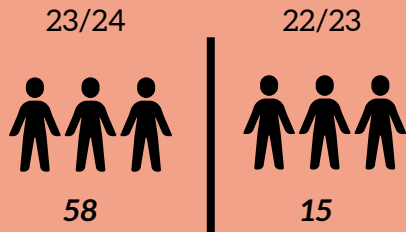


Sweet Evening Breeze is committed to providing services for LGBTQ+ young adults ages 18-24 experiencing homelessness.

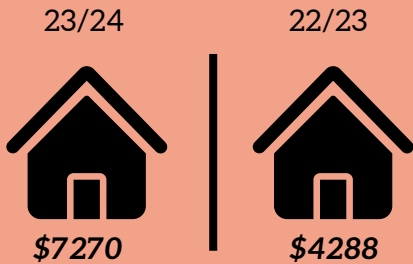


OVERVIEW

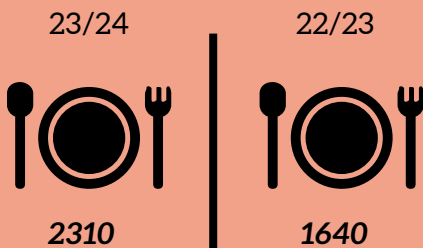
NEW CLIENT INTAKES



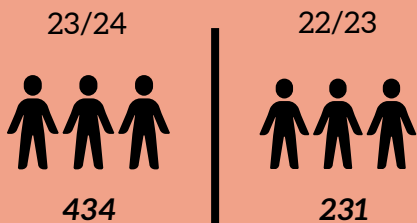
HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROVIDED



OUTREACH NUMBERS SERVED

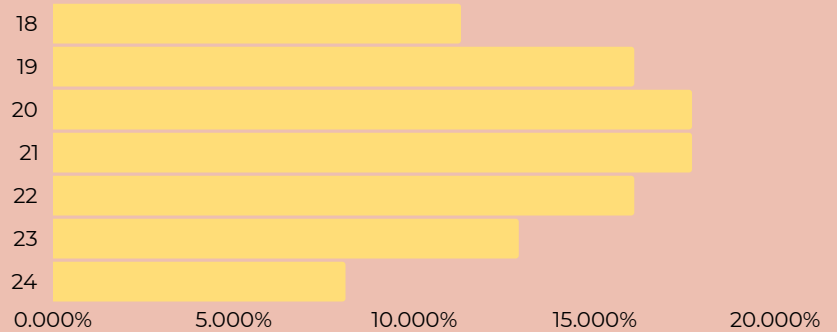


CLIENT VISITS

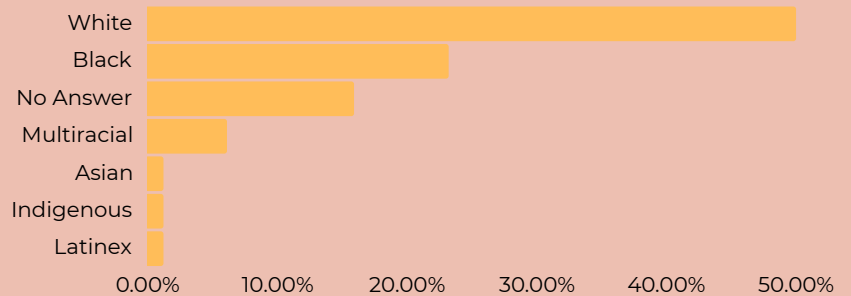


UNDERSTANDING OUR POPULATION

Young Adult Clients by Age

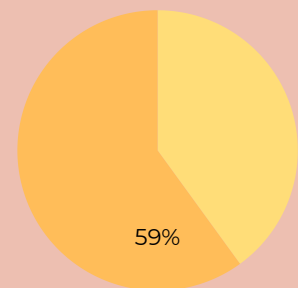


Clients by Race



Clients by Gender

59% of Clients Self-Identified as Transgender or Gender Non-Conforming



These percentages were calculated using demographic information Sweet Evening Breeze collects during the client triage process. This data is specific to clients served by Sweet Evening Breeze and it is not meant to mirror local or national data on LGBTQ+ homelessness. To reduce barriers to service, drop-in clients who are not seeking ongoing or financial assistance may choose to not complete a full intake. In these cases, their data is not reflected in these numbers outside of client visits.

This report represents work by the Sweet Evening Breeze Team during the **July 2023 - June 2024 fiscal year**. Our engagement, outreach, and visibility increased substantially from last year and we are working hard to continue these trends. Without YOUR support we would not have gotten here!



A LOOK INSIDE TRAGER HOUSE



WHAT TRAGER HOUSE CLIENTS CAN EXPECT....

- Mentorship and Consultation with SEB Staff
- Targeted Case Management
- Therapy & Counseling Services
- Nutrition Support and Self-Care Strategies
- Client-Focused Programs for Personal Development

In April 2024, Sweet Evening Breeze opened Trager House, a transitional housing program for LGBTQ+ youth ages 18-24 facing housing instability. Trager House provides daily ongoing support for the clients who reside in our four apartment units. In expanding our programming, Sweet Evening Breeze has hired Josh Hancock as our Residential Peer Specialist. Josh is a student at the University of Kentucky, pursuing a Master of Science in Counseling Psychology. Josh has become a vital member of our team and an invaluable resource for clients living in Trager House. While living in the space, Josh will act as an advisor and counselor, engaging clients in programs and social events aimed at building client interaction and engagement. We've also welcomed a part-time handyman, Brad Dillingham, to handle general operations issues including apartment preparation, as well as unexpected maintenance issues.

How Our Program Works...

Transitional housing programs are time-limited by nature, built to assist clients in gaining the skills, abilities, and stability necessary to find and maintain long-term housing at the close of their programming. Trager House follows this model, meaning we will be able to work closely with clients during their residencies while also allowing for natural turnover as clients meet their goals and move on to permanent housing, ensuring that we can aid as many clients as possible.

To be considered for residency, clients must demonstrate the ability to live independently and have an established relationship with Sweet Evening Breeze. Upon entrance to Trager House, each client completes a care plan with SEB Staff. Care plans are a collaborative document, tailored to each individual's self-identified goals, and serve as a roadmap for the client to reach these goals before their departure date.

Each Trager House client is housed in an individual apartment with rent and utilities provided by the program. This support allows clients to have limited expenses, giving them the ability to save up for their eventual departure.



A Client's Perspective... from a feature in *Queer Kentucky*

"As soon as I got through the door, I just cried with relief, literally just broke down and sobbed from this weight that was lifted off of me," Robyn said. She is the first resident at Trager House. "And it's given me the space to re-approach employment...and also having the support system of fellow queer people who understand the unique challenges that I face has been hugely instrumental and comforting."

Trager House has given Robyn the space and support she needed to pave her own path as a trans woman. "It's almost like going through a second puberty, you know, you're finding and figuring yourself out, figuring out what clothes fit and what looks good on you, and what you like to wear and how you want to relate to other people and see yourself into the world," she said.

Having queer and trans people who are supporting her and pushing her to achieve her goals has made a defining difference for Robyn. She said, "Sweet evening Breeze is like a second family."

About the Facility...

Thanks in part to generous donors, each unit at Trager House is fully furnished and ready for clients who have limited resources. Clients enter the program and are greeted with an apartment with comfortable furniture, clean bedding and linen, and a fully outfitted kitchen complete with small appliances, dishes, and pots and pans. In the basement, clients share a full-size washer and dryer and have access to supplies for cleaning and maintaining their space as well as the apartment building itself.

We are pleased to have Trager House as a new component of Sweet Evening Breeze's operations and look forward to growing our housing program to serve more clients in the future.

We are grateful...

In carrying forth our mission, Sweet Evening Breeze continues to honor the work of our founding members, giving thanks for their hard work and commitment. Our organization would not be here today if it were not for their involvement, vision, and dedication to service.

We thank our founding board members: Ariel Brooks, Dr. Cynthia Conley, Jaison Gardner, Dr. Maurice Gattis, Dr. Emma Sterrett-Hong, Samantha Reams, Nikki Thornton, and Brian Wilson, without whom we would not exist today.



OUR PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE...

FOUNDING MISSION

Sweet Evening Breeze began when a group of motivated community members noticed a problem: There was no dedicated organization in Louisville where young, LGBTQ+ adults could access housing services. LGBTQ+ youth comprise a vulnerable community and need a space that affirms their identities and experiences while also meeting their immediate concerns. Research shows that LGBTQ youth have a far greater risk of homelessness than their heterosexual and/or cisgender peers (Brown & Coolhart 2017), and that the primary cause of homelessness among this population is rejection by family, which can include running away due to lack of support of their sexual orientation, gender identity or expression (Altena & Beijersbergen, 2014). Additionally, this population faces an increased risk of violence and harassment in traditional shelter settings and is frequently met with facilities that rely on binary gender models for programming and housing.

It was Herndon's hospitality and compassion for others that helped inspire the founders of SEB to focus on the vision of offering unsheltered and housing insecure LGBTQ+ youth adults with affirming services, creating a place where these vulnerable clients could find a welcoming and supportive environment, allowing them to build support systems and find stability. By being the first organization in Louisville to serve this population intentionally, Sweet Evening Breeze created a pivotal community resource, not only for the LGBTQ+ population but for Louisville as a whole.



Our namesake, James "Sweet Evening Breeze" Herndon

CURRENT PROGRAMMING

Today, SEB continues to focus on the goals and objectives set by our founders while expanding to best serve our local community. In addition to our primary demographic, our office has received walk-in clients ranging in age between 18 - 60. While we attempt to help everyone who walks through our doors, 90% or more of our clients identify as LGBTQ+.

Individual Services—While SEB's focus remains on providing housing opportunities for clients through our new transitional housing program, we continue to offer financial assistance on a case-by-case basis for emergency hotel vouchers, rent, and utilities. Also, we have other client-focused programs that include community outreach, clothing and toiletries support, case management, counseling, and drop-in services. Our clients can access services online, through referrals, and by drop-in visits (see stats and demographics overview for more information).

Brave Spaces—This year, SEB was proud to present Brave Spaces, a traveling program where panels of local transgender community members shared and talked about their lives, providing a venue where they could support, educate, and inspire others.

Family Support—We are proud to continue providing support meetings for parents of transgender children and for LGBTQ youth.

LOOKING FORWARD...

Visibility—As SEB looks forward, we plan to expand our services and increase engagement in the community. We will soon have a van to use for client transportation and outreach. Our hope is that having a dedicated vehicle will allow us to become more visible throughout Louisville, allowing us to reach more neighborhoods and communities. As we continue to grow and expand our presence, SEB will have the opportunity to incorporate new programs, including trainings, workshops, and support groups focused on LGBTQ+ issues in our community.

Capital Campaign—In the coming year, Sweet Evening Breeze will introduce our first Capital Campaign! Our focus will be on raising funds necessary to acquire and maintain a building of our own. This building will serve as our base of operations, hosting the administrative and programming work that is currently done at our Barret Avenue office, as well as serving as a Residential Shelter for clients. Our hope for this facility is to house up to 25 clients at a time in private, dormitory-style rooms. Common areas will include spaces for socializing, as well as living and learning.

Leading up to this campaign, our board will be hard at work, engaging in training and development exercises and strategic planning sessions that will set the stage for continued growth in the years to come.



/sweeteveningbreeze



/sweeteveningbreeze

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Fiscal Year July '22 - June '23 Revenue & Expenses

Revenue	Expenses
\$352,399	\$198,000

Fiscal Year July '23 - June '24 Revenue & Expenses

Revenue	Expenses
\$306,578	\$275,300

Fiscal Year July '24 - June '25 Beginning Operations Balance

\$280,000

SEB has maintained a positive variance over the past 4 years.

About our name...

We are proudly named after James Herndon, also known as Sweet Evening Breeze or Sweets. Born in 1892, and recognized for their gender non-conforming style, often wearing makeup, scarves, jewelry and, at times, dressing in full drag, Herndon was a well-known figure in Lexington, KY and was instrumental in helping to overturn the city's cross-dressing ordinance. Despite being a gender non-conforming Black person in the Jim Crow Era, Herndon was well-liked in the community and was known for random acts of hospitality and kindness that included baking cakes for others and gifting shoes to poor families.



2023-2024 FISCAL YEAR REPORT



Donors and Contributors

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Ameerah Palacios
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Center for Interfaith Relations
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EAF, Resilience and Community Services
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SEB Staff

Glenn Martin
Stuart Walker
Sarah Pennington
Josh Hancock
Mason Kalinsky
Sandy Bowling
Brad Dillingham

And THANK YOU to all of our volunteers!

Without YOUR support we would not have gotten here! SEB sends a proud "Thank You" to ALL!

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