



ANNUAL REPORT

2025

Building Community, Inclusion & Philanthropy Through LGBTQ+ Sports

Stonewall Sports Detroit is a volunteer-led nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering inclusive, affirming spaces for LGBTQIA+ and allied adults through recreational sports, social connection, and community giving.

Since launching in 2019, our leagues have grown into a vibrant, year-round community where people show up not just to play, but to belong.





A Letter from Leadership

Dear Stonewall Sports Detroit Community,

This past year was one of growth, resilience, and deepened impact. Across our leagues, events, and partnerships, we saw firsthand how powerful community can be, especially when it is intentionally inclusive, values-driven, and locally rooted.

Thanks to our players, sport leads, board members, and sponsors, Stonewall Sports Detroit continued to expand access to inclusive recreational spaces while also reinvesting back into the broader LGBTQIA+ community through charitable giving and outreach.

This Annual Report is both a celebration of what we've accomplished together and a commitment to transparency as we look ahead. We are proud of the progress we've made and excited about what's next.

With gratitude,

Brandon Shamoun, Ed.D.
Commissioner,
Stonewall Sports Detroit



Our Mission

Stonewall Sports Detroit exists to strengthen the Detroit LGBTQIA+ and allied community through inclusive recreational sports, meaningful social connection, and philanthropic impact.

We believe sports can be a powerful entry point to belonging—creating spaces where people feel safe, celebrated, and connected both on and off the field.

Who We Serve

- LGBTQ+ adults and allies across Metro Detroit
- Players of all skill levels, backgrounds, and identities
- Community members seeking connection, wellness, and inclusive social spaces

For many members, Stonewall Sports Detroit is their first introduction to LGBTQIA+-affirming community in the city.

Programs & Leagues

Stonewall Sports Detroit offered seven recreational sports, providing year-round opportunities to play, connect, and build community:

- Billiards
- Bowling
- Cornhole
- Dodgeball
- Kickball
- Pickleball
- Volleyball

Each league is intentionally designed to be welcoming and accessible, regardless of prior experience or athletic background. Our volunteer Sport Leads and captains help ensure that inclusion, sportsmanship, and fun remain central to every season.

Community-Focused Programming

Beyond league play, Stonewall Sports Detroit continues to expand programming that supports connection across generations, identities, and abilities.

In 2025, we were honored to receive a **\$50,000 community wellness grant from MiGen, funded by Corktown Health**, to address health and social isolation disparities among LGBTQIA+ adults—with a particular focus on those aged 50 and older.

Through this initiative, we delivered **12 free, accessible wellness and social events** across Metro Detroit, including walking groups, chair yoga, Zumba, social meals, and a large-scale Field Day & Health Expo. Programming was intentionally designed to be welcoming, intergenerational, and adaptable to different ability levels, with transportation provided to reduce barriers to participation.

Over the four-month grant period:

- **235 total participants** were served
- **33%+ of participants were aged 50 and older**
- Participants ranged in age from **21 to 81 years old**
- Many attendees engaged with Stonewall Sports for the **first time** through this programming

Participant feedback consistently highlighted increased physical activity, improved mood, reduced isolation, and a stronger sense of belonging. This work deepened partnerships with local organizations including MiGen, Corktown Health, LGBT Detroit, Detroit Parks & Recreation, and regional health providers.

Due to strong demand and demonstrated impact, Stonewall Sports Detroit plans to continue and expand intergenerational, wellness-focused programming in 2026.



Total New
Players in 2025:

1,712

New Multi-Sport
Participants:

518

Total Sports
Offered:

7

Free or Waived
Registrations:

120

Volunteer Sport Leads,
Captains & Umpires:

51

Record-Breaking League Seasons

This year marked a milestone for Stonewall Sports Detroit, with continued expansion across all our sports leagues and record participation in both volleyball and kickball.

- **Volleyball** experienced its largest season to date, reflecting strong demand for team-based, social-first competition
- **Kickball** also reached its highest participation levels ever, continuing to serve as one of Stonewall's most visible and community-driven leagues

Across all sports—bowling, billiards, cornhole, pickleball, dodgeball, volleyball, and kickball—players showed up consistently, reinforcing Stonewall's role as a year-round hub for connection and community.

These seasons highlighted not only growing membership, but also the dedication of our volunteer Sport Leads, captains, and umpires who make safe, inclusive play possible.

Pickleball: Meeting Surging Demand

Pickleball continued to be one of the fastest-growing sports within the Stonewall Sports Detroit community.

In 2025:

- Pickleball registration sold out within 13 hours each season
- Demand significantly exceeded available capacity

To better serve our members while maintaining a positive player experience, Stonewall Sports Detroit will add an additional pickleball time slot in 2026, expanding capacity by 50% and creating more opportunities for participation without compromising accessibility or quality.

Engagement Beyond the Game

Across all sports and seasons, Stonewall Sports Detroit continued to prioritize connection beyond competition through:

- League-wide social events;
- Community-building activations; and
- Programming designed to foster inclusion, belonging, and long-term engagement

Together, these efforts reinforce that Stonewall Sports Detroit is not just about playing sports—it's about building lasting community.

Community Growth

- Hundreds of registered participants across multiple seasons
- Thousands of cumulative player-games played
- Continued growth in first-time participants joining Stonewall Sports

Stonewall remains an entry point into community for many LGBTQIA+ Detroiters, especially those new to the city or newly out.



Sponsorship & Partnerships

Stonewall Sports Detroit partners with mission-aligned sponsors who share our commitment to inclusion, accessibility, and community impact. These partnerships are intentionally designed to go beyond traditional logo placement and instead focus on meaningful engagement with our members and community.

Sponsor support allows us to:

- Offer registration waivers and reduced-fee access for low-income community members
- Keep league fees stable and accessible as demand grows
- Invest in safe, high-quality facilities, equipment, and events
- Expand community wellness, service, and outreach programming

Through these partnerships, sponsors play a direct role in advancing equity, reducing barriers to participation, and sustaining an inclusive LGBTQIA+ community space in Metro Detroit. We are deeply grateful to our sponsors for investing in people, not just programs.

Events & Engagement

Beyond league play, we hosted and supported:

- League-wide social events
- Fundraisers benefiting local nonprofit partners
- Pride-adjacent programming and community activations

These moments create connection beyond the scoreboard and strengthen bonds across leagues.

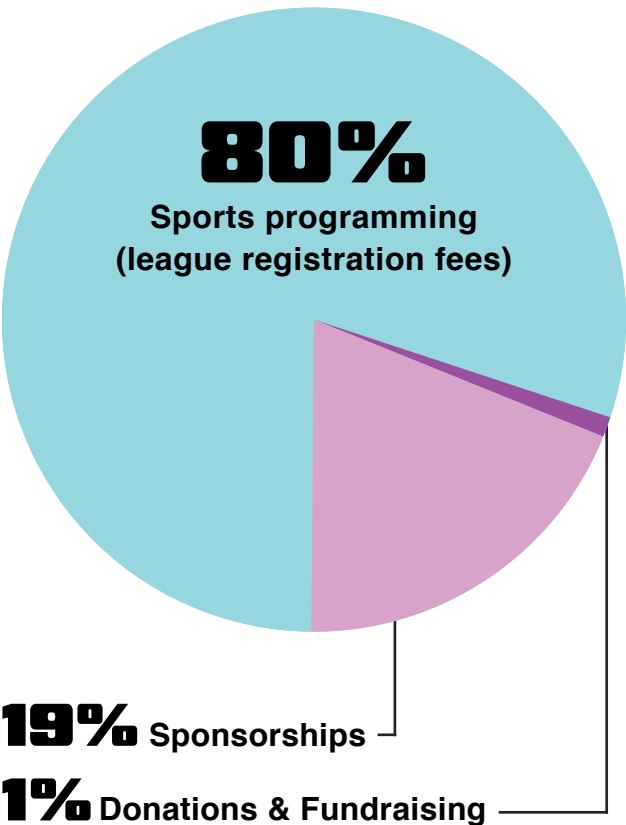


Financial Transparency

Stonewall Sports Detroit operates with a simple, community-first financial model: most of what we earn comes directly from league play, and most of what we earn goes directly back into the leagues and community programs our members value.

Where Our Funding Comes From

In 2025, the vast majority of Stonewall Sports Detroit’s revenue came from participation in our sports leagues, supplemented by mission-aligned sponsorships.



**Presented percentages are rounded to nearest percent*

This model allows Stonewall Sports Detroit to remain community-funded, sustainable, and closely aligned with the needs of our members.

How Funds Are Used

Each Stonewall Sports Detroit league is designed to operate as a self-sustaining program. League registration fees primarily fund the delivery of that specific sport, including venue/field costs and equipment.

Only ~ 4% of league registration fees are used to cover shared administrative and operational costs. This means that the overwhelming majority of participant dollars are reinvested directly into:

- League operations and on-field experiences
- Community programming and events
- Registration waivers and reduced-fee access for low-income members
- Charitable and wellness initiatives aligned with our mission

Stonewall Sports Detroit is fully volunteer-led, and **no board members, sport leads, or volunteers receive compensation** for their service.

Giving Back

Giving back is a core part of Stonewall Sports Detroit's mission.

In addition to donating to charitable partners and offering grant-funded wellness programming, Stonewall Sports Detroit operates an **ongoing registration waiver program** that provides **free or reduced-cost league registrations** to members experiencing financial barriers.

In 2025, Stonewall Sports Detroit provided **120 free league registrations** through this program. This initiative ensures that:

- Cost is not a barrier to participation
- Low-income and financially impacted community members can fully engage
- Sponsorship dollars directly support access and equity

By reinvesting league and sponsor revenue into both charitable giving and direct member support, Stonewall Sports Detroit advances equity, inclusion, and long-term community health across Metro Detroit.

In alignment with our bylaws, Stonewall Sports Detroit donates a portion of proceeds to charitable partners serving the LGBTQIA+ community.

This year, contributions supported the following organizations:





Volunteer-Led & Community-Governed

Stonewall Sports Detroit is led entirely by a volunteer Board of Directors, Division Leads, captains, and event volunteers who collectively oversee league operations, finances, and community programming.

No board members or volunteers receive compensation for their service. All decisions are guided by our mission, values, and commitment to equity, inclusion, and transparency.

This volunteer-led model allows us to:

- Direct the majority of resources back into programming and community impact
- Keep league registration fees affordable
- Remain closely connected to the needs of our members

Our volunteers are the backbone of Stonewall Sports Detroit, and their leadership makes everything we do possible.



Looking Ahead: Our Focus for 2026

As we look toward the next year, Stonewall Sports Detroit is aligning around a few clear, community-facing priorities that will guide our growth and decision-making. These goals reflect input from our Board, volunteers, and members—and are grounded in our mission and values.

Deepening Community Impact

We aim to strengthen Stonewall's presence and positive impact across Detroit by:

- Expanding partnerships with local organizations and nonprofits
- Creating more opportunities for members to volunteer and give back
- Increasing visibility through community events, outreach, and storytelling

Our goal is to be recognized not just as a league, but as an active, engaged contributor to the broader Detroit community.

Elevating the Membership Experience

Belonging is at the heart of everything we do. In the coming year, we are focused on:

- Creating more intentional touchpoints for connection beyond league play;
- Offering additional social, DEI-focused, and non-sport programming; and
- Gathering regular feedback from members to continuously improve.

We want every participant—new or returning—to feel welcomed, supported, and excited to be part of Stonewall.

Building Sustainable Support

To ensure Stonewall Sports Detroit can thrive for years to come, we are committed to:

- Maintaining affordable, accessible registration fees;
- Continuing transparent financial practices and reporting; and
- Growing mission-aligned sponsorships and fundraising partnerships.

Financial sustainability allows us to invest back into our members, our volunteers, and our community.



Thank you!

To our players, volunteers, sponsors, and supporters: thank you for being part of Stonewall Sports Detroit.

Together, we are building more than leagues—we are building community.



Brandon Shamoun, Ed.D.
Commissioner



John Casupang
Associate Commissioner



Joel Boyd
Sports Director



Ryann Ferguson
Financial Director



**LaMar Thompson-Hightower,
LMSW-C, CHW**
DEI Director



Natalie Relich
Sponsorship Director



Derek Queen
Marketing Director



Keivin Lewis
Policy & Advocacy Director



TJ Sweet
Events Director



Mikehl E. Hafner II
National Chapter Rep.



Christiana Allen, LMSW-C
Member-at-Large



Devin Daniels
Member-at-Large



www.stonewalldetroit.org

This report is intended to provide transparency and insight into Stonewall Sports Detroit's mission, operations, and impact. Financial details and governance information are available upon request.

