

Dear friends,

As we reach the close of 2025, I've been reflecting on the foundations of Oklahomans for Equality, where we came from, who we have become, and what still calls us forward. Our story began decades ago, in the height of the HIV/AIDS crisis, with a group of volunteers who saw the dire unmet needs of 2SLGBTQIA+ people in Tulsa and refused to look away. They pooled their time, resources, determination, and belief in community care to create something that did not yet exist. These qualities are still built into the bones of this organization today.

That commitment drives us to provide vital, affirming, and affordable medical care to hundreds of people each year. This year alone, 422 individuals received care through our medical clinic, many experiencing respectful and identity-affirming healthcare for the first time.

It is the same approach that fuels our partnerships with embedded mental health and legal providers, who support hundreds of community members each year seeking counseling, advocacy, and guidance in moments when they need it most.

It is what inspires volunteers to show up week after week, leading support groups, facilitating programs, sorting food, hosting events, and creating spaces of belonging. This year, 178 volunteers lent their time, energy, and heart to OKEQ, proving that community care is not just a value here, it is a practice and a shared responsibility.

It is also the energy behind programs like Rainbow Harvest, a low-barrier farmers market that has provided fresh and shelf-stable groceries to 447 people in its first six months, supporting community members facing food insecurity.

It is what carried us across the state to 10 rural Pride events this year, ensuring support, visibility, and connection even in the smallest corners of Oklahoma. And it empowers us to host citywide events like Tulsa Pride, creating vital opportunities for joy, celebration, solidarity, and visibility for tens of thousands of people each year.

This is what it means to stay proximate to our community's needs. This is the work we do because of you.

As we look toward 2026, the need for affirming, life-changing care and safe spaces in Oklahoma remains urgent, especially in a political climate that continues to target 2SLGBTQIA+ rights and access to essential services. We cannot meet these needs without your support.

If you are in a position to make a [year end gift](#), your donation, no matter the size, directly sustains the programs people rely on for safety, support, and dignity.

If you are able to volunteer, your time becomes part of the legacy that has carried us from our earliest days. And if this is not the season where either is possible, your continued connection - reading our newsletters, attending events, stopping by the Dennis R. Neill Equality Center is deeply valued. Staying proximate to this work is its own form of generosity.

As we prepare for the year ahead, I am profoundly grateful for your trust, for your care, and for your continued commitment to the belief that every 2SLGBTQIA+ person in Oklahoma deserves access to resources, support and dignity.

With gratitude and determination,

Hailey Briggs
Executive Director
Oklahomans for Equality