

COBRA LILY COLLECTIVE IMPACT REPORT 2025

PROPAGATING COMMUNITY CARE

We were founded in 2025 with the aim of promoting the blossoming of trans people in the Upper Valley of Vermont and New Hampshire through mutual aid. In this first year, we have developed several key projects in order to meet our founding goal.

21

Total support groups held in 2025

55

Respondents to the community needs survey

380%

Growth in membership-nearly quadrupling our size.

PROJECTS

Support groups

Twice monthly peer support groups are our flagship program. In addition to this, we offer a surgery-specific support group and will begin youth support groups in 2026.

Community needs survey

We are committed to mutual aid that is responsive to community need. We developed and administered a survey to gauge this and guide our organizational priorities.

Drag, dances, and dinners--oh my!

We spent our first year creating myriad social spaces--from raunchy drag shows to sober family meals--to promote trans belonging.

CASH GROWTH

\$7,500

Total funds raised

This cash materialized through fundraisers and independent grassroots donations from you. It was used to reserve spaces for events, pay for meals and directly support community members. In 2026, we are looking forward to using some of these funds to pursue 501(c)(3) status.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to the Upper Valley Democratic Socialists of America for providing both funds and guidance which helped us thrive in 2025. This report was compiled by Treasurer Sean DuMont in collaboration with other members of the Steering Committee (August Driussi (Co-Chair), Guinevere Herron (Co-Chair), and Violet Kitchen (Secretary)).

"The support I received from Cobra Lily after my FFS surgery was needed, helpful, and quite moving. No fewer than 10 people gave me rides, held my hand in the hospital, dropped off or cooked meals, and kept me company as I was stuck at home. I felt held; I shed happy tears. I eased out of recovery glowing with deepened love for my trans siblings, feeling grateful to be trans myself. What power and depth there is to the kinship that we feel and practice!"

- Anonymous community testimonial

"CLC has helped me feel safe and less alone in a political environment that is only growing more hostile to my identity. I value the openness to new participants while having members and leadership who focus on safety and mutual aid. I can enjoy lighthearted events that build community while giving and receiving material and mental health support."

- Anonymous community testimonial



COBRA LILY COLLECTIVE

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SEEDS WE'VE SOWN

A RETROSPECTIVE FROM LEADERSHIP ON OUR FIRST YEAR AND WHAT LIES AHEAD

This report is addressed to our community. As a volunteer-run organization operating on grassroots donations, we have neither a board nor donors to answer to; if you are reading this, it is for you. Whether you have been involved with the Cobra Lily Collective or are learning of our existence for the first time, you should know we have been pretty busy. But isn't that what every organization says? It's true, too often groups like ours talk too much about doing meaningful work and creating material change that they are not willing or able to provide evidence for. So, it is our immense privilege to present to you a brief summary of our organization's activities in 2025.

In our first year, the Cobra Lily Collective exceeded our goals of fostering trans aid, joy, and defiance in the Upper Valley. Early on, we launched a twice-monthly peer support group, wrote our guiding manifesto, composed and administered a community needs survey and hit the ground running. We cultivated joy through drag shows, dance parties, and music events that doubled as fundraisers. We propagated skills through community-run workshops on documentation changes, makeup application, fabricating gender-affirming garments, applying TransTape, voice training, sourcing and administering hormones, and supporting one another through surgeries. We held a forum with community members and clinicians addressing the struggles faced by trans youth. We broke bread, nourishing and being nourished by one another. Against the backdrop of rising fascism and the scapegoating of trans rights, we found our defiance through political education nights, self-defense workshops, tabling at Pride events, and taking to the streets in protest. Our membership nearly quadrupled, increasing from 16 founding members to our current estimate of 78. This year, we plan to launch a youth support group in collaboration with Outright NH, become a registered 501(c)(3) and continue enriching the lives of trans people through community care. In our first year, we discovered that the best way to inspire radical action is by helping one another.

To answer an implicit question, yes, a group of scrappy transsexuals, some of us in our first year of transition, created a flourishing organization meeting each other's needs in practically every area of our lives. The fruit of our relentless labor was nourished by our collective commitment to stick together through transition and transformation and all its beautiful, blinding disorientation. As the landscapes of our lives changed, we maintained a steadfast focus on growth, both individually and as an organization. When all is said and done, it is neither the Muay Thai nor the target practice that will protect us, it is a community that serves as a guiding light when the world feels impossibly dark. Growing together has allowed us to flourish together. Thank you for giving us the space to bloom.

