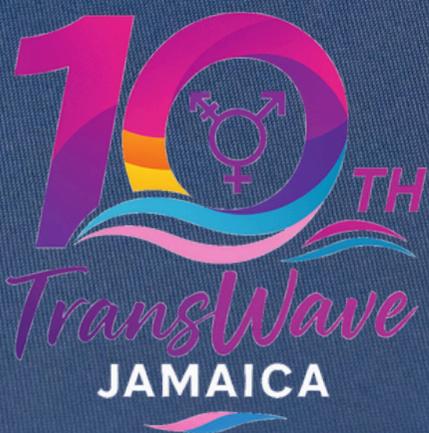


NEWSLETTER

QUARTER 4

October-December 2025



CARE IN TIMES OF CRISIS

Mutual Aid Program

As we closed out 2025, TransWave Jamaica stepped firmly into its next decade, grounded in community, guided by care, and propelled by collective power. Quarter 4 was marked by resilience, remembrance, celebration, and deepened connection, particularly in the face of Hurricane Melissa. This period reflected our continued commitment to trans-led care, movement-building, and collective survival, made possible through partnership, solidarity, and love.

During this quarter, we successfully completed its Mutual Aid Project, an initiative designed to support transgender and gender non-conforming persons facing emergency and critical situations, including unsafe housing, medical needs, and food insecurity. With the onset of Hurricane Melissa, this project was rapidly prioritised to assist those most severely impacted, particularly in West Jamaica, while still ensuring islandwide support.





An online application form was developed and circulated, allowing individuals to apply directly for assistance or on behalf of others who lacked reliable access to the internet. Through this effort, we distributed care packages containing grocery items, potable water, solar-powered power banks, battery-operated radios, medical supplies, and cleaning items. Support reached community members across the island, including residents of the Larry Chang Safe House and individuals in St. Elizabeth, Hanover,

Trelawny, St. James, and St. Ann. Between November and December 2025, sixty-six (66) persons benefitted from these interventions, with additional financial assistance continuing into January 2026 through support from WE Change/The Community Centre as part of an ongoing partnership.

Through funding from Rainbow Railroad, TransWave was also able to directly support four (4) trans and gender non-conforming persons in securing temporary housing assistance. Additionally, transportation was provided for eighteen (18) trans persons in St. Ann to access a local LGBTQ+ shelter, and potable water was supplied to the shelter after Hurricane Melissa disrupted access to running water. While the project achieved significant reach, challenges included difficulty contacting some applicants due to damaged phone networks and limited internet access, as well as the need to carefully screen suspicious applications from non-trans individuals or persons residing outside Jamaica. This work was supported by GiveOut, Rainbow Railroad, and the Rustin Fund through a donation campaign, with WE Change/The Community Centre serving as a key implementation partner.

COMMUNITY CARE

Psychosocial Support

Mental and emotional wellness remained a priority throughout the quarter. In November 2025, with funding from Rainbow Railroad, we hosted a residential psychosocial empowerment session for trans and gender non-conforming persons who were negatively impacted by Hurricane Melissa. Ten (10) participants were accommodated at a hotel in Trelawny, where they were provided with food and shelter and engaged in facilitated sessions focused on resilience, coping with disaster, promoting positive mental health outcomes, and strengthening community bonds. The session created space for rest, reflection, healing, and reconnection at a critical moment for participants.

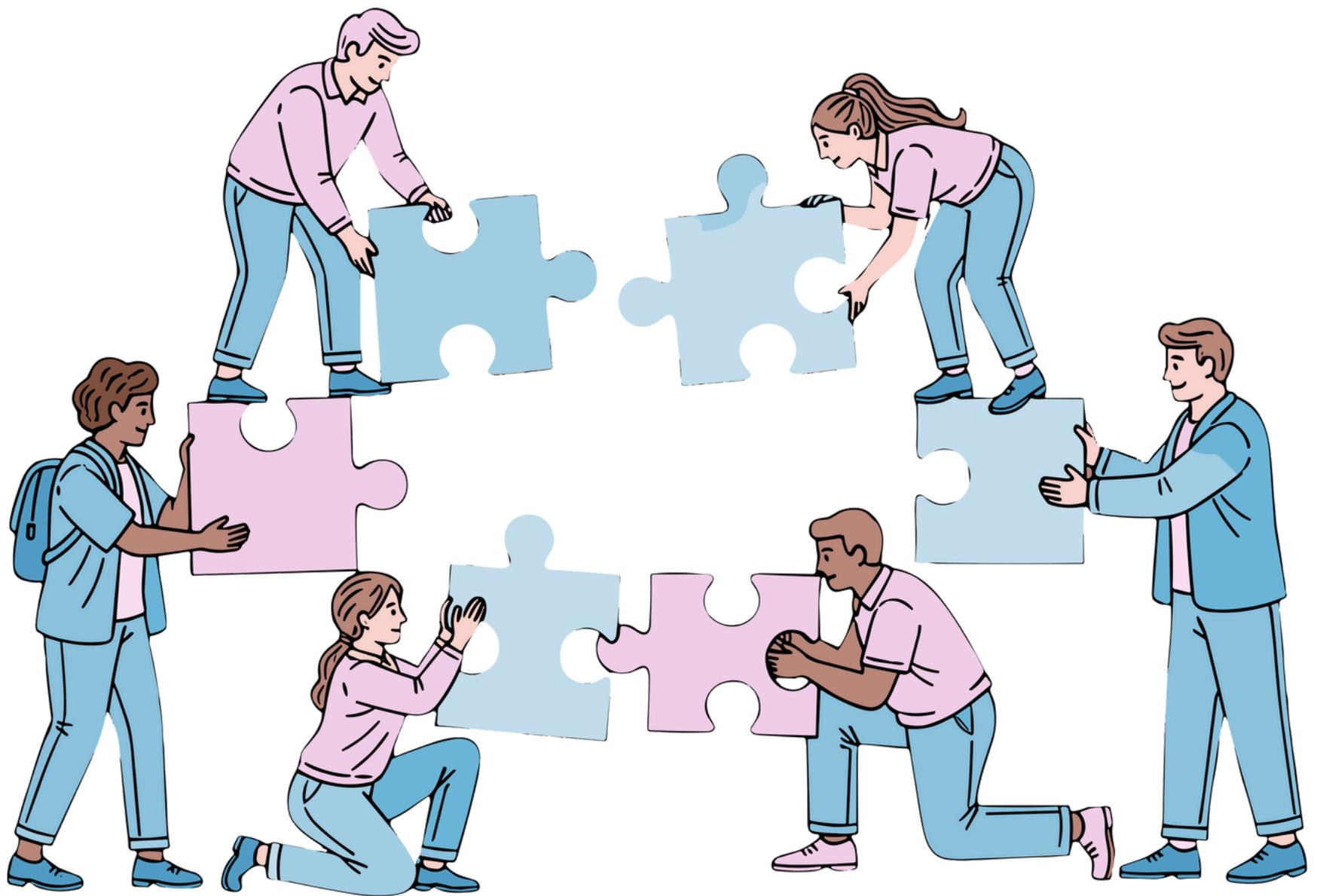


STRENGTHENING OUR TEAM

Community Engagement & Outreach



During the quarter, TransWave also strengthened its internal capacity through the onboarding of a Community Engagement and Outreach Officer. Anphrony Grizzle (they/them) joined the team under the CVCC framework and will support outreach efforts by receiving reports of human rights violations, facilitating linkages to essential services, mobilising community members for events, and supporting broader community engagement initiatives.



THE PINK PAGES DIRECTORY

Partnership w/ Queertego

**QUEERTEGO AND
TRANSWAVE
JOINED FORCES ON
OUR QUEER
DIRECTORY
PROJECT.
INTRODUCING:**

P  NK PAGES

In December 2025, we continued our work on the Pink Pages Directory in collaboration with QueerTego. This initiative aims to create a contact list of queer- and trans-led or affirming businesses, organisations, and service providers that can serve as a safer guide for community members seeking specific services. A call was issued via social media inviting businesses and groups to submit their information for inclusion.

To date, twenty-four (24) submissions have been received, including ten (10) businesses, nine (9) healthcare providers, five (5) social service providers, one (1) organisation, and no legal services submissions. Progress on this activity was temporarily delayed due to the reprioritisation of hurricane relief efforts, including impacts on QueerTego staff, and work will continue into 2026.

PRESENTING

P  NK PAGES

Safe. Visible. Verified.

GET LISTED TODAY —
LINK IN BIO



TRANS DAY OF REMEMBRANCE: CANDLELIGHT VIGIL

Community Engagement

In observance of Trans Day of Remembrance (TDOR) on November 20, 2025, we hosted a candlelight vigil and movie night on the grounds of Rainbow House. Forty-five (45) participants, including trans community members, allies, partners, and representatives from other civil society organisations, gathered to honour and remember trans lives lost to violence and transphobia. The event included a screening of *The Stroll* (2023), a documentary highlighting the lives of trans sex workers in New York City's Meatpacking District during the 1990s.

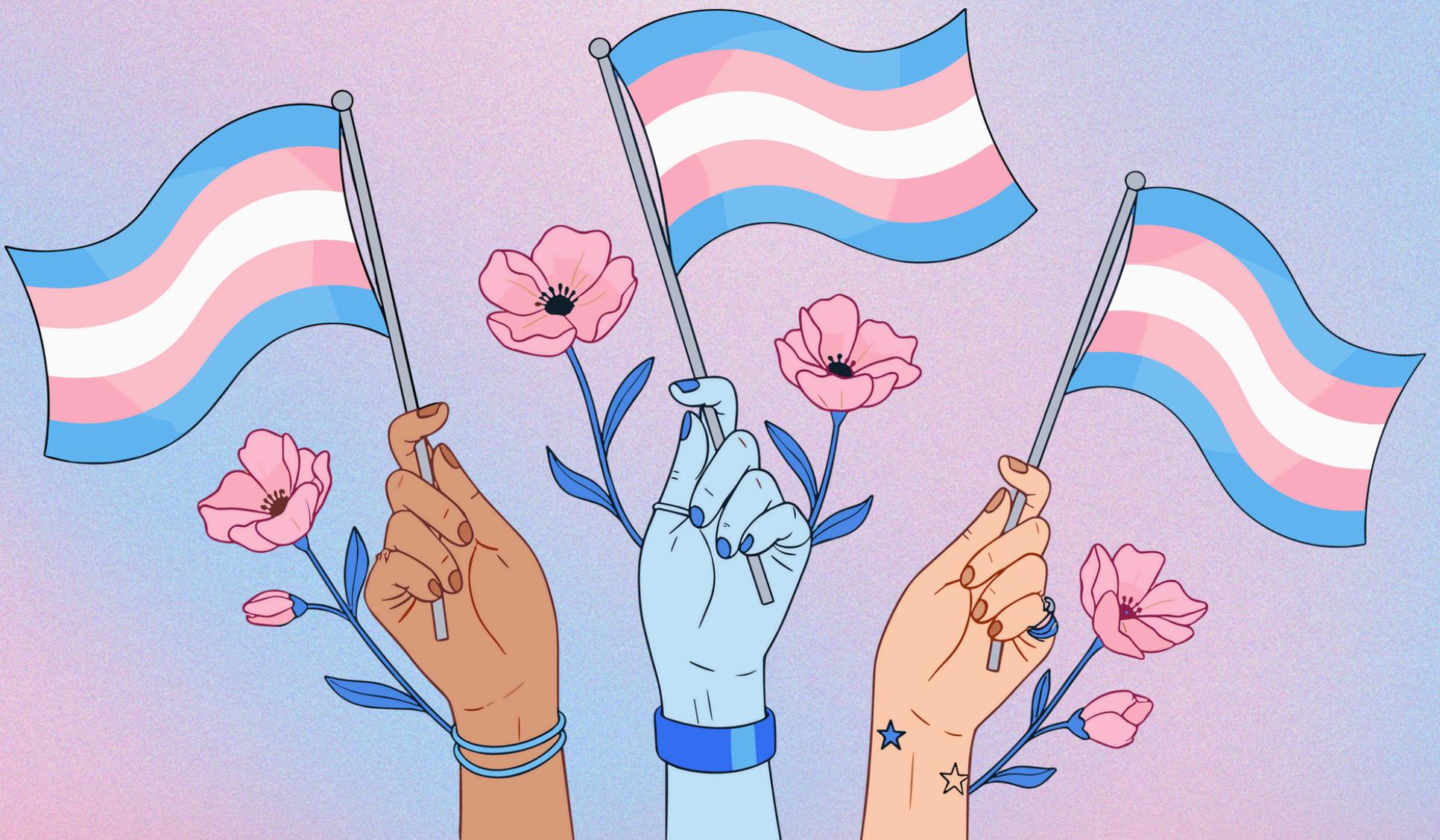


The evening concluded with a candle-lighting ceremony, during which participants placed candles along a mural commemorating trans siblings lost over the years, and a shared poster activity where attendees left messages of love, remembrance, and affirmation. Partners in attendance included Equality For All Foundation, Children First, and Cari-Trans Support Group.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS AND FEEDBACK SESSIONS

Community Engagement

To ensure accountability and responsiveness to community needs, TransWave conducted community consultation and feedback sessions during Quarter 4. One rural in-person session engaged ten (10) participants, a Kingston-based session engaged twenty-nine (29) participants, and an online feedback form received six (6) responses, reaching a total of forty-five (45) persons. Insights from these engagements informed the development of the 2025 Community Feedback Report, which was shared internally with staff and highlighted key successes, gaps, and recommendations to guide future programming. Challenges included managing large group dynamics during the Kingston session and limited gender diversity among participants, with a predominance of trans women and transfeminine persons. Moving forward, TransWave plans to host smaller sessions and partner with organisations such as Cari-Trans Support Group to diversify participation.



A DECADE OF STRIFE

10th Anniversary Gala

On December 10, 2025, TransWave Jamaica proudly hosted its 10th Anniversary Gala at The Jamaica Pegasus, commemorating a decade of advocacy, resilience, and community leadership. The event brought together eighty-three (83) participants, including staff, trans community members, partners, and stakeholders.



Hosted by Gaza, the evening featured welcome remarks and addresses from Interim Executive Director Lamar “Shey” Grant and Director of Research and Advocacy Sheré Samuels, as well as toasts from Glenroy Murray of Equality For All Foundation and Glynn-Devon Bryan of Cari-Trans Support Group.

The programme also included performances by the lip-sync performers Kadine Lindsay and Fruit Punch, live music by The Braincells, and the ceremonial cutting of a commemorative cake, shared by attendees. The gala served as a moment of reflection, gratitude, and celebration of TransWave’s unbreakable legacy.



A DECADE OF IMPACT

10th Anniversary Gala

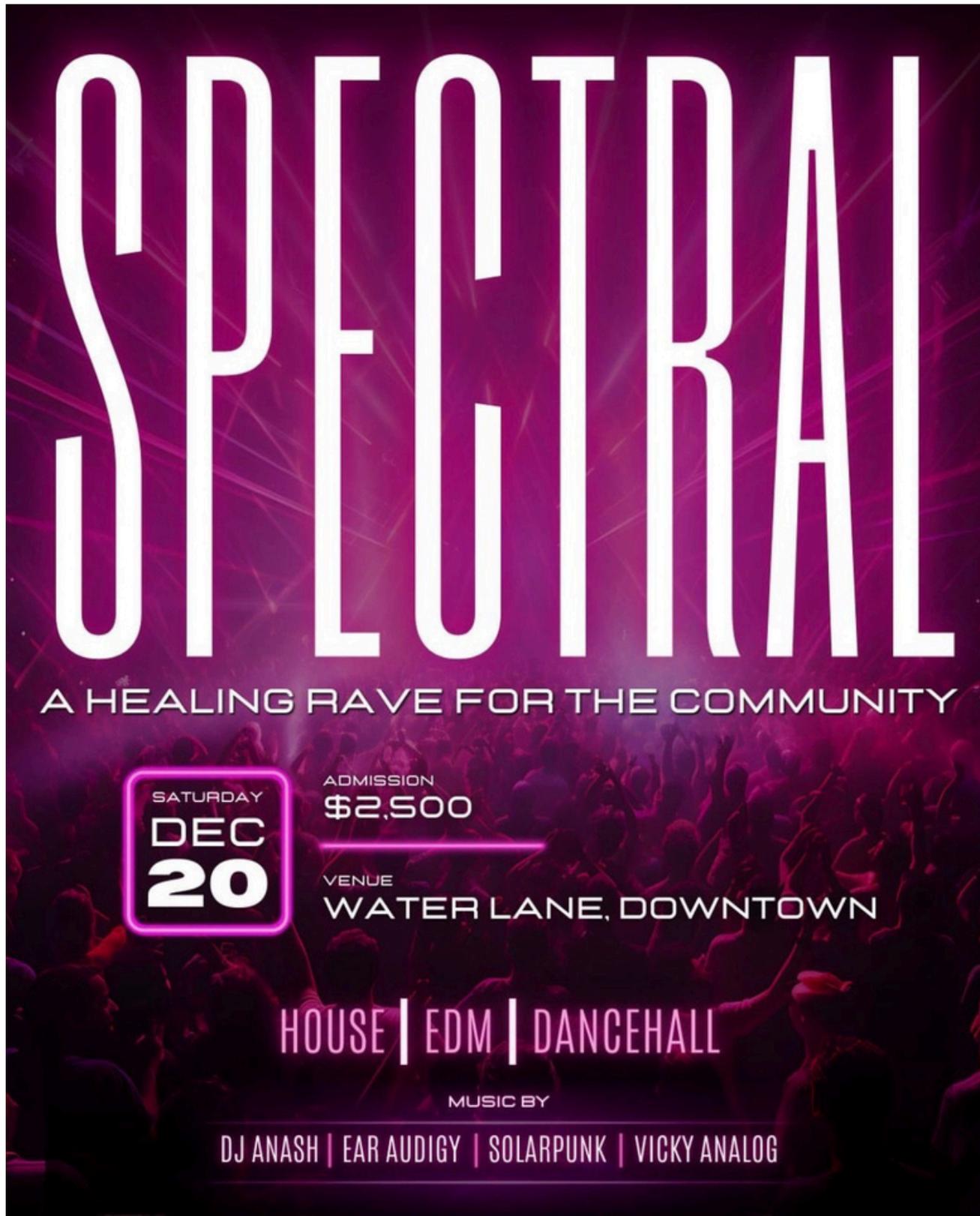


A DECADE OF RESILIENCE

CLOSING THE YEAR WITH OUR COMMUNITY

Spectral Rave

The year concluded with Spectral Rave, a vibrant community event held in Downtown Kingston in collaboration with WE Change and The Community Center. With three (3) of our staff members present, the event supported hurricane relief efforts for DJ Anash's community in St. Elizabeth while also contributing to the growth of TransWave's Health Fund. This partnership further strengthens access for trans communities to ongoing relief initiatives, including care packages, financial aid, and rebuilding supplies.





As we enter 2026, TransWave Jamaica remains committed to care, resistance, and community-led change.

We extend our deepest gratitude to our partners, funders, volunteers, and community members who made this work possible. Together, we continue to move forward; stronger, wiser, and more connected than ever.

LOOKING AHEAD: TO THE NEXT DECADE

