



# THE **OUT** FOUNDATION

## MISSION STATEMENT



Our mission is to empower the LGBTQ+ students and alumni of Brigham Young University in achieving their intellectual, social, and professional potential. We do this by completing initiatives based on the needs of our students and alumni. Some of our initiatives include:

### **#OUTspoken Campaign**

The #OUTspoken campaign focuses on documenting and sharing alumni stories. This includes conducting interviews and taking portraits of LGBTQ+ alumni and sharing these stories on social media, our website, and in print publications. #OUTspoken showcases various paths LGBTQ+ alumni have taken—both during and after BYU—to validate our experiences as a community of alumni and to provide a model for current queer students at BYU.

### **Building Community**

The OUT Foundation builds community among LGBTQ+ BYU students and alumni by raising awareness of the resources we provide and holding alumni events around the country, all with the goal of eventually pairing LGBTQ+ BYU students with alumni mentors. The OUT Foundation has held two events for queer BYU alumni in New York City and Salt Lake City, and has actively participated in major events attended by LGBTQ+ Latter-day Saints, such as city Pride celebrations, Affirmation International, and the LoveLoud Festival hosted by Dan Reynolds, lead singer of Imagine Dragons.

### **Scholarship**

In June 2019, The OUT Foundation awarded \$6,000 in scholarships to two current LGBTQ+ BYU students. The award ceremony was attended by nearly 100 people, including former Utah State Senator Jim Dabakis and Matt Easton, a recent BYU graduate who went viral after coming out during his valedictorian speech.

### **Emergency Housing Fund and Other Resources**

The OUT Foundation is also working to set up an emergency fund and network of resources for students who have been disowned, kicked out of their housing, suspended, or expelled from BYU because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. We're also working with other local nonprofits to provide free & subsidized therapy services for LGBTQ+ BYU students.