYN without them. I am personally deeply grateful for them every day.

This past year was something that none of us who were around at the beginning could imagine back then, but we did imagine each of the steps along the way. And that lesson sticks with us for how we will endure in the next 25 years. One step at a time. Some days they are bigger steps, some days smaller ones, but going forward is the goal. Thank you for being part of this journey.

Warmly,

Cindy Watson, CEO

R. Kelly James, Board Chair
FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN

SOURCE OF INCOME: TOTAL $2,163,749

- Government Grants/Contracts: 53.5% ($1,157,167)
- Private Grants: 18.0% ($389,328)
- Contributions: 9.1% ($197,778)
- Fundraising Events: 14.3% ($308,364)
- Other – Non-Cash (In-Kind): 5.1% ($109,478)
- Earned Income – Interest: 0.1% ($1,634)

PROGRAM EXPENSES: TOTAL $1,531,785

- Health Services: 60.4% ($924,759)
- Housing Supports: 25.8% ($394,623)
- Student Opportunities: 13.9% ($212,403)

FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

- Program Expenses: 81.0%
- Management/Support: 12.8%
- Fundraising: 6.2%

NET ASSETS END OF YEAR: $1,869,598
JASMYN’s 25th Anniversary Year brought another First: our premier Youth Diamond Award was given at the Coming Out Day Breakfast in October. The Award is presented to a young person who exemplifies commitment to the community and leadership among their peers. The first recipient was Ravyn Whinehouse, who uses the gender pronouns they/them/their and is an active JASMYN youth spreading love and support everywhere they go. Ravyn overcame challenges following time as a teen in the foster care system. They emerged into young adulthood as a leader and support for others, known for speaking about their life with eloquence and authenticity, modeling resilience and helping to raise awareness of queer trans issues. Ravyn has taken the path of making a difference to others while improving themself, and we are proud to have them as JASMYN family. Congratulations Ravyn!
JASMYN: 2019 IN REVIEW

WINTER
• Jan/ Construction begins in earnest at J3
• Feb/ JASMYN holds our 25th Anniversary celebration event, The Gayla and Dance Party, at TIAA Field
• Mar/ The Teaching Respect for All conference takes place with more than 120 school personnel attending. DCPS Superintendent Dr. Diana Greene, gave the welcome and affirmed the district’s commitment to LGBTQ students.

SPRING
• Apr/ The 8th Annual Strides for Pride 5K was our biggest and best race event ever!
• May/ JASMYN Youth Prom welcomes 300+ young people at the MOSH
• Jun/ JASMYN staff helped host the Storybook Pride Prom after the Public Library canceled the event. JASMYN then established a Youth Pride Fund, and met with local LGBTQ Leaders and Tim Rogers, Director of the Library system, and his team to discuss LGBTQ programming

SUMMER
• Jul/ GSA Student Summer interns on-site to plan the fall GSA Student leadership retreat and support their fellow student leaders over the summer
• Aug/ JASMYN Director of Policy Dan Merkan provided LGBTQ Awareness training to JSO new recruits through their panel discussion We Are Duval.

FALL
• Oct/ JASMYN selected by the WayOUT Fund - New York Chapter, as the beneficiary for their annual party on October 24th in New York City, where $104,000 was raised for LGBTQ youth.
• The PBS documentary, Retro Report, featured a segment on the history of Ryan White funding for HIV+ care, with JASMYN highlighted in the October 29 episode.
• JASMYN’s 13th Annual Coming Out Day Breakfast breaks all records!
• Dec/ JPI Board holds a furniture assembly party to set up the J3 building with Industry West furnishings
• Staff host the Youth Formation Ball at CoRK Arts District to support African American youth through their display of talent and innovation
• Staff moves into our newly renovated J3 building!
**MISSION:** JASMYN supports and empowers LGBTQ young people by creating safe space, providing health & wholeness services, and offering youth development opportunities, while bringing people and resources together to promote equality & human rights.

**2019 JASMYN SERVICES**

- 1650 Youth Served
- 135 Young People in Housing Care Coordination
- 511 Youth Accessed Clinical Services
- 981 HIV Tests
- 100% Linkage to care for HIV+/STI+ Young People & 92% Retained in Care!
- 336 GSA School Visits in DCPS

**STRATEGIC INITIATIVES THROUGH 2021**

- Enrich Student Opportunities
- Enhance Health Services
- Engage Partners in Advocacy & Education
- Expand Housing Supports

**SUSTAINABILITY PRIORITIES**

- Equity Partnerships
- Skilled Volunteers
- Persistent Financial Health

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Visit jasmyn.org to learn more about how we address challenges faced by LGBTQ youth.
Donor Spotlight: DARNELL SMITH

“I am so thankful that LGBTQ youth in Jacksonville have a place like JASMYN to lean on. It is hard enough to be a young person, and everyone needs a group where they can be themselves, receive emotional support and experience acceptance.”

Darnell Smith, Florida Blue Market President, North Region, feels strongly about the need for JASMYN in our community. His support of LGBTQ young people at JASMYN is a testament to his passion.

As a philanthropist, Darnell says JASMYN is laser-focused on using its dollars and networks to improve the lives of its youth for the betterment of the whole Jacksonville community. This makes it a good investment, but he is quick to point out that “we are put on this earth to take care of one another. There are many people who helped me when I was younger, and my job now is to pass that on.”

Maybe you’ve seen the piece he wrote on Florida Blue’s blog about being a St. Augustine student athlete in 10th grade but not “getting” math. A teacher made math not only doable, but understandable and even more, fun for him and his whole class. Since Darnell went on to receive a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering from FSU, we can only assume it was a life lesson in 10th grade. He says everyone needs a group where they can be themselves, receive emotional support and experience acceptance. And that is what LGBTQ youth get at JASMYN.

Darnell marvels at the immense growth of support for JASMYN over the past 4 years. “I remember participating in the JASMYN [Coming Out Day] breakfasts at UNF. A small group of loving, caring business leaders, led by Hugh Greene and Audrey Moran, invited me to join them in recruiting companies to attend the breakfast and provide financial support for JASMYN.” In a decade it became an 800 person event at the Hyatt. He says “It was and continues to be a beautiful sight to see so many people in our community step forward to show support for LGBTQ youth.”

Darnell also credits JASMYN with being able to bring his executive assistant Rupal Wells into the Florida Blue family. It was during a JASMYN tour he had arranged with a City Councilman, helping to educate that person on the benefits of the HRO which passed that year, for whom Rupal worked at the time. When he saw her interest in the information provided at that tour he knew she would be “an extraordinary addition to our team. I am so thankful for her!”

Darnell Smith’s community service includes Board membership at First Coast YMCA, Sulzbacher, Feeding Northeast Florida and United Way of NE Florida. He has held appointed positions with the Boards of the Jacksonville Chamber, Chairing that panel in 2017, the Economic Development Council of Tallahassee and JAXUSA Policy Council. He is a former Host Committee Chair for JASMYN’s Coming Out Day Breakfast and our Diamond Award winner at the 2019 Coming Out Day Breakfast.

To discuss your philanthropic goals with JASMYN, contact Loretta Prescott, Director of Development: lprescott@jasmyn.org.
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