

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **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 Oregon, 19 projects totaling \$111,000 received support. They include:

- **Cascade AIDS Project** (Portland, Oregon): For the Bridges to Work program to help HIV positive people living with AIDS, and transgender people return to work through career-related training by delivering culturally-specific and safe employment services, as well as for expanding housing support services for people living with HIV.
- **Immigration Counseling Service** (Portland and Hood River, Oregon): For the expansion of legal support for LGBTQ immigrants who are vulnerable to deportation and for expanding outreach for immigration law 101 trainings within the LGBTQ community in Oregon and SW Washington.
- **Safe Harbors** (Enterprise, OR): For the *Safe Space Youth Program* (S2YP) in Wallowa County, including continued outreach and training for area teachers and administrators as the need for LGBTQ-specific programming for youth grows.
- **SAGE Metro Portland, a program of Friendly House** (Portland, Oregon): To ensure SAGE staff can connect LGBTQ seniors and elders to culturally appropriate resources and social, recreational, and fitness opportunities.
- **Trans\*Ponder** (Eugene, Oregon): For ongoing support of their trans inclusive legislative advocacy work, monthly support groups, social outings, educational events, as well as partnerships with area organizations and businesses to provide LGBTQ competency trainings.

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.”

Currently, Oregon’s LGBTQ community, is experiencing increased visibility and gaining traction—from the election of the first openly LGBTQ governor in the country, to the passage of the first piece of transgender-specific legislation, which simplifies the name and gender marker change on Oregon birth certificates.

“While there has been incredible progress in Oregon, the community has also faced many challenges,” said Katie Carter, Pride Foundation’s Director of Strategic Partnerships in Oregon. “The challenges ahead include proposed anti-immigrant ballot measures, and other measures designed to remove healthcare or raise premiums for many of Oregon’s most vulnerable communities—there is still much work to be done.”

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](http://www.pridefoundation.org).*