



# ANNUAL REPORT



A WIDER BRIDGE™

Dear Friends,

The year 2024 began amid profound challenges for the Jewish and LGBTQ communities. The devastating Hamas attack on October 7, 2023, which targeted innocent lives—including LGBTQ Israelis—left our community reeling. As the war in Gaza continued and the safety of hostages remained uncertain, A Wider Bridge stepped forward, mobilizing urgently to support our LGBTQ siblings in Israel as they navigated a drastically changed reality. We stood in solidarity, provided resources, and amplified voices calling for peace, security, and the safe return of all hostages.

Throughout the year, we witnessed a shocking and painful rise in antisemitism across North America, particularly within progressive spaces and college campuses. Far too often, LGBTQ Jews were asked to choose between their Jewish and LGBTQ identities, excluded or marginalized simply because of their support for Israel. A Wider Bridge responded forcefully. Through our Queers Against Antisemitism program, we created inclusive spaces—both online and in-person—in cities from San Francisco to New York, Toronto to Tel Aviv. Thousands joined us, affirming that there is no Pride in antisemitism, and no place for hate in our LGBTQ community.

Our missions to Israel in January and June allowed LGBTQ leaders from North America to see firsthand the resilience and strength of Israel's LGBTQ community in extraordinarily difficult times. Participants returned equipped to advocate with renewed clarity, empathy, and conviction.

Your generous support also made possible our continued investment in grassroots Israeli LGBTQ organizations through our Impact Grants program. Together, we directly strengthened civil rights, provided vital healthcare, supported transgender inclusion, and advanced educational programs across Israel.

In a year of profound struggle, your support allowed A Wider Bridge to be a powerful voice—standing proudly with LGBTQ Israelis, confronting antisemitism head-on, and tirelessly advocating for inclusion and safety. We offer our deepest gratitude to our dedicated Board, staff, alumni, donors, and partners. Your commitment is the foundation of our work, enabling us to move forward with strength, compassion, and unwavering resolve.

Together, we will continue to build a brighter, more inclusive future for LGBTQ Jews, our allies, and for all who share our vision of equality, peace, and dignity.

With heartfelt appreciation,



Rabbi Denise L. Eger  
Interim Executive Director



Daniel Hernandez  
Board Chair

# Mobilization

A Wider Bridge is uniquely positioned to respond rapidly and effectively during moments of crisis, mobilizing our community to take bold action. Our ability to swiftly unite supporters, amplify our message, and influence key stakeholders ensures LGBTQ Jews and our allies have a powerful voice exactly when it matters most. In 2024, we demonstrated this strength through decisive campaigns addressing urgent threats to our community.

## AVP Petition

In October, the New York City Anti-Violence Project (AVP) marked the anniversary of the October 7 Hamas massacre with a statement that accused Israel of “genocide” while failing to mention Hamas at all—a striking betrayal from an organization whose mission is to protect marginalized people from violence.

Our team mobilized quickly. We launched a [public petition](#) demanding an investigation into AVP’s leadership and governance. Within days, thousands of supporters signed on. Our call for accountability gained traction across advocacy networks. The campaign was a wake-up call to LGBTQ institutions: our pain and safety cannot be ignored.



## ILGA Petition

When the leading international LGBTQ association, ILGA, unilaterally suspended The Aguda—Israel’s leading LGBTQ organization—we sprung into action.

We immediately [launched a petition](#) to ILGA member agencies worldwide demanding they reverse this discriminatory decision. Thousands of supporters quickly signed on, amplifying our message around the world.

Our campaign stood firmly against ILGA’s harmful double standard, reaffirming our unwavering commitment to solidarity with Israel’s LGBTQ community and our global fight for equality.



## PrideSafe 2024: Ensuring Pride is Safe for All

As rising antisemitism increasingly threatened the safety of LGBTQ Jews at Pride events nationwide, A Wider Bridge took decisive action through our [PrideSafe initiative](#). Recognizing the anxiety faced by community members, we proactively engaged local Pride committees, advocating for comprehensive safety plans, de-escalation training, and clear guidelines against discriminatory targeting of Jewish participants or symbols of Jewish identity. Our efforts sent a strong message: Pride must remain an inclusive celebration where every participant, regardless of background or connection to Israel, feels safe and welcomed.





San Diego



Sonoma



Seattle



Nashville



Salt Lake City



Toronto

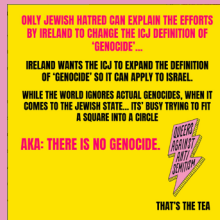
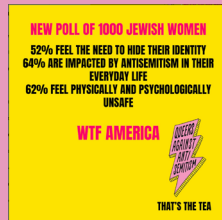
# Queers Against Antisemitism

In just one year, Queers Against Antisemitism (QAA) has built a vibrant and growing global community of activists, spanning political ideologies, Jewish and non-Jewish allies, queer voices committed to fighting antisemitism.

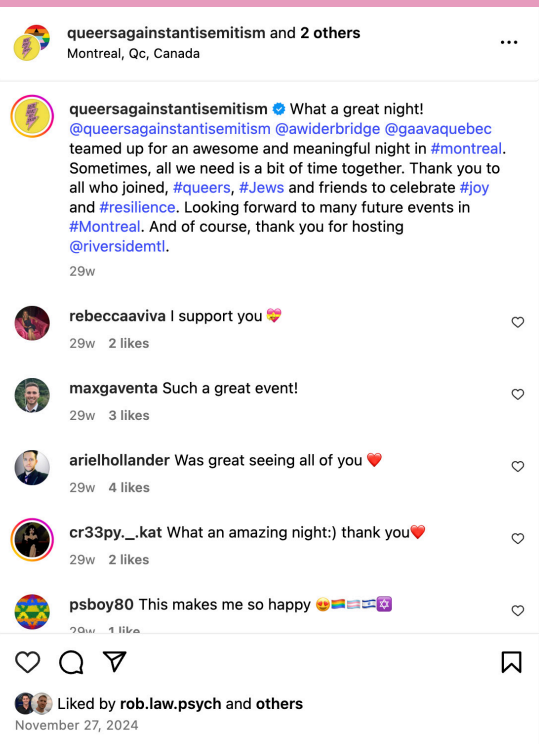
Through impactful social media campaigns, QAA has reached millions of people worldwide, growing an engaged base of over 11,000 followers. On the ground, QAA has created affirming, safe spaces for Zionist Jews in cities including Washington, D.C., Palm Springs, Montreal, Toronto, Fort Lauderdale, Miami, San Francisco, San Diego, Los Angeles, Austin, London, New York, and beyond. From local organizing to national awareness, QAA continues to empower individuals to speak out, build coalitions, and address antisemitism in their own communities.

We're committed to building on that momentum and replicating that success in more cities, ensuring queer Jews and allies have the tools, community, and support they need to stand proudly against antisemitism everywhere.

Take the Queers Against Antisemitism pledge



@queersagainstantisemitism





Montreal



Palm Springs



Toronto



Washington, DC



# Missions

A Wider Bridge missions are transformative experiences that connect North American LGBTQ leaders directly with Israel's diverse LGBTQ communities. By building meaningful relationships, witnessing firsthand realities, and exchanging powerful narratives, our missions foster deep empathy, informed advocacy, and lasting solidarity between LGBTQ communities in North America and Israel.



## JANUARY SOLIDARITY MISSION

In January 2024, just months after the devastating October 7 Hamas attack, A Wider Bridge led a group of North American LGBTQ leaders on a powerful solidarity mission to Israel. Participants met with Israeli LGBTQ activists, survivors, and elected officials, witnessing the profound impact of the attack on daily life and the unique challenges faced by Israel's queer communities.

This fast-paced and emotional journey provided participants with firsthand insights into the resilience of Israelis, deepening their understanding and equipping them to become passionate advocates upon their return. Through storytelling and personal connections formed during the mission, these leaders returned to North America ready to foster empathy, awareness, and support within their networks for Israel's LGBTQ community during a critical moment in history.



# Missions



## JUNE BE'ER SHEVA PRIDE MISSION

In June, A Wider Bridge brought North American LGBTQ leaders to experience the powerful spirit of Pride in Be'er Sheva—a city that has shown remarkable resilience in the face of ongoing security challenges. Participants immersed themselves in Israel's vibrant LGBTQ life, engaging directly with local Pride centers, grassroots educational programs, trans advocacy networks, and LGBTQ elected officials navigating the complexities of advocacy amidst political and social tensions.

Mission participants joined Be'er Sheva's Pride celebrations, a poignant demonstration of joy, resilience, and unity in challenging times. They explored Tel Aviv, Be'er Sheva, and Jerusalem, gaining a richer, deeper appreciation for Israel's diverse LGBTQ community. By comparing best practices and sharing experiences from North America, our delegation strengthened bonds and deepened mutual learning, underscoring our shared commitment to equality, inclusion, and human rights.



# Impact Grants: Investing in Equality

A Wider Bridge Impact Grants support grassroots LGBTQ organizations in Israel, providing vital resources to advance civil rights, trans inclusion, community centers, helplines, health care, housing, family services, and educational programs.

In 2024, thanks to generous supporters, we awarded over \$138,000 to 16 Israeli LGBTQ organizations, directly empowering their critical work toward equality, inclusion, and dignity for all.

## Funded organizations



The Aguda -  
The Association for  
LGBTQ Equality in  
Israel



Bat Kol



Different House  
Albeit Almuhtalef



Havruta



Hoshen -  
Education and  
Change



IGY - Israel's Gay  
Youth and Young  
Adults Organization



Israel AIDS Task  
Force



The Jerusalem Open  
House for Pride and  
Tolerance



LGBTwork



Ma'avirim -  
Israeli Trans  
Community



OTOT LGBTQ -  
Beit Dror



The Pride House  
of Be'er Sheva  
and the South



Pride of Lionesses  
(Brit Ha'Leviot)



Shoal: Education  
and Tolerance



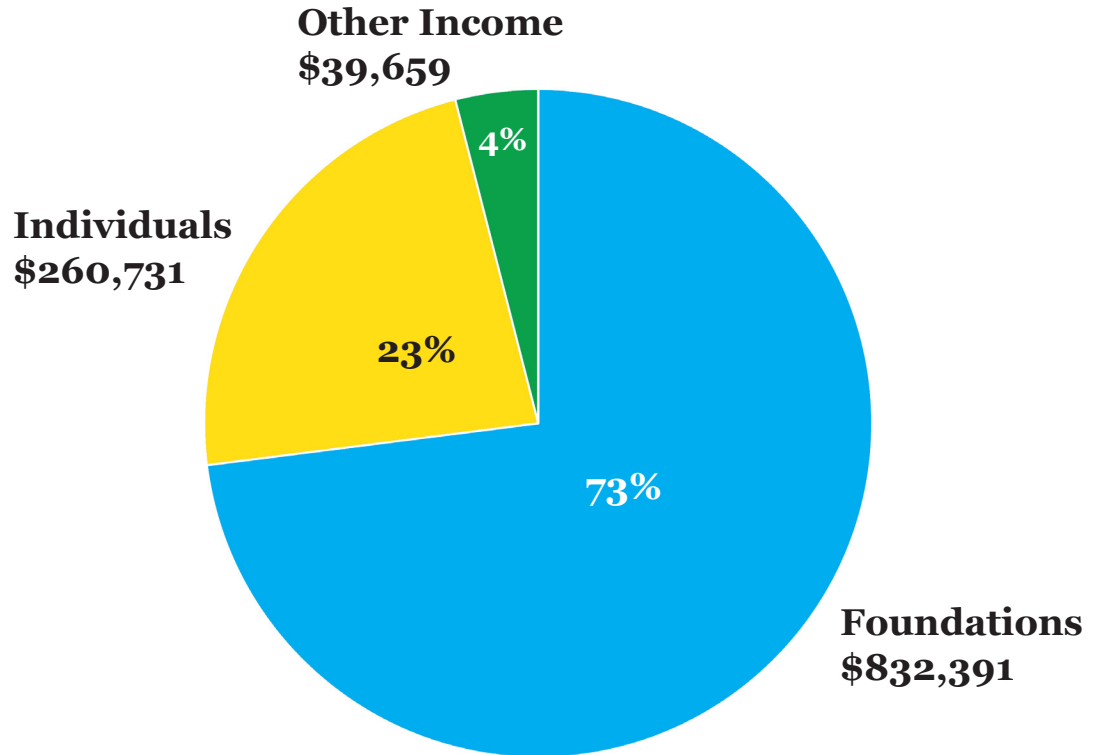
Tehila



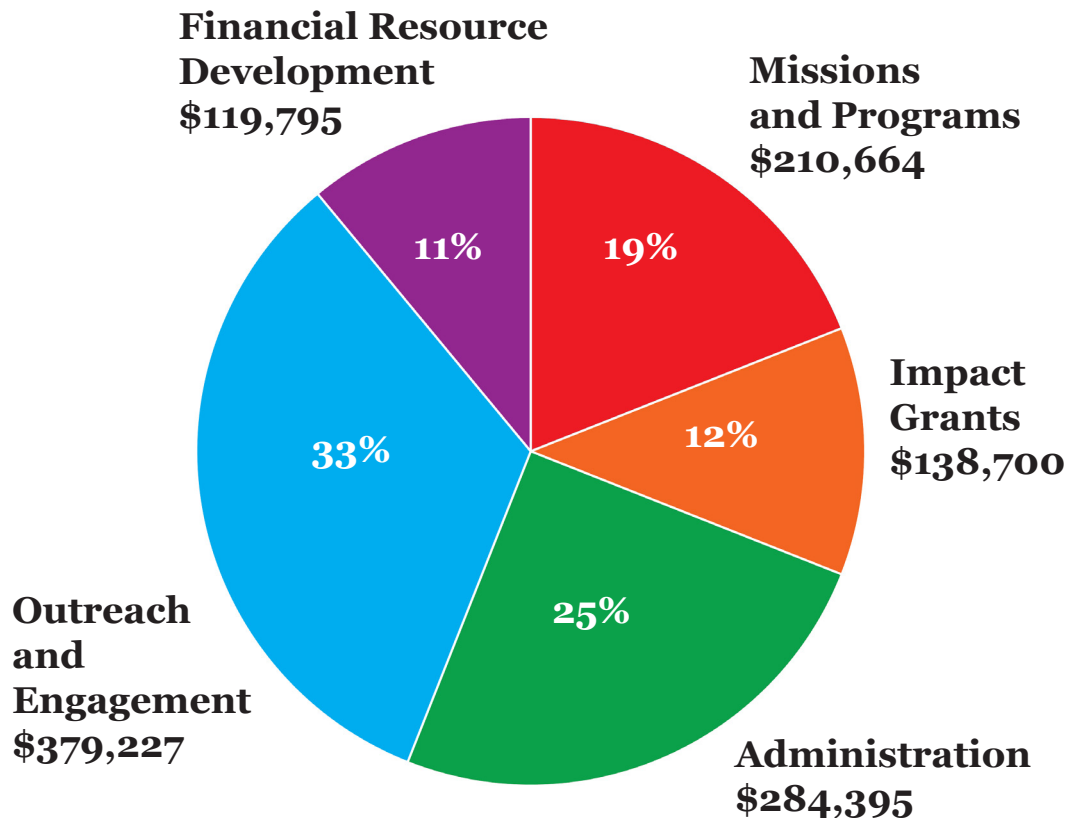
Trans Israel

# 2024 Revenue & Expenses

**Total Revenue:**  
**\$1,132,781**



**Total Expenses:**  
**\$1,132,781**



# Donors

## Institutional Support

### **\$100,000+**

Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Philanthropies  
Klarman Foundation  
One8 Foundation  
Paul E. Singer Charitable Fund

### **\$50,000 - \$99,999**

Anonymous (NYC Area)  
Jewish Community Foundation Of Los Angeles  
Morningstar Philanthropic Fund

### **\$25,000 - \$49,999**

Anonymous (Bay Area)  
Jewish Communal Fund

### **\$10,000 - \$24,999**

Amcha Fund Charitable Foundation  
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The Friend Family Foundation  
GLBT Fund of America of The Philadelphia Foundation  
Hyman N. Dubowy Charitable Foundation  
Jewish Community Federation and Endowment Fund  
Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco  
The Jewish Federation of Broward County  
The Lisa and Michael Leffell Foundation  
Libitzky Family Foundation

### **Under \$10,000**

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Congregation Emanu-El  
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### Gesher Katom (\$2.5K-\$4.9K)

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Randy Silbiger  
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Shimon Simons  
Hannah Simpson  
Judy Singer  
Norm Sloan  
Caren Smith  
Kevin Snyder  
Simone Somekh  
Justin Spiro  
James Sutherland  
Jonathan Tanzman  
Aaron Tax  
Louis Terline  
Jake Vasishchev-Perl  
Nir Veledniger  
Louie Volpe  
Lee Walzer  
Harold Weil  
Rabbi Eric Weiss and Dan Alpert  
Zvi Weiss  
Deborah Wenger  
Jacob Wirtschafter  
Paige Wolf  
Nina Wouk  
Eden Yardeni



# Building A WIDER BRIDGE



# Board & Staff

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to outgoing board members, the Honorable Gabriel Quinto and Representative Brianna Titone, who concluded their service at the end of 2024. Their leadership, wisdom, and unwavering commitment significantly advanced A Wider Bridge's mission during a pivotal time.

In 2025, we're excited to welcome new board members Elan Divine, Carmella Ettinger, Tyler Gregory, and Judith K. Windsor. Each brings unique expertise, passion, and dedication to our collective work for equality and inclusion.

## Board

Daniel Hernandez, Chair  
Andrea Beth Damsky, Vice Chair  
Judy Gold, Vice Chair  
Seth Schermer, Vice Chair  
Alan Schwartz, Treasurer  
Sharon Wilkes, Assistant Treasurer  
Cindy Brown, Secretary  
Andy Austin, Past Chair  
Bruce Maxwell, Past Chair

## At Large

Elan Divine  
Carmella Ettinger  
Tyler Gregory  
Sam Lauter  
Ron Lezell  
Frank November  
Hon. Laurie Osher  
Daniel Wein  
Judith K. Windsor



## Staff

Rabbi Denise L. Eger, D.D., PCC, Interim Executive Director  
Yanir Dekel, Communications Lead  
Dan Hadad, Queers Against Antisemitism Lead  
Ian Sugar, Director of Mobilizations  
Ilana Yares, Director of Operations  
Imry Zagury, Israel Communities Manager



**A WIDER BRIDGE**

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New York, NY 10018  
info@awiderbridge.org  
(866) 288-5774  
www.awiderbridge.org

# Calendar



A WIDER BRIDGE™

## January

- 4** | LGBTQ Empowerment Against Antisemitism with Yael W. (virtual)
- 22-25** | Fly-in Mission (Israel)
- 28** | Brunch in Broward (Ft. Lauderdale)
- 30** | Gesher Society event (virtual)

## February

- 6** | Racism, LGBTQPhobia and Antisemitism Oh My! How to discuss and combat hate in the wake of October 7 (virtual)

## March

- 3** | Unity March in Solidarity with the Jewish community (SF)
- 4** | House Party at Sammy Picciotto's House (S. FL)
- 7** | Purim Cooking event with Chef Ayelet (virtual)
- 21** | San Diego event
- 28** | A Wider Lens event with Zvi and Moran (virtual) - Documenting LGBTQ Soldiers since October 7

## April

- 3** | How Can We Help Bring them home? A conversation with Gili Roman, whose sister was in Hamas captivity
- 8** | Jewish Session 5: Lessons from the LGBTQ+ Space
- 18** | AWB Israel/Iran Briefing with Ofer Erez and Matthew Nouriel

## May

- 2** | Film at Temple Emanu-El (NYC)
- 9** | Pridesafe (virtual)
- 22** | LGBTQ Jews at Pride - Drop In (virtual)
- 23** | LGBTQ Artists Sharing and Holding Space (virtual)
- 30** | Jerusalem Live

## June

- 2** | Israel Day Parade
- 6** | Jewish Champions: what Jewish Trans Teens want you to know this Pride (virtual)
- 11** | Pride Safety Check-in (virtual)
- 18** | Pride safe event (NYC)
- 17-21** | Pride Mission (Israel)
- 28** | Pride Month Check-in (virtual)

## July

- 16** | Pride Check-In (virtual)
- 21** | An Inconvenient Zionist (S. FL)
- 28** | LGBTQ Jewish Artists and allies

## September

- 4** | Research Briefing with Ken Goldstein
- 25-26** | LGBTQ Film (virtual)

## October

- 1** | LGBTQ Check-In (virtual)
- 7** | #QUEERemember October 7: A Uniquely LGBTQ Commemoration

## November

- 12** | A Reporter's Notebook - A Conversation with Michael Lavers (virtual)
- 19** | Gesher Society event in NYC

## December

- 9** | Comedy Gold (NYC)