



2025 Impact Report

July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

*Mi***Gen**
Michigan LGBTQ+ Elders Network

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear friends,

As I reflect on the past year—the accomplishments, the challenges, and everything in between—I am consistently in awe of our growing MiGen community and the hundreds of people who care so deeply about celebrating, uplifting, and supporting LGBTQ+ older adults. Every day at MiGen, I witness our shared values—authenticity, mutual wellbeing, and belonging—come to life in the work we do and in the meaningful connections we build across our community. I am tremendously grateful to all of you, who contribute your time, energy, and expertise to support our work and help create spaces where LGBTQ+ older adults can thrive, be seen and celebrated, and Age Out Loud. I especially am grateful to the LGBTQ+ older adults who have truly laid the groundwork for our efforts by breaking barriers, making history, and opening doors.

This report reflects just a portion of what we, together, accomplished in 2025: from expanding programs and launching new initiatives, to creating affirming spaces and fostering meaningful connections across the state. It highlights the people, partnerships, and stories that make our work possible, and demonstrates the tangible impact of our collective commitment to equity, inclusion, and dignity for LGBTQ+ older adults.

As you read through these pages, I hope you see not only what we have achieved, but also the possibilities ahead—and are inspired to continue this important work with us in the years to come.

With gratitude,

Angela Gabridge, Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ang', enclosed within a hand-drawn oval.

At a Glance:
**MiGen's Impact
In Numbers
and In
Community**

2,000+
meals

were provided through food box delivery, reducing food insecurity and supporting healthy aging.



1,080
people

were supported with basic needs including utilities, food, housing, and referrals to affirming providers, helping LGBTQ+ older adults stay safe, stable, and connected.



114 events

were held, bringing LGBTQ+ older adults together for social connection, community meetings, support groups, arts and culture, and educational opportunities, strengthening connection, engagement, and a sense of belonging.



150
friendly calls

were made, offering regular check-ins and companionship to reduce isolation and strengthen community connections.

**235 volunteer
hours were
contributed,**
reflecting the time, care, and commitment of those who make MiGen's work possible.

7 organizations

earned MiGen's LGBTQ+ cultural competency credential, demonstrating and signaling their commitment to creating visible, affirming, and culturally responsive spaces for aging adults.

24
organizations

were trained in LGBTQ+ cultural responsiveness, strengthening an affirming network of providers and organizations that ensure LGBTQ+ adults feel safe, seen, and supported.

844
individuals

received training, strengthening the ability of organizations and community members to meet LGBTQ+ older adults' needs with dignity and respect.

A large group of diverse people, including men and women of various ages and ethnicities, are seated in a room, listening to a presentation. They are arranged in rows, facing towards the left side of the frame. The room has a high ceiling with a chandelier and framed artwork on the walls.

Blossoming
with Support:

Russell's Journey of Rediscovery and Belonging

"If it wasn't for MiGen as a helping hand, I don't think my colors would be as bright as they are now."

Russell came to MiGen at a pivotal moment in his life. After returning to Detroit from Chicago at age 57, he felt disconnected from the LGBTQ+ community and unsure how to reestablish his place. "I really was lost, having nobody but my case manager, a few people on the phone, and resource links," he shared. "But once planted, I have blossomed into the world's most amazing garden. I transcend with colors and excitement."

Encouraged by his case manager and staff at Affirmations, Russell reached out to MiGen and began reconnecting with his community. He joined social groups like the Downriver Sip & Chat and Intergenerational Book Club, and attended special events including Pistons Pride Night in partnership with Stonewall Sports and the second annual Rainbow Resilience: An Ageless Fashion Affair.

"It really takes you to a whole new level of socialization without having the fear of being judged or confused or not wanted," Russell said. "Being part of MiGen, I feel valued, I feel wanted, and I also feel needed. I don't have a void anymore."

MiGen also provided vital, hands-on support. After a long and exhausting three-year battle to renew his passport—complicated by lost mail, technical issues, and even attempted hacking—Russell turned to MiGen for help. Connecting with Resource Coordinator, Reverend Dr. Roland Stringfellow, Russell found guidance and reassurance every step of the way. Roland listened, connected him with an attorney, and even accompanied him to the DMV. "He listened to what I had to say," Russell said. "He was there the entire time, metaphorically holding my hand, and helped me through the process."

With MiGen's support and his own determination, Russell finally received his passport in the mail—a milestone that symbolizes more than travel; it represents safety, support, and being seen and valued.

Russell's connection with MiGen has come full circle. He continues to participate in social and programs and now volunteers with MiGen, giving back to the community that supported him. Reflecting on his journey, he said: "MiGen takes clients and makes them noticeable. They find the smallest discrepancies or challenges, and then step in with their superhero capes to solve even the toughest conundrums. I owe so much of my confidence, my opportunities, and my renewed sense of self to MiGen."



“We were
together, we
were united,
we were
unapologetically
able to be
ourselves.”

In March, MiGen hosted the second annual **Rainbow Resilience: An Ageless Fashion Affair**, celebrating LGBTQ+ older adults and challenging stereotypes about aging. Eleven models showcased two custom-designed outfits each, created in collaboration with local fashion partners. Over months of preparation—sharing stories, refining visions, and designing looks—these collaborations – many intergenerational—were as meaningful as the runway itself, highlighting creativity, connection, and self-expression at any age. One model reflected on her designer, saying, “She was the best part of the entire experience,” emphasizing the deep bonds and joy created behind the scenes.

We also introduced awards honoring individuals and organizations championing LGBTQ+ older adults and inclusive aging. This year, we proudly recognized Greenfield Presbyterian Church, Stonewall Sports Detroit, Marti Walsh, Sam Hirsch, and Jay Kaplan for their dedication and support.

Rainbow Resilience 2025 reminded us that aging is not about limitations—it’s about celebration, visibility, and community. Through creativity and collaboration, the event showcased the resilience, joy, and strength of LGBTQ+ older adults, inspiring everyone to honor and support inclusive aging every day.

Rainbow Resilience:

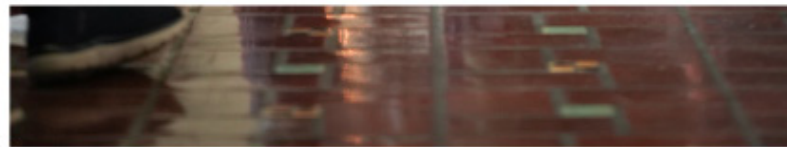
An Ageless Fashion Affair



Model Spotlight: Michelle B.



Michelle B. x Not Sorry Goods



Model Michelle was paired with Jess Minnick from Not Sorry Goods, a brand known for apparel that sparks conversations about social and sustainable change. Together, they created two looks that blended personal storytelling, artistry, and advocacy, reflecting Michelle's individuality and values.

Michelle's first outfit celebrated natural hair and personal storytelling, inspired by her poem *Her Hair, Her Story*. The look featured natural hair accessories on the blazer, stanzas of her poem

printed on the panels of the skirt, and a shirt decorated with a self-portrait painted by her granddaughter—bringing together personal history, family, and art into a single statement.

Her second look, aptly named *Rainbow Resistance*, highlighted Michelle's role in the community as a staunch advocate for human rights. The outfit carried the brand's ethos, "Black & Queer Not Sorry," serving as a powerful declaration to never apologize for being yourself.



Courage in Action:

Leading by Example

In 2025, prioritizing inclusive, affirming care and making aging safer and more dignified for LGBTQ+ older adults has never been more important. Amid an uncertain and shifting political landscape, when LGBTQ+ aging is often overlooked, Habitat for Humanity of Oakland County stepped forward with courage and conviction to pursue MiGen's LGBTQ+ Affirming Credential, a visible testament that their team has committed to creating welcoming, inclusive, and supportive environments for LGBTQ+ older adults.

The credentialing program, launched in 2024, takes MiGen's LGBTQ+ culturally responsive training a step further by providing a facility-wide audit, assessments, hands-on guidance, action planning, and ongoing support to help organizations implement meaningful, sustainable practices. By earning this credential, organizations demonstrate their dedication to equity and inclusion, ensuring that LGBTQ+ older adults are not only welcomed but celebrated in every

space they enter. Habitat for Humanity shared that MiGen's credentialing "opened many eyes to the importance of small but powerful changes in the way we greet and interact with others" and inspired updates to employment documents to better reflect their commitment to equity. "What began as a training opportunity has grown into meaningful organizational change, helping us strengthen both our culture and our mission."

Habitat for Humanity of Oakland County's commitment sent a clear message: LGBTQ+ older adults matter. Their histories are vital, their needs are urgent, and they deserve to age in a world that sees them, affirms them, and protects their dignity. By choosing to lead with integrity and inclusion, Habitat for Humanity not only reinforced the importance of affirming care but also set a powerful example for other organizations—showing that even in uncertain times, it is possible to stand proudly for equity and inclusion.

MI Options Launch:

Transforming How Older Adults Navigate Care

In April 2025, in partnership with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, MiGen launched MI Options - a statewide initiative helping aging adults, their loved ones, and caregivers make informed decisions about Medicare and long-term care.

MI Options includes two vital, affirming, and culturally responsive programs: Medicare Counseling and Person-Centered Options Counseling (PCOC). Together, they provide clear guidance, resources, and support to help people navigate complex healthcare and long-term care decisions with confidence. Medicare Counseling offers personalized assistance with enrollment, cost-saving options, and benefits explanations, serving as a trusted resource for those seeking clarity about Medicare. PCOC helps participants make informed choices about long-term care, services, and supports that truly fit their lives. This proactive approach puts participants in the driver's seat, letting them share their preferences, routines, goals, and values, while counselors provide tailored guidance so each person can decide what works best for them.

MI Options is more than a program—it's a commitment to inclusion, dignity, and choice. By providing clear Medicare guidance and affirming, person-centered planning, MI Options ensures LGBTQ+ older adults have the knowledge, tools, and confidence to make decisions that protect their health, safeguard their independence, and reflect their identities, needs, and goals. MI Options transforms how older adults experience care, strengthening their ability to live with assurance and authenticity.

Building a Statewide Network of Affirming Services

In the spring of 2025, we launched our Statewide Resource Center to meet the urgent need for culturally affirming services for LGBTQ+ older adults and the organizations that serve them. This two-pronged initiative connects LGBTQ+ older adults to affirming resources while equipping community organizations to serve aging LGBTQ+ adults and caregivers in inclusive, effective ways. To lead these efforts, we hired a dedicated Resource Center Coordinator to oversee programming, partnerships, and ongoing development.

The first component of the Statewide Resource Center is an online State Resource Guide—a dynamic, growing directory of affirming services, care providers, and community resources. Developed in response to requests from service providers, healthcare professionals, and LGBTQ+ older adults themselves, the guide centralizes trusted information, helping reduce barriers to care, strengthen community connections, and ensure providers better meet the unique needs of LGBTQ+ aging adults. The guide is a critical step toward a more equitable aging network in Michigan and is expected to go live in 2026.

The second—and core—component of the Statewide Resource Center focuses on consulting, technical assistance, and capacity building for community organizations. MiGen supports partners in designing inclusive programs, building partnerships, navigating funding, and accessing curated resources and best practices. By working closely with organizations across the state, the Resource Center ensures programs are thoughtfully designed, effectively implemented, and sustainable—serving LGBTQ+ older adults and caregivers in meaningful, affirming ways.

Together, these efforts are creating a statewide ecosystem where LGBTQ+ older adults can access the care, support, and connections they need to live authentically and fully in their communities.

More 2025 Highlights



Shepherd House Opens in Ferndale: Celebrated Michigan's newest LGBTQ+ inclusive affordable housing for older adults, named Ferndale's Project of the Year. MiGen's Rev. Dr. Roland Stringfellow and MiGen's program team guided residents through the leasing process, helping build a safe and supportive community where LGBTQ+ older adults can live authentically.

No-Cost Training for Informal Caregivers: Launched MiGen's Act. Reflect. Commit. (ARC) self-paced online program, providing informal caregivers with flexible, accessible education on inclusive, affirming care—addressing the gap in training designed primarily for professionals.



Presented at the American Society on Aging Conference: Shared our expertise at the nation's largest multidisciplinary aging conference in Orlando, inspiring new intergenerational programming later in the year.

Downriver Sip & Chat: Partnered with The Senior Alliance and Kekoa Brew Co. to bring LGBTQ+ older adults together in a welcoming, community-based social space, expanding reach and accessibility.



Expanded Our Team: Grew staff from 9 to 14, increasing capacity to serve more LGBTQ+ older adults and strengthen programs, services, and community partnerships.



Crafts & Conversation: Launched a new monthly arts and crafts group in partnership with Affirmations, providing LGBTQ+ older adults a space to create, connect, and share in-person experiences.

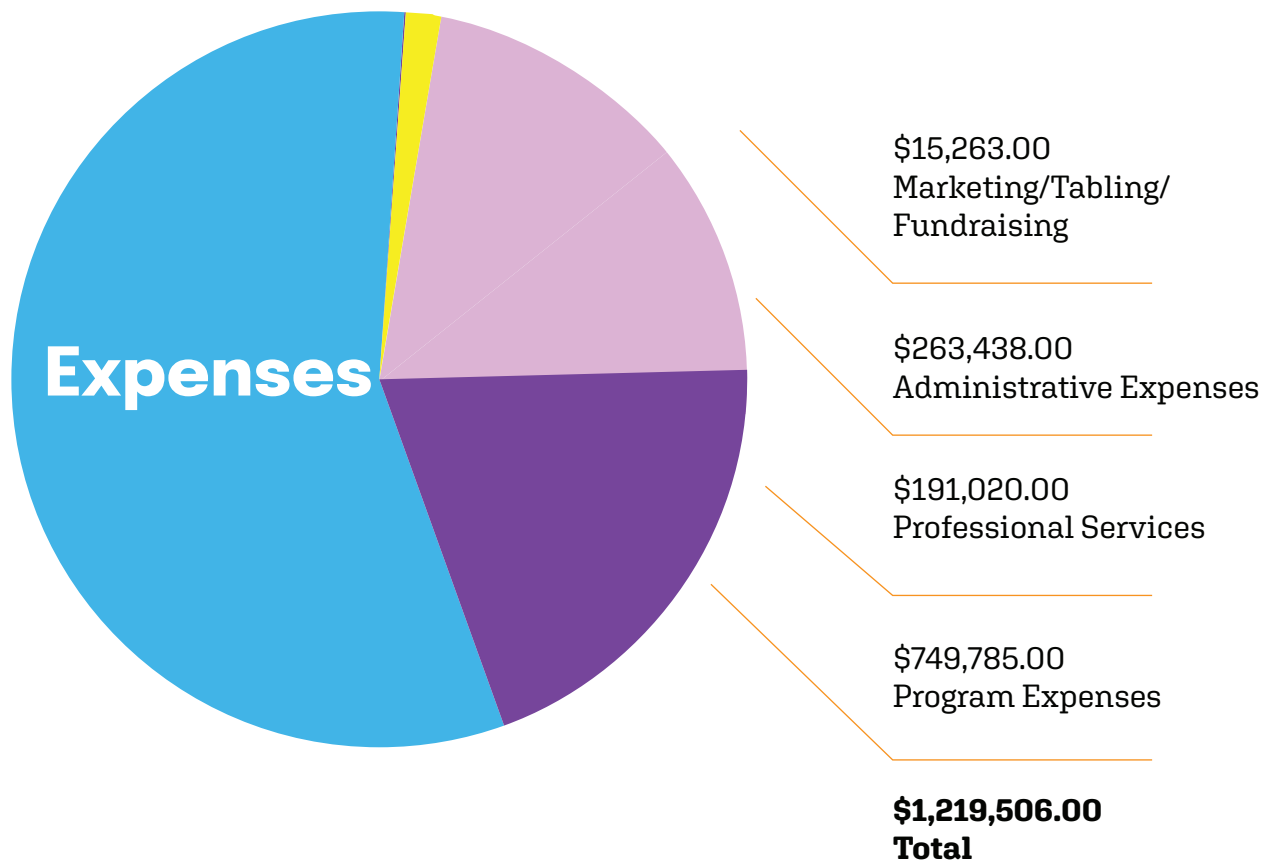
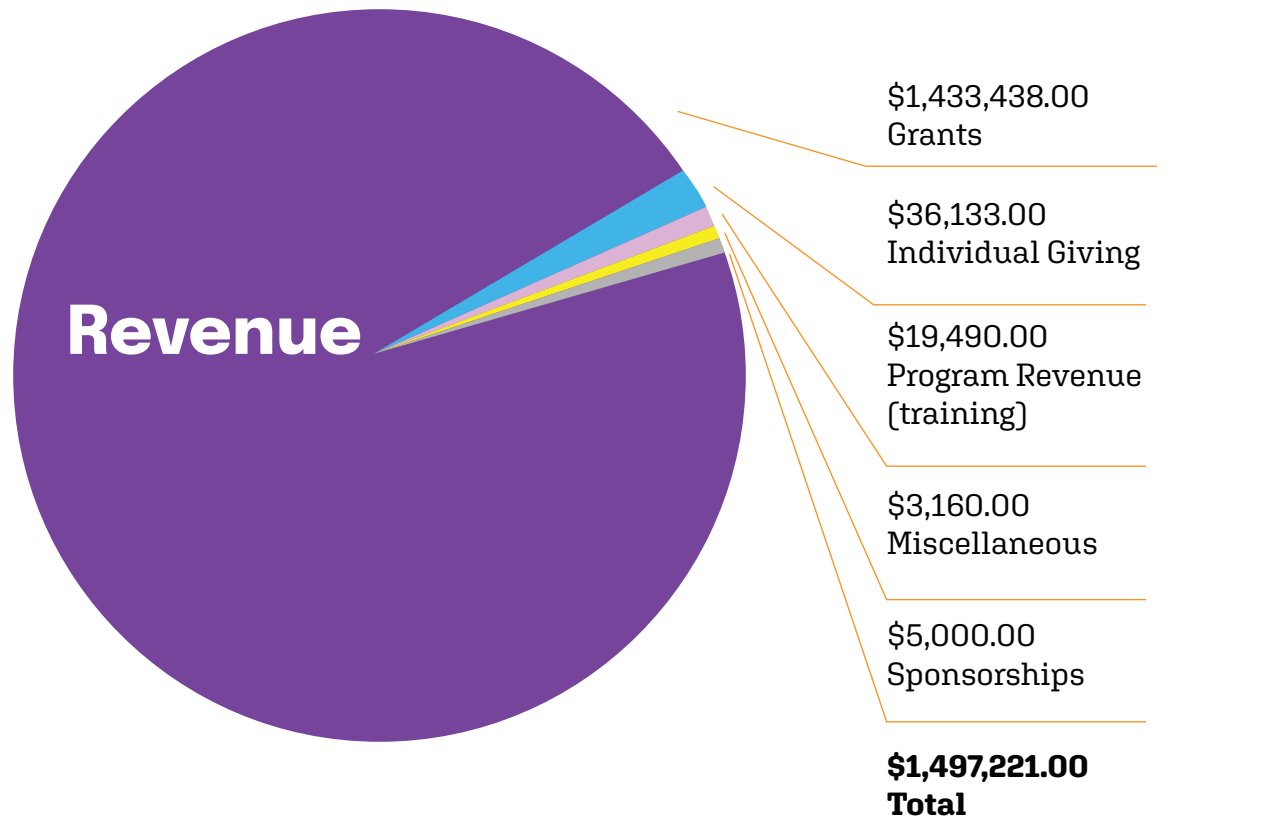


Joined the Michigan Association of Senior Centers (MASC): Connected with senior center leaders statewide to share MiGen's work and impact, solidifying our role in Michigan's aging landscape.

Remodeled Our LGBTQ+ Senior Center in Ferndale: Updated the space to improve accessibility, improve programming opportunities, and create a more welcoming, affirming environment for LGBTQ+ older adults

Expanded LGBTQ+ Cultural Competency Training Statewide: Delivered MiGen's training and education in 10 Michigan cities—Pontiac, Livonia, Ann Arbor, West Bloomfield, Warren, Battle Creek, Norton Shores, Alpena, and Traverse City—broadening access to culturally competent, affirming care for older adults across the state.

Financials



2025 Donor and Funder Community

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