

LGBTQ+ Youth Voices in Action: Contributions from Our Youth Advisory Board

**A Partnership Between Project SPARK at
Vanderbilt University with the Students of
Stonewall**



2024–2025

oasis
THERE'S MORE TO YOUTH

Project SPARK (Supporting Preteens and Advancing Research Knowledge) is a research project led by Dr. Kirsty Clark at Vanderbilt University focused on LGBTQ+ preteen suicide prevention.

Students of Stonewall is an organized group of diverse high school students at the Oasis Center who lend their voices and skills for positive change within Middle Tennessee.

Students of Stonewall served formally as the **Youth Advisory Board** for Project SPARK in 2024–2025! Here are some details about this partnership:

How Did Youth Shape The Research?

- Represented LGBTQ+ youth voices to ensure relevant research
- Shaped research questions and protocols
- Reviewed and improved recruitment materials
- Helped create and test a new youth-focused questionnaire
- Advised on ways to boost youth engagement
- Advocated for ethics and participant well-being

How Did Youth Grow as Leaders and Learners?

- Expressed differing views
- Applied critical thinking to real-world issues
- Solved problems collaboratively
- Translated ideas across diverse audiences and perspectives
- Learned about the research process