



2014 Report to Funders

33 Individuals funded

30 from Jamaica
2 from Nigeria
1 from Uganda

3 Referrals to sponsors

To be resettled to Canada

4 Grants received

TD Bank
Unifor Social Justice Fund
24-7 In Touch Grant
MCC Toronto

Charity of Choice for

Heart of the Flag Federation

Thanks to a TD Bank - World Pride grant, Rainbow Railroad hired its first employee in 2014. This investment provided the support and coordination our volunteers need to allow us to sustainably deliver on our mandate.

More cases supported in 2014 than ever before

In 2014, Rainbow Railroad provided financial assistance to 33 LGBT individuals as they sought a safe haven from state-sponsored or enabled violence. This assistance included funds for airfare and pre-travel support, including basic survival needs for individuals living in hiding while preparing to leave their home countries.

Beyond direct financial assistance, we provided information and resources on seeking asylum in safer countries, such as describing the United Nations High Commission for Refugee's (UNHCR) process for making a refugee claim in a third country and then applying to be resettled in Canada. We also provided referrals to three additional individuals who were already in a third country but were not safe and needed to be resettled to Canada. Sponsors have already begun the process of privately sponsoring these individuals for resettlement to Canada.

New contacts in Nigeria

To help verify the increasing number of requests we received from Nigeria in 2014, we developed a working relationship with Lawyers Alert, a Nigerian NGO fighting for democracy and documenting human rights violations in the country.

Development and Growth

In addition to hiring our first staff, the Board welcomed a new Treasurer and a new Chair of the Development Committee, and formalized new policies and processes to ensure good governance and improve casework.

2014 Success Stories



Jamaica – “Tim and Todd” are gay twins who suffered broken bones after being targeted by a gang in Jamaica. Their mother was forced to turn them out on the streets after she received death threats from community members.

Thanks to a successful fundraising push in December, Rainbow Railroad raised enough to pay for pre-travel support and airfare for the twins. They are now both safe in Canada.



Nigeria – “Robert” is one of 14 gay men from Abuja, Nigeria, who were dragged from their beds at night and beaten with clubs by a group led by the local Christian pastor. The group covered his home with homophobic graffiti and death threats, forcing him into hiding.

Thanks to a new relationship in the country, Rainbow Railroad was able to quickly verify his case and provide him with airfare and other incidentals. He is now safe in the USA where he has made a successful asylum claim.

Responding to new challenges

Rainbow Railroad's increased profile in 2014 led to an increase in the number of requests for help in countries where we do not have existing relationships with LGBT-friendly organizations. This unfamiliarity makes case verification more difficult and time consuming for Rainbow Railroad staff and volunteers, and limits the support we can provide.

To address this issue, we are working to develop and improve our networks in Nigeria and Uganda and with LGBT diaspora communities here in Canada. Over time, we hope to foster trusting relationships with more communities that are being targeted with violence.

Rainbow Railroad also faces the challenge of a sharp devaluation of the Canadian dollar, which has increased the cost of any pre-travel support or airfare paid in US Dollars. We expect exchange rates to continue to be unfavourable through 2015, adding significant costs to most cases.

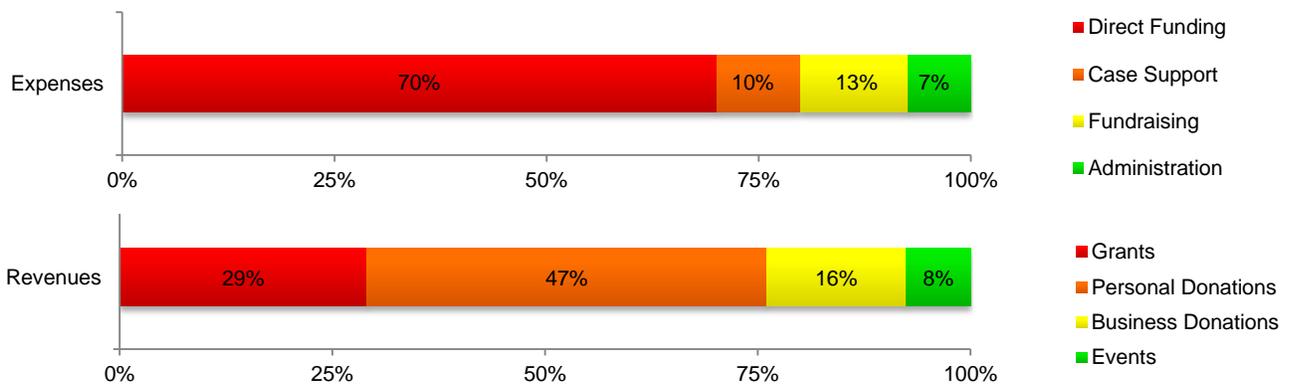
2015 Preliminary objectives

The Board will be holding a formal strategic planning session in spring 2015, but has already set a number of priorities for the year ahead, including:

- Make \$100,000 in funding available for direct case costs in 2015.
- Build a reserve to fund a staff position through 2016.
- Build better relationships with Nigerian organizations and LGBT diaspora in Canada to better assist cases from that country.

Our staff and volunteers remain committed to helping LGBT people from around the world find a safe haven from persecution.

80% of the funds spent in 2014 were used directly on case funding, verification and support.



2014 Statement of Operations

(unaudited)

Revenue		Expenses	
Grants	\$51,973	Direct Funding	\$85,938
Personal Gifts	\$83,808	Case Support	\$12,088
Business Gifts	\$29,277	Fundraising	\$15,613
Events	\$13,507	Administrative	\$9,063
Total Revenue	\$178,565	Total Expenses	\$122,702
		Carried forward	\$55,863