

#### A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

#### Greetings Dear Community,

I come to you in the spirit of excitement and enthusiasm for the incredible work RECLAIM has accomplished in the past year as we held steady during a time of transition, challenge, and growth. In 2017, RECLAIM served 165 youth in individual, family, and group therapy, a 20% increase from 2016. We stood by our youth, tirelessly advocating for their mental health, while also positioning ourselves as a secure space of refuge and support. We accomplished these goals standing on the foundation of thousands of donors, volunteers, and community stakeholders.



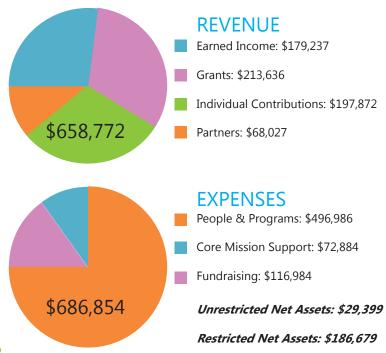
Only eight months into my term as executive director, I am pleased to announce RECLAIM's first federal grant award. The Office on Violence Against Women at the U.S. Department of Justice awarded \$750,000, payable over three years, to fund a collaboration with Saint Paul Public Schools and the Sexual Violence Center to reduce incidents of sexual violence among St. Paul LGBTQ youth. Additionally, thanks to a generous grant by the Medica Foundation, we will begin to offer onsite crisis counseling and therapy at Youthlink three days each week, expanding our services to youth experiencing homelessness. Finally, a new practice

management agreement with Prairie Care Medical Group stabilizes our earned income by guaranteeing payments for every billable hour of therapy RECLAIM practitioners provide to youth and families. We cannot thank our community partners enough!

In 2018, we will continue to build RECLAIM's "Healing is Resistance" campaign, which empowers youth to embrace multiple, intersecting identities. We invite youth to heal through resisting oppression on many levels. Our commitment to providing queer and trans youth with accessible mental health support opens a space of safety, community, becoming and reclamation. In the words of one youth: "This is my sanctuary; this is where I can truly be myself in the world even if there is no other place. However, it's more than where I can be myself; it's where I can become myself."

Thank you for joining us in the work of healing and resistance. We could not do it without your support.

Dr. Felicia Washington Sy



#### ABOUT RECLAIM

RECLAIM's mission is to increase access to mental health support so that gueer and trans youth may reclaim their lives from oppression in all its forms.

As a healing justice organization, we work at the intersection of gender and racial justice to provide:

- Excellent care through individual, group and family therapy for queer and trans youth ages 13-26 and their families;
- Deep apprenticeship, training, and supervision to therapy students and practitioners; and
- Trainings to business, faith, and community groups about gender competent work with gueer and trans

#### 2017: A YEAR IN REVIEW

In the eight years since RECLAIM's founding, we have seen our youth arrive to us in a little better shape with every passing year. Each year there is less self-harm, less suicidal ideation, less bullying, less fear. We have tracked these numbers and the data speaks for itself: things have been getting better for gueer and trans youth in the Twin Cities.

That is, until this year. In 2017 we saw the inaguration of perhaps the most intolerant president in recent history. We saw a rise in hate crimes, a trans military ban, and a president who told us over twitter that trans people are a burden and a distraction.

For the first time in RECLAIM's history, our youth are experiencing more quantifiable distress than they experienced during the previous year. Our political climate is reflected in the statistics you see below.

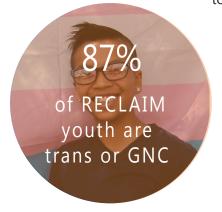


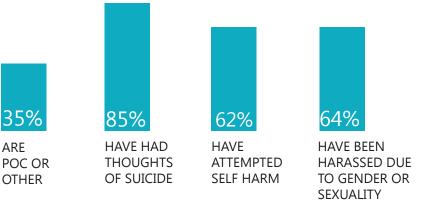
In the last year, we have also seen incredible bravery and action on the part of queer and trans youth and allies. We have seen queer and trans youth and allies

respond to increasing bigotry by coming together in solidarity and community, by standing up for what is right. Every day at RECLAIM, walking through our doors, we see youth for whom it is an act of bravery just to be who they are.

At RECLAIM, we often talk about what resistance looks like, because in our community, resistance is how we get through it, how we come together. To resist is to stand up for our community, to center the voices and the needs of those who are most marginalized, to love each other and ourselves. To resist is to heal. To heal is to resist.

Here at RECLAIM, we resist by ensuring that young queer and trans people and their families get the mental health support that they need. We believe that healing is necessary if we want to fight for justice over the long term; that access to mental health care is part of the fight to move beyond mere survival. It is part of the fight to live, to make change, to thrive. It is part of the fight to be free.





### RECLAIM STAFF

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