

Welcome to the Side By Side team

JASON ELLIOTT

Director of Development and Community Engagement



Hello! My name is Jason Elliott (*he/him*) and I'm thrilled to be Side By Side's new Director of Development and Community Engagement!

A graduate of Tidewater Community College and the University of Virginia, my professional background spans the arenas of public health, communications and public relations, and HIV prevention and health education. I'm also the founder of a Charlottesville-based organization that brings LGBTQ+ people together through multiple social events each month. I was also, many years ago, a facilitator at the Charlottesville chapter of ROSMY, so coming back around all these years later in this new role feels pretty special!

Once I am settled in, I'll be overseeing three areas of Side By Side's mission: fundraising, communications, and education. I'll be building relationships with [donors](#) and community partners, directing our communications strategy through avenues like [our monthly newsletter](#) and social media channels ([Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)), and working to grow Side By Side's [training and education programs](#) into an even stronger resource for our community.

One of my biggest priorities in these first few months is getting out from behind the desk and meeting the people, like you, who make Side By Side possible. I'm actively reaching out to donors, community partners, and supporters, but it's a pretty long list! So, if you'd like to help me fill up my calendar, [I'd love to schedule a time to meet](#) - virtually or in person. I'm looking forward to getting to know you better and hear why our mission is important to you.

On the note of getting to know each other, a little about me personally: I'm happiest when I'm spending time in nature, exploring a museum or art gallery, or traveling somewhere new. Going to bed at a reasonable hour and true crime podcasts are just as enjoyable as indulging in a good scoop of ice cream or visiting a new campground. While I don't yet have children or pets, I do readily admit to having far too many houseplants for one man to justify (and no plans to change that anytime soon)!

Thank you, again, for the warm welcome and I cannot wait to work with you as we continue to create a community where Virginia's LGBTQ+ youth can define themselves, belong, and flourish!

Standing side by side,

Director of Development and Community Engagement

