"You guys really made it clear that I'm an equal, and that's not something I've felt in a long time."
— COR youth leader

"Being a host home has given us the opportunity to watch a young person grow and work towards their goals, while knowing that they have safe, stable housing. Hosting has empowered us to make an impact not only on a young person’s future, but also on one of the largest issues our city currently faces: homelessness."
— Teagan Presler, host

COR is all about community, and one role of a supportive community is to celebrate each other’s success! Friends, mentors, and chosen family gathered to celebrate Alex’s access to gender affirming healthcare.

Choosing Our Roots

The mission of Choosing Our Roots is to ensure that all queer Alaskan youth and young adults have access to safe homes, supportive communities, and opportunities to thrive.

COR Values: Dignity & Respect · Empowerment · Cultural Relevancy · Community · Hope

"COR is like my family," said a youth participant as she hugged me goodbye. Earlier, I had asked about her current apartment, and she replied that the space was ok, but spoke in a hushed voice about other tenants who did not like transgender people. She is living where she can afford for now, but she is on COR’s waitlist for a host home where she can save money for a safer space of her own.

COR is proud to be part of the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP). Julia Terry, COR’s Director of Programming, joined community partners to celebrate support for our shared goal of ending youth homelessness.

I have so much gratitude for all of you who give to COR. Your giving shapes communities that open their doors to strangers, empower acts of kindness, create safe inclusive spaces, and amplify youth and LGBTQ+ voices in community discussions on homelessness. I am so grateful to youth participants for striving to be themselves and for teaching us that the safety, security, and support they need is already in all of us to give.

To heal our communities it will take all of us. I encourage you to engage. Spend time with a young person in mentorship or at a COR potluck. If you have space in your home and a chair at your table, open it up to a youth in need. If you have extra time or money to give, consider giving to Choosing Our Roots. I sincerely believe that the more love we give to our community, the greater that love will grow.

Thank you,

Ariel Berg
COR Board President

Youth leaders and volunteers representing COR in the Mat-Su Valley. Queer visibility and public advocacy are essential for young people, especially in smaller communities, and many were delighted to see COR marching in the Colony Days parade.

Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP)
Luke first became homeless at age 15. Like many COR youth, Luke is transgender with a family that doesn’t accept his identity. He has stayed in shelters and tents. For a while, he lived in a friend’s closet. Though he
first became homeless at age 15.

Luke secured a job with lodging in an outlying community. Then the job unexpectedly ended, and Luke found
survival, he could never save enough to pay first and last month’s rent. When he made contact with COR this
year, Luke recently told his case manager that
this is the first time he has ever been able to think about what his future might look like.

Since launching the host home program this year, COR has:

- Matched queer youth with mentors for ongoing one-on-one support
- Advocated for the needs of homeless LGBTQ+ youth in local and statewide systems
- Hosted multigenerational, sober community-building events
- Created opportunities for youth leadership development

The Financial information below reflects the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2019. Significantly, it was midway through
the year that COR hired a director of programming and launched those services. Annual expenses will increase in this and all future years,
as we continue to operate the host home program year-round.

承诺7个青年
in safe, supportive, identity-affirming homes

Provided case management to 25 youth as they work toward fulfillment of their personal goals

This is how it should be, people helping people because it’s the right thing to do.
You are giving me hope.”
— young adult during intake

Thank you for your generous support!

Grants & Corporate Donors
Alaska Community Foundation
Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority
Alaska Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Alaska Women’s Giving Circle
Amakhara Foundation
Anchorage Youth Development Coalition
AT&T
Burn & Bloom Body Movement Studio
Caucaseast Foundation
Costco Wholesale
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Elizabeth Carroll Fund at the Alaska Community Foundation
Fred Meyer
Full Spectrum Health
Mat-Su Health Foundation
Montucky Cold Snacks
NeighborWorks Alaska
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Queer Happenings Alaska
Rasmuson Foundation
UAA Drag+
U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
Wells Fargo
* great awards above $5,000

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Emma Haddix
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Erin Barnett & Kayla Coughlin
Esther Smith
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Frank Delaney
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Gay Peterson-Berg & Mark Berg
Genevieve Mina
Hank Dorsch
Hannah Hill
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Chris & James Terry
Enn Barnett & Kayla Coughlin
Frank & Grete Chythlook
Gabby
Jasie Andersen
M.E. Rider
Shen Mao
Teagan Presler
courageous and wonderful friends
our community’s inspiring youth

Gifts Made In Memory of:

Andrea Redeker
Chandler Braley
Doug Middleton
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT!