BeLonG To Youth Services
Annual Review 2010
BeLonG To Youth Services
Supporting Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Young People in Ireland

BeLonG To is the national organisation for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender (LGBT) young people in Ireland. We believe that LGBT young people need to be respected and cared for on the same basis as all other young people, and that when they are safe and supported in their families, schools and society they will thrive as healthy and equal citizens.

We provide direct youth work services to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender young people across Ireland. These are spaces where LGBT young people can meet each other, get involved in activities and see that their identities and selves are valuable and important.

Because we believe that the problems which LGBT young people experience are largely due to negative societal attitudes, we also work to change these attitudes. This is done by training teachers, youth workers and other professionals who work with young people. We also run awareness campaigns in schools and youth services and advocating and working with government departments, politicians and Non-Governmental Organisations to ensure that Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender young people are heard so that positive social change occurs.

Vision
BeLonG To’s vision is for an Ireland where Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender young people are empowered to embrace their development and social change.

Our Mission is
To provide safe and fun services to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender young people in Ireland which:

1. Respects Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender young people as full and valued members of society.
2. Provides young people with the skills and knowledge to thrive in a positive environment.
4. Advocates for change and challenges negative societal attitudes.

Theory of Change
When Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender young people are safe and supported in their families, schools and society they will thrive as healthy and equal citizens.
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Our Mission is
To provide safe and fun services to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender young people in Ireland which:
• Facilitate them through exploration, development and growth
• Enable them to access all their rights as equal citizens
• Empower them to participate as agents of positive social change
• and to provide advocacy and a campaigning voice so that society respects Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender young people as full and valued members

Theory of Change
When Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender young people are safe and supported in their families, schools and society they will thrive as healthy and equal citizens.

September 2011
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Belong To Youth Services is a registered charity - CHY No. 16534

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Web: www.belongto.org

Belong To Youth Services is jointly funded by the One Foundation, The Ireland Funds, HSE - National Office for Suicide Prevention, Office of the Minister for Children & Youth Affairs, the North Inner City Drugs Taskforce, the European Commission under the European Refugee Fund and is supported by the Office for the Promotion of Migrant Integration in the Department of Justice and Equality and Pobal.
Chairperson's Introduction

It gives me great pleasure as Chairperson to present the BeLonG To Youth Services Annual Report for 2010. This has been a really exciting and eventful year for BeLonG To and the report sets out the key activities and achievements for the year.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank the staff of BeLonG To for their extraordinary energy, commitment and enthusiasm under the inspired leadership of our Executive Director Michael Barron. This report is a tribute to their work.

I would like to express sincere appreciation to all our funders who are named in this report without whose generous support all of the work outlined here would not be possible.

I would like to thank my fellow Board members for their dedication, commitment and unfailing good humour, they make BeLonG To board meetings a happy duty.

And finally, thank you to our young people here at BeLonG To who are at the heart of the organisation and who provide us with the inspiration and vision that underlies all of our work. We look forward to continuing to work in partnership with our funders, friends and allies to ensure that all LGBT young people in Ireland have the opportunity to enjoy life to the full as equal and integrated members of our society.

Anna Quigley. Chairperson

Executive Director's Overview

At BeLonG To we work with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender young people to make Ireland safe and equal place for them. 2010 was a hugely important year in our work to make this a reality.

In late 2008 we received a major investment from the One Foundation and 2010 was the year when the worked which this support allowed came to fruition.

The numbers of young people accessing our direct youth services almost doubled and our National Network of LGBT youth groups grew from five to eight groups.

This growth was in part due to the huge success of the documentary series Growing Up Gay, which we worked with Crossing the Line Productions and RTE to produce. The series was viewed by 1 in 10 of the population, while 1 in 4 people in Ireland viewed our related feature on the Late Late Show.

In 2010 we launched Stand Up! LGBT Awareness Week. Hollywood actor Colin Farrell’s support for the campaign meant that it, and Irish LGBT young people, received great national and international attention.

2010 was a year when LGBT young people became a visible and central focus, both in public discussion and in policy development. This development included The Office for the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs adopting tackling homophobic bullying as a core issue and producing guidelines to combat it. It also allowed us to successfully apply and win funding for a new LGBT Asylum Seekers and Refugee project.

2010 was also a difficult year for BeLonG To, and for all charities and NGOs in Ireland due to very significant reductions in government funding to the sector. I would like to commend the Board and staff at BeLonG To for taking brave and decisive action to ensure that LGBT young people did not suffer because of this. These actions included implementing major savings in core running costs and staff agreeing to take a significant percentage pay reduction. In this context the growth of supports to LGBT young people in Ireland is all the more remarkable.

As Executive Director it is my great pleasure to work with such a truly remarkable and dedicated team of staff, Board and volunteers. It is also an absolute privilege to have the opportunity to work with such brave and socially conscious young people. I think this report is a testament to what is possible when young people and adults work in partnership to make Ireland a better place.

Michael Barron, Executive Director
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BeLonG To Youth Services

Because all young people deserve an equal shot at life...
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2010 was a year when LGBT young people became a visible and central focus, both in public discussion and in policy development. This development was driven in part by the work of the Equality Authority adopting tackling homophobic bullying as a core issue and producing guidelines to combat it. It also allowed us to successfully apply and win funding for a new LGBT Asylum Seekers and Refugee project.

What our members have to say...

Aodhán - age 20

“When I first came to BeLonG To I wasn’t ‘out.’ I was really frightened. But I met people who sat down and told me their stories. It was just amazing and it made things a lot easier. My best friend held my hand through the whole journey and said, ‘I love you for who you are, not what you are.’”

Patrick - age 18

“I was bullied in school. It was disheartening to be bullied in front of teachers who didn’t do anything about it. I realise it wasn’t because they didn’t care, but because they didn’t have any training on how to deal with the situation. I challenged my school at the top level but the bullying continued and I eventually left school early. It was BeLonG To that finally helped me. Today, I’m continuing my education and I’m in college.”

Seán - age 20

“I was terrified when I first came in. But the youth workers here at BeLonG To let me open up when I was ready. The friends that I’ve made and the way I have grown as a person have given me confidence.”

Ruth - age 19

“I had a really tough time in school. I was on the verge of being expelled because I had come out to my friends but was so down I didn’t want to go to school. I finally told my mom I had something to tell her. She said, ‘you’re gay?’ She had already known, but was just waiting for me to say it. It was hard for her at first but she has come to terms with it. Today, both she and my dad just want me to be happy.”
Coming Out Younger
In 2010 we witnessed two major shifts in Belong To. Firstly the numbers of young people accessing our services increased beyond our expectations practically overnight in response to the documentary series Growing Up Gay which aired on RTE in April; and secondly the age profile of young people using our services dropped a staggering 18 months over the year with the average age of a service user now at 16, with most young people accessing BeLonG To for the first time being 14-15.

Youth Leadership & Empowerment
Core to our work is empowering Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender young people to act as agents of their own positive social change. In 2010 our youth leadership programmes excelled and produced:

- The first all Ireland residential for Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender young women. This project was youth led, from sourcing the funding, to planning and delivery.

- A youth led campaign by Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender young women for positive recognition of their identities which engaged thousands in LBT women’s issues.

- A peer led youth project to tackle drug misuse among their peer group which dramatically increased awareness among LGBT young people around drug misuse.

- A peer led youth project to engage young people in HIV and Sexual Health Awareness which heightened awareness among participants around sexual health and HIV in particular.

- 32 new Youth Facilitators were trained across the country joining the existing team. Youth Facilitators act as peer educators and leaders within the organisation and receive intensive support and training for their roles throughout the year.

Skill Development
As part of our mission to facilitate the growth of LGBT young people we consider how we can equip them with new and practical skills and opportunities to experience different careers so they can make informed decisions about their futures. In 2010 we ran over 30 projects in this area, here are just two examples:

- Reel Youth - This partnership project with other youth services allows young people to engage in scripting their own short film and work through filming, producing and editing their own short film.

- GCN Youth Issue - Each autumn LGBT young people work with the wonderful team at Gay Community News (GCN) and produce the annual 'youth issue'. This programme supports young people to explore journalism, media, photographic skills and project management, while they produce a high quality national newspaper.

Supporting Young People and Mental Health Promotion
Throughout our work with LGBT young people we constantly engage in supporting their positive mental health. 153 young people availed of one-to-one support in relation to their mental health from our Youth Work Team. Our online support service pilot project was successfully completed.

Look After Yourself Look After Your Mental Health, the first booklet promoting positive mental health among LGBT people in Ireland was published and disseminated nationwide through public libraries and LGBT organisations and projects.

Drugs Education and Outreach Service
Supported through the NICDTF (North Inner City Drugs Task Force), this remains the only LGBT drugs awareness service in Ireland. As well as individual support, the programme engaged 80 young people in a peer-led substance awareness programme. In addition to this training for young people, the programme also responded to requests from outside agencies, to facilitate awareness training on LGBT drug users. More than 150 participants were trained at a series of successful events run throughout the year.
On the Birth of the National Network - Eoin’s story
Since we opened our doors in Dublin in 2003 we welcomed amazing young people from all over the country. One such young person was Eoin, who on most Sundays in 2004 and 2005 would get on a train in Mayo and make the four hour journey to Dublin to attend our BeLonG To Sunday group. He would stay for two hours of the group and before it ended he would head back to Heuston Station and take the four hour journey home again. This remarkable young man needed support from LGBT peers so badly that he would spend eight hours travelling to participate in a two hour group. At the time there was no LGBT youth group anyway near him, or in fact anywhere in the West of Ireland. Eoin, and many others, inspired us to develop what has become BeLonG To’s National Network of LGBT youth groups. We believe that all LGBT young people have the right to a safe space in their own area.

31% of the country has access to an LGBT Youth Group
The BeLonG To Starter pack and accreditation scheme continued to act as a template for the development of new youth service around the country in 2010. Using the pack, the Network Manager continued to offer existing groups on-going support, and new groups a template on which to build safe and appropriate youth services. In 2010 a second LGBT youth group opened its doors in Donegal, and the Dundalk group, AIM, became the third group to achieve BeLonG to accreditation.

The national network of LGBT youth groups met four times during 2010, offering workers from around the country the opportunity to meet up for support, information exchange and to work on projects together. Two national youth events were facilitated, a residential youth leadership course which was held in Dublin, and groups from around the country descended on Sligo, for a special youth-friendly pride festival, run in conjunction with North West Pride.

By the close of 2010 there were 7 groups up and running outside of Dublin. Start up pack development work had commenced with 4 new groups, and the demand for network services continued to increase.
In 2010, we launched Stand Up! Don’t Stand for Homophobic Bullying. During 2009, we had researched with LGBT young people what were the interventions that most helped when they were experiencing homophobic bullying, and when they were coming out. Young people clearly indicated that they need support from them came from their closest friends. Because of this we designed Stand Up! – a campaign which promotes friendship amongst young people as a way to combat homophobic bullying.

On the ground the campaign was a great success in its first year – engaging 2,100 young people in 230 youth services nationwide.

Online Stand Up! was also a huge success, with our series of online films (Stand Up! My Best Friend) being viewed over 30,000 times and with over 30,000 visits to our website over 2 weeks. Long Grass Productions, who made our short films, went on to produce a feature length documentary of Stand Up! My Best Friend which went on to be shown at film festivals in New York and Berlin.

Colin Farrell Endorsed Stand Up!
This made global news and Colin later talked openly on the Ellen DeGeneres Show describing when growing up in Dublin how his gay brother experienced homophobic bullying:

"The taunting and beatings were very frequent for him, and a constant part of his school years. I didn’t understand at the time, the concept of difference. Back then, as now, he was just my big brother. Intolerance is not genetically encoded, it is taught. It is learned at home, in the classroom and anywhere else that we gather as a group. But it is usually learned early and added on to from there. If there is nothing to fear, then there is nothing to hate."

Growing Up Gay
Growing up Gay, a two-part documentary series was broadcast on RTÉ 1 on April 19th and 26th. The series allowed LGBT young people to tell in their own words what it is like for them growing up in Ireland today. Developed by Crossing the Line Productions with us over four years, the documentary followed a number of young people over a two year period, all of whom were involved in BeLonG To and the National Network.

Because of the huge viewership figures, Growing Up Gay has been described as ‘the most gay ever in Irish living rooms’ and went a long way to challenging the invisibility and stigma which LGBT young people experience in Irish society.

Growing Up Gay subsequently went on to win ‘Best TV Programme of the Year’ in the Irish Entertainment Awards and ‘Event of the Year’ at the Gay and Lesbian Awards (GALAS)
BeLonG To Youth Services
Policy & Strategy

National Alcohol & Drugs Strategies
Through our submission to the public consultation process and collaboration with young people and other LGBT Organisations, LGBT people are included in both the National Alcohol and Drugs Strategies.

Gender Identity Advisory Group
Both young people and staff developed a submission and presented to the Gender Identity Advisory Group, articulating the needs of transgender young people.

LGBT Refugees & Asylum Seekers
Since BeLonG To’s inception we have worked with young LGBT refugees and asylum seekers in Ireland. In 2010 we successfully secured funding from the European Refugee Fund, Pobal and the HSE to develop Ireland’s first LGBT Refugee and Asylum Seekers Project.

National Youth Work Advisory Committee
We have been members of the National Youth Work Advisory Committee (NYWAC) since 2007. This committee advises the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs on the direction of supports for young people in Ireland. In 2010 we worked to develop an Equality subgroup of this committee to work to embed equality across national youth policy. This work supported the development of close working relationships with other national youth organisations and with the Office for the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs. It also resulted in the development of guidelines for tackling homophobia in youth services.
Belong To Youth Services is the national organisation for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender (LGBT) young people in Ireland. We believe that LGBT young people need to be respected and cared for on the same basis as all other young people, and that when they are safe and supported in their families, schools and society they will thrive as healthy and equal citizens.

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Vision

Belong To’s vision is for an Ireland where Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender young people are empowered to embrace their development.

Our Mission is

To provide safe and fun services to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender young people in Ireland which:

- Respects Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender young people as full and valued members
- Combats homophobic bullying
- Seeks to include Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender young people in all aspects of youth and childcare services
- Advocates for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender young people in the wider community
- Seeks to change societal attitudes towards Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender young people

Theory of Change

When Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender young people are safe and supported in their families, schools and society they will thrive as healthy and equal citizens.

LGBT School Curriculum

Our engagement with strategic partners has led to the development of the first resources on LGBT issues for the Social Personal & Health Education Programmes (SPHE) in post primary schools in Ireland. These resources will become part of the school curriculum and will be used in the classroom to address LGBT issues.

Office for the Minister for Children’s Addressing Homophobia Guidelines

This resource for the youth sector in Ireland is designed to assist youth workers and leaders to combat homophobic bullying they encounter in their youth service. Copies were distributed to all Youth Projects, Clubs and Organisations in Ireland. It was produced with and by the Office for the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs and was launched by Minister Barry Andrews TD.

IGLYO

In September 2010 we nominated a staff member to the Board of the International LGBTQ Youth & Student Organisations. This stronger link with IGLYO has allowed us to forge relationships with other LGBTQ youth organisations across Europe and facilitated the distribution of knowledge and experience which is already having positive impacts on our work. Our work within IGLYO supports the development of LGBTQ youth organisations in Eastern Europe and further afield with experience, expertise, advice, training and development.

Love Action

Love Action was a collaborative campaign involving BeLonG To, Irish Council for Civil Liberties, LGBT Noise, Marriage Equality, Gay Community News, GLEN & the National Lesbian & Gay Federation. The campaign had three core themes: Equality for Same Sex Relationships, Diverse Families and LGBT Young People. We ran a series of activities for for Valentines Day and at the Electric Picnic and Milk music festivals.

IDAHO

The International Day Against Homophobia takes place on the 17th of May each year. In 2010 we along with a coalition of other LGBTQ organisations in Ireland chose to focus our campaign on combating Transphobia and distributed 10,000 postcards across Dublin and held a rally at the General Post Office to raise awareness of Trans issues.
BeLonG To Youth Services  
Training & The Cathal Ryan Award

Training

In 2010 we trained over 3,000 professionals – mostly teachers and youth workers.

BeLonG To’s training is tailored to each particular group’s needs. Participatory in approach, the training allows professionals the space to safely explore issues in regard to working with LGBT youth. The training covers topics such as language and terminology, mental health, coming out and dealing with homophobic bullying.

*Highlights and Innovations of the training calendar in 2010:*

- Successful completion of a joint training project with the National Association of Principals, training teams of principals and students.
- 1st ‘whole school’ project successfully completed, training provided across all disciplines from teachers, management, students and parents.
- Over 3,000 professionals working with young people were trained during 2010.

Captain Cathal Ryan Award

Our Executive Director, Michael Barron, was the 2009 recipient of the Captain Cathal Ryan Award for Social Entrepreneurship. This was awarded from The One Foundation, The Ryan Family, and Social Entrepreneurship Ireland.

The award offered Michael and BeLonG To huge opportunities, and as a result in 2010 Michael:

- Participated in an executive education programme for NGO leaders at UPEACE, the United Nations mandated university for peace in Costa Rica.
- Travelled to New York to visit foundations and international LGBT and Human Rights organisations.
- Spent time in South Africa, working with Gay and Lesbian Memory in Action in Johannesburg and The Triangle Project in Cape Town.
BeLonG To Youth Services
Communications & Media

Ethos behind our Communications

BeLonG To uses communication tools to normalise the lives of LGBT young people to the general public, support LGBT young people with positive messages, and highlight that prejudice, intolerance or the denial of LGBT young people has serious negative consequences and must be reversed.

*BeLonG To’s media strategy satisfies multiple objectives including:*

- Normalising LGBT young people’s identities
- Prioritising LGBT youth issues
- Conveying the negative impact of homophobic attitudes.
- Supporting LGBT young people with positive messages, images and resources.
- Positioning of BeLonG To in the hearts and minds of press, public and policy makers.

Media & Public Relations

The most significant single media event for BeLonG To in 2010 was our appearance on the Late Late show where 1 in 4 Irish people tuned in to watch two young people from BeLonG To being interviewed about the issues LGBT young people in Ireland face and their own lived experience growing up in Ireland.

BeLonG To has cemented itself as the leading experts on the issues faced by lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender young people in Ireland and our staff contribute regularly in interviews for print and broadcast media. In 2010 BeLonG To gave a total of 89 interviews.

Information Support

We regularly receive queries from members of the public, individuals from other organisations, government agencies and departments of academic and research staff. Staff members normally refer such queries where appropriate or assist the enquirer to resolve their issue. BeLonG To continued to receive frequent and varied queries throughout 2010, nearly 300 queries in all were received throughout the year.
# Income & Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st December, 2010

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<th>2010</th>
<th>2009</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Expenditure</td>
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<td>Programme Costs</td>
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<td>Administration Costs</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excess of Income Over Expenditure</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Revenue Reserves at 01/01/10</td>
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<td>303,032</td>
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<tr>
<td>Revenue Reserves at 31/12/10</td>
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<td>119,920</td>
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*Expenses incurred in 2011 have been offset against revenue in 2010 leaving a reckonable reserve of 34,099 at the end of 2010*
## Balance sheet for year ended 31st December, 2010

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2010</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fixed Assets</strong></td>
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</tr>
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<td>Tangible Assets</td>
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<td><strong>Current Assets</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Debtors &amp; Prepayments</td>
<td>18,000</td>
<td>28,502</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash at Bank</td>
<td>212,638</td>
<td>80,839</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash on Hand</td>
<td>441</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>231,079</td>
<td>109,342</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creditors - Failing due within 1 Year</td>
<td>-37,578</td>
<td>-8,638</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Current Assets</strong></td>
<td>193,501</td>
<td>100,704</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets Less Current Liabilities</strong></td>
<td>204,649</td>
<td>11,920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred Income</td>
<td>-80,500</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>124,149</td>
<td>119,920</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Represented By**

|                      |        |
| Revenue By           | 124,149| 119,920 |
Chairperson's Introduction

It gives me great pleasure as Chairperson to present the BeLonG To Youth Services Annual Report for 2010. This has been a really exciting and eventful year for BeLonG To and the report sets out the key activities and achievements for the year.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank the staff of BeLonG To for their extraordinary energy, commitment and enthusiasm under the leadership of Anna Quigley. This is a tribute to their work.

I would like to express sincere appreciation to all our funders who are named in this report without whose generous support all of the work outlined here would not be possible.

I would like to thank my fellow Board members for their dedication, commitment and unfailing good humour, they make BeLonG To board meetings a happy duty.

The Executive Director

At BeLonG To we work with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender young people to make Ireland a safe and equal place for them. 2010 was a hugely important year in our work to make this a reality.

The growth of supports to LGBT young people in Ireland is all the more remarkable and dedicated team of staff, Board and volunteers. It is also an absolute privilege to have the opportunity to work with such brave and socially conscious young people. I think this report is a testament to what is possible when young people and adults work in partnership to make Ireland a better place.

Finance

BeLonG To Funders

The One Foundation
BeLonG To Youth Services
Core Funders / Project Funders

Core Funders
- The One Foundation
- Office of the Minister for Children & Youth Affairs
- Health Services Executive - National Office for Suicide Prevention
- North Inner City Drugs Taskforce
- European Commission via Pobal - European Refugee Fund
- Health Services Executive - Health Promotion Office

Project Funders
- European Commission - PROGRESS PROGRAMME 2007 - 2013
- Equality Authority - Equality Innovation Fund
- The Ireland Funds
- Starbucks - Realising Potential Grant
- Dún Laoghaire/ Rathdown County Council
- Health Services Executive - North East Region
- ESB - Electric Aid
- The Irish Film Board
- Health Services Executive - National Office for Suicide Prevention
- Cobranding Group
- Office of the Minister for Children & Youth Affairs
- Dublin City Council - Office for Integration
- Dublin City Council - Community Support Office
- Irish Youth Foundation
- Dublin LGBTQ Pride Festival
- Google Ireland
- The George Bar
- Spin 103.8
BeLonG To Youth Services
is the national organisation for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender (LGBT) young people in Ireland

Board Members
At BeLonG To Youth Services Annual General Meeting on the 6th of September 2010 the following Directors were re-elected:

Chairperson Anna Quigley
Company Secretary Billy Rabbit
Treasurer Aodhan Bourke
Director Maureen Looney
Director Susan Donlon
Director Brian Hewson
Director Billy Redmond
Director Aidan Harney
Director Emily Scanlan

Governance
At all times BeLonG To aspires to the highest standard of governance at every level in the organisation. Following a review, the Board decided to establish a permanent finance and fundraising group to support the work of the staff team in ensuring the organisations continued financial sustainability.

There were ten meetings of the Board in 2010. BeLonG To extends its thanks to all Board Members for their work during the year and for their continuing involvement and support.

Staff Members
The staff team within the organisation is listed below. BeLonG To’s staff participated in many training and development programmes in 2010 relevant to their roles.

Executive Director Michael Barron
National Network Manager David Carroll
Advocacy Coordinator Carol-Anne O Brien
Office Manager Oisin O’Reilly
Project Leader Glenn Keating
Training Officer Orla Egan Morley (until Oct)
Drugs Officer Gillian Brien
Youth Worker Lisa Mckenny
Youth Worker John Duffy

Internships & Work Experience
In 2010 BeLonG To was fortunate to benefit from the opportunity to host a number of interns and students on placement from NUI Maynooth. Our Internship Programme has become a staple part of our service delivery plan each year and we as an organisation are delighted to be in a position to offer support and experience to aspiring youth workers and community activists throughout the year.

Affiliations
BeLonG To is affiliated with or is a member of many other national and international non-governmental organisations. Below you will find a list of organisations of which BeLonG To is a member:

National Youth Council of Ireland
International LGBTQ Youth & Student Organisation
International Lesbian & Gay Association
Dublin LGBTQ Pride Festival
Gay Health Network
Children’s Rights Alliance
Volunteering Ireland
Irish Association of Suicidality
The Wheel
Fundraising Ireland
HSE Technology For Well-being group
LGBT Diversity
BeLonG To Youth Services is the national organisation for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender (LGBT) young people in Ireland. We believe that LGBT young people need to be respected and cared for on the same basis as all other young people, and that when they are safe and supported in their families, schools and society they will thrive as healthy and equal citizens.

We provide direct youth work services to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender young people across Ireland. These are spaces where LGBT young people can meet each other, get involved in activities and see that their identities and selves are valuable and important.

Because we believe that the problems which LGBT young people experience are largely due to negative societal attitudes, we also work to change these attitudes. This is done by training teachers, youth workers and other professionals who work with young people. We also run awareness campaigns in schools and youth services and advocating and working with government departments, politicians and Non-Governmental Organisations to ensure that Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender young people are heard so that positive social change occurs.

Vision
BeLonG To's vision is for an Ireland where Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender young people are empowered to embrace their development and enjoy full and equal access to society's resources.

Our Mission is
To provide safe and fun services to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender young people in Ireland which:

- Provide a safe space for young people to meet, socialise and explore their identities
- Offer opportunities for personal development and growth
- Encourage young people to become active citizens

- Respect LGBT young people as full and valued members of society
- Advocate for the rights and needs of LGBT young people
- Work to change negative societal attitudes

Theory of Change
When LGBT young people are safe and supported in their families, schools and society they will thrive as healthy and equal citizens.

September 2011
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BeLonG To Youth Services is a registered charity - CHY No. 16534
For any enquiries or to obtain additional copies of the Annual Review, please contact:
BeLonG To Youth Services
Parliament House
13 Parliament Street
Dublin 2
Tel: +353 1 670 6223
Web: www.belongto.org

Belong To are making real progress in making Ireland a better, safer and more equal place for LGBT young people. Last year the number of young people being supported by Belong To has more than doubled. At the same time our funding has been cutback by a fifth.

Because of this we need your help to continue to provide the support our young people need.

Please Donate by visiting www.belongto.org or send what you can to
Belong To Youth Services.
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Anna Quigley
Chairperson

Executive Director’s Overview

At BeLonG To we work with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender young people to make Ireland a safe and equal place for them. 2010 was a hugely important year in our work to make this a reality.

In 2010 we launched Stand Up! LGBT Awareness Week. Hollywood actor Mark Hamill, who is a member of the BeLonG To board of directors, received great national and international attention. The growth of supports to LGBT young people in Ireland is all the more remarkable and dedicated team of staff, Board and volunteers. It is also an absolute privilege to have the opportunity to work with such brave and socially conscious young people. I think this report is a testament to what is possible when young people and adults work in partnership to make Ireland a better place.

2010 was a year when LGBT young people became a visible and central focus, both in public discussion and in policy development. This development included the Department of Education and Skills adopting tackling homophobic bullying as a core issue and producing guidelines to combat it. It also allowed us to successfully apply and win funding for a new LGBT Asylum Seekers and Refugee project. This growth was in part due to the huge success of the documentary series Growing Up Gay, which we worked with Crossing the Line Productions and which went on to receive great national and international attention. 1 in 4 people in Ireland viewed our related feature on the Late Late Show.

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