



ANNUAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2021



**WELCOMING. AFFIRMING.
YOUTH-INFORMED.**

VISION

HiTOPS envisions a world where young people are able to flourish because they are:

- At home in their bodies.
- Supported in the development of their sexual and gender identities.
- Equipped with an understanding of how to have safe, consensual, and healthy relationships.

COMMITMENT

Since our founding almost 35 years ago by a group of educators, nurses and midwives, we have been on the forefront of adolescent sexual health. We are committed to creating a lasting, positive impact on youth, their families, and communities - enabling all our young people to thrive.

MISSION

HiTOPS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization located in Princeton, NJ. HiTOPS provides inclusive and youth-informed sex education and support, and builds affirming communities to foster strong and healthy young people of all identities.



HITOPS PROVIDED EDUCATION AND SUPPORT DURING QUARANTINE

Like many of those we serve, HiTOPS faced many challenges this past year. We are incredibly proud that during the past year HiTOPS was able to continue to provide services and have a meaningful impact on youth, parents, community members, educators, and other professionals.

Utilizing Zoom, Group Me, and other virtual platforms, in 2020-2021, HiTOPS:

- Provided **Sex Education** Programming for over 1,000 students, teachers, school counselors and nurses, administrators, and parents. HiTOPS launched a new initiative, **ABCs**, a comprehensive, systemic, and multi-year approach to sexual health related education in two school districts.
- Piloted workshops, surveyed, and interviewed students to inform our 2021-22 curriculum for **Peer Leaders** at Foundation Collegiate Academy in Trenton.
- Held 130 **Weekly Support Groups** for 183 middle schoolers, 180 LGBTQ+ high school students and trans youth, and 190 parents with trans children
- Distributed **gender-affirming clothing** and accessories to 50 youth.
- Collected and shared an additional 25 narratives of LGBTQ+ people of faith bringing our **Faith Initiative** collection to more than 50 entries.
- Partnered with Rutgers University, University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill, and Princeton Theological Seminary to mentor seven students in our **Graduate Internship Program**.



HITOPS CREATED COMMUNITY - VIRTUALLY AND IN PERSON

HiTOPS held its signature events despite Covid-19. We are pleased to have produced:

The **2020 HiTOPS Princeton Half Marathon** met new and exciting challenges producing a virtual race during a pandemic. We are excited to share that we had 521 Virtual Race participants and 65 participants in our new Youth Run. Thanks to the efforts of our individual and team fundraisers, we raised over \$125,000 (this is the FY '21 number) including corporate sponsorships, runner registrations, and proceeds from runner-fundraisers!

HiTOPS offered multiple trainings featuring **SOGIE (Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Expression); Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; and LGBTQ+ History** to community members and parents, as well as to businesses and corporations.

The **7th Annual HiTOPS Trans Youth Forum** was held on March 27th. The amazing group of young people on the Youth Advisory Board (YAB) created an inspirational day-long event for their trans, nonbinary, and gender-expansive peers and allies. This year's Forum welcomed close to 160 participants from across the globe! Throughout the day, the YAB conducted live interviews that explored the lives of our speakers and connected over shared experiences.

We got out loud and proud in June, partnering with other local nonprofits to host the **Princeton Community Pride Picnic**. Hundreds of folks of all ages and identities came out to celebrate Pride at the Princeton YMCA for a day that was truly fun and festive!



HOW DOES HITOPS MAKE AN IMPACT?

"HiTOPS was a really important source of **community** to me, both when I was younger and badly needed it, and now when I don't exactly NEED it but love having it. It's also **refreshing** to have somewhere to just go and hang out with a bunch of **people who are like you** when you feel isolated in the world."

- A, Former Group Member

"I'm **so glad** my child is in the support group and I'm **grateful** for all the work you all do...I'm also grateful that she has found adults that are part of this community to look up to. Thank you!"

-Parent of Group Member

"The HiTOPS **Peer** Education Program allowed me to teach sexual health to kids my age. I became a **support** to those **struggling to talk about sex** because of stigma."

-S, Peer Educator

"The HiTOPS training on LGBTQIA+ issues was **extremely informative** and broadened our understanding about the struggles affecting so many of the youth in our programs. Dr. Robustelli did a great job creating an **understanding and supportive environment** that encouraged us to expand our knowledge about this important topic."

-M, Youth-Serving Professional



FY21 SUPPORTERS

HITOPS THANKS ALL WHO SUPPORTED OUR MISSION DURING THIS PAST YEAR

\$5,000 and Above

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Vera LaPorte
Marlaine Lockheed & Steven Frakt
Joe & Tamera Matteo
David Mirkin

SPECIAL THANKS

HiTOPS extends its special thanks to those who went above and beyond in their support for our work:

- HiTOPS Trivia hosts extraordinaire - Abigail Hunter and Susan Farrell
- Girl Scout Troop 70019 for donations of Essential Products for the Winter Care Packages
- Dianne Zide for her communications expertise
- Bryn Mawr Trust for their guidance and support, with special gratitude to Elizabeth Wagner
- For their many donations to The Closet: Irene Muniz, Griff Kohn, Rob Berger and Linda Benedetto - General Manager at Quakerbridge Mall

FY21 SUPPORTERS

FOUNDATIONS, BUSINESSES, INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS

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Lisa Ferguson
 Kaylee Guerra
 Cesar Lopez

EVERY GIFT MAKES AN IMPACT!

HiTOPS is regrettably only able to list the name of donors who gave gifts of more than \$50.

We are grateful for each and every donation we received.

HITOPS CORE SERVICES

HiTOPS provides Sex Education and Training that is research-based, affirming, and culturally responsive.

ABCs: Affirming our Youth, Building a Foundation, Communities Working Together. A systemic, multi-year approach to educating and supporting all stakeholders within school districts to build affirming communities, increase sexual health knowledge, and improve the physical, emotional, and social well-being of youth.

PEER LEADERSHIP. High school students meet weekly to design and deliver sex education programming to their peers, develop leadership and collaboration skills, and participate in opportunities for advocacy and civic engagement.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) TRAINING. Our staff facilitate customized workshops and trainings on various sexual health-related topics, as well as Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity & Expression (SOGIE), LGBTQ+ History, and Privilege & Oppression.

We offer LGBTQ+ support that is positive, connecting, and empowering.

LGBTQ+ SUPPORT GROUPS are offered weekly for high school, middle school, trans and nonbinary youth, and parents. Groups socialize, build community, educate, affirm and support one another.

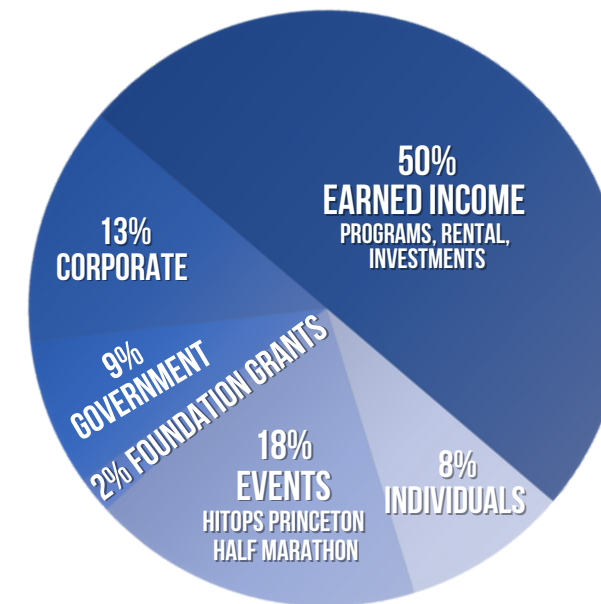
THE CLOSET is a free resource for young people where they can select identity-affirming clothing & toiletries.

THE TRANS YOUTH FORUM is a yearly event created by and for transgender, nonbinary, and otherwise gender expansive youth. The Forum brings together young people and their allies for a day of celebration, learning, and support.

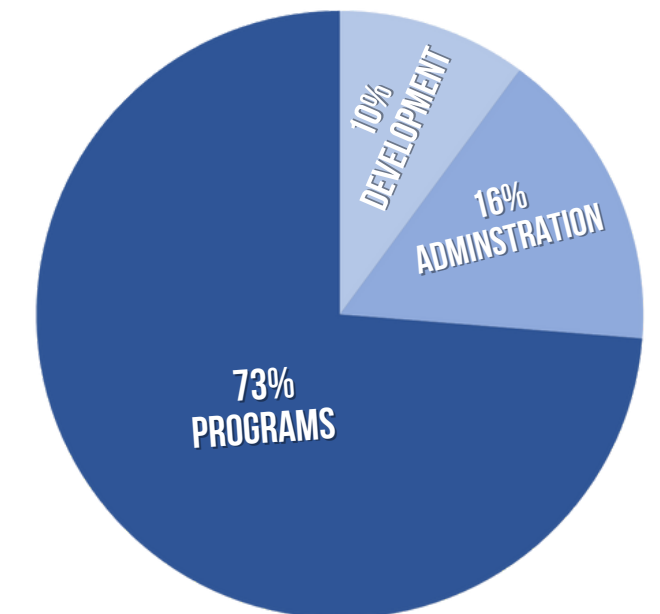
THE FAITH INITIATIVE gives voice to the lived experiences at the intersection of faith and queer identities.

FY21 FINANCIALS

INCOME



EXPENSE



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HiTOPS NEW LOCATION

Join us in our new space.
Coming Autumn 2021!

300 Witherspoon St
Suite 204
Princeton, NJ 08542



OUR STAFF



Director of Programs
Alex Aikens, MSW
she.her.hers



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STAY IN TOUCH



Watch for HiTOPS on TikTok!

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