

PRESS RELEASE**For Immediate Release:**

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Contact: Gunner Scott
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206.323.3318**Pride Foundation Awards More than Half a Million Dollars in Grants
Bolstering LGBTQ Communities across the Northwest***Awards \$507,000 to organizations in Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, & Washington*

SEATTLE, WA— Today, Pride Foundation announced \$507,000 in grants to 81 organizations in Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington—investing vital resources into local organizations working to ensure that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) people and their families can live fully and safely in their home communities.

This year's award amount is the highest Community Grants funding total in Pride Foundation history and comes at a time when LGBTQ communities are facing enormous challenges and opportunities at local, state, and federal levels.

Here in Idaho, eight grants totaling \$39,000 were awarded. They include:

- **North Idaho Pride Alliance** (Post Falls, Idaho): For the development of a mental health and health care resource and referral network for LGBTQ youth and seniors, which will also include specific education and training opportunities for community providers.
- **Pocatello High Schools** (Pocatello, Idaho): To provide educational and social supports to LGBTQ students through Prism Clubs in Pocatello middle and high schools.
- **Wassmuth Center for Human Rights** (Boise, Idaho): For the creation of a video narration of Idaho's history of human rights, including the struggle for LGBTQ equality, to be featured at the Anne Frank Memorial and distributed to schools around the state as well as to utilize in trainings and workshops with students and the public to examine the systemic discrimination facing the LGBTQ community.

Read a complete list of grantees [here](#).

“The number of organizations engaged in critical life-saving and life-affirming work is truly inspiring,” said Kris Hermanns, Pride Foundation Chief Executive Officer. “Today, and since 1985, Pride Foundation and its partners are committed to supporting and growing this movement—a grassroots movement based in love, courage, and empowering people to be their full selves.”

The challenges in Idaho for LGBTQ people remain formidable. Currently, Idaho has no statewide legal protections for LGBTQ people based on sexual orientation or gender identity, despite a decade of grassroots organizing and education around this effort.

“To-date, the Idaho Legislature has only ever granted one public hearing regarding such proposed legislation.” said Steve Martin Pride Foundation’s Regional Development Organizer in Idaho based in Boise. “But we remain committed and confident that this is achievable and within our reach.”

In addition to the community grants announced today, Pride Foundation awarded a total of nearly \$850,000 to impactful organizations and student leaders in Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington in 2017 through our scholarship program, sponsorships, Rapid Response Fund, and Donor Advised Grants.

Since the foundation began in 1985, Pride Foundation has awarded more than \$70 million to promote the safety, health, and well-being of LGBTQ individuals and families across the Northwest region—with a focus on those who are most impacted by disparities and inequities.

The press and members of the public can learn more about these remarkable grantee organizations at local [year-end events taking place around the region](#). We invite you to join us in celebrating their accomplishments and important work which is sparking lasting change across our communities.

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Founded in 1985, Pride Foundation is a regional community foundation serving Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington. Its mission is to inspire giving to expand opportunities and advance full equality for LGBTQ people in the Northwest. Learn more at www.pridefoundation.org.