



Building a Foundation for All

PRESS RELEASE

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Pride Foundation Awards Grants to 56 Organizations Supporting LGBTQ Community in the Northwest *32 Washington Organizations among Grantees*

Seattle, WA— Pride Foundation announced today that it has awarded \$303,775 to 56 organizations that support lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) youth, adults, and families in the Northwest. A total of \$175,000 was awarded to 32 organizations in Washington State, six of which are focused on serving the LGBTQ community in Eastern Washington.

Despite the surge in marriage equality victories across the country and progress in Washington to provide inclusive healthcare coverage for transgender people, LGBTQ people still face heightened risks of hate crimes, poverty, homelessness, discrimination, bullying, HIV infection, and mistreatment in social and human services.

The lived reality for LGBTQ youth and adults in Eastern Washington is often marked with fear, isolation, and uncertainty. Many do not feel safe living openly and are forced to hide a critical piece of who they are.

By directing resources to those who remain most invisible and vulnerable despite recent progress, Pride Foundation's community grants program is making an important statement about the work that lies ahead and the continued need in the LGBTQ community.

"Our grantees reflect the diversity of our community, and the breadth of issues affecting LGBTQ people throughout their lives," said Kris Hermanns, Executive Director of Pride Foundation. "When viewed collectively, these investments paint a comprehensive picture of the road ahead—from safe schools, to workplace equality, to culturally-competent healthcare and social services, to food and housing security, to elder care."

Pride Foundation's grantees will be working to reduce barriers faced in rural communities, and other priorities include youth, people of color, transgender people, and elders.

Highlights from Pride Foundation's 2014 Eastern Washington grants include:

Blue Mountain Heart to Heart (Walla Walla): \$7,500 to support the organization's HIV and Hepatitis C program, which reaches at-risk groups who have little or no access to HIV or hepatitis C prevention resources, information, or testing.

Odyssey Youth Center (Spokane): \$7,500 to support Odyssey Youth Center's Health and Wellness Program—providing LGBTQ youth with a sense of community and a safe space for discussions, support groups, and learning, sharing resources and solutions, developing leadership skills, and accessing emergency crisis services.

Thin Air Community Radio (Spokane): \$3,000 to support the production, recording, and editing of OUTspoken—the only locally produced LGBT issues radio program in the Inland Northwest.

This year's grantees include LGBTQ organizations as well as mainstream organizations providing programming and services specifically to the LGBTQ population. LGBTQ issues only receive [0.26% of total foundation dollars](#) (26 cents for every 100 dollars), making Pride Foundation's work even more critical.

In addition to their community grants program, Pride Foundation also makes investments in LGBTQ youth, adults, and families through a scholarship program, donor-advised, and donor-designated funds. In total, the foundation has invested nearly \$7.1 million this year to support LGBTQ people in their home communities.

"In all that we do, we are focusing our resources and grant dollars on bridging the gap between legal victories and the ability for all LGBTQ people to be who they are, where they are," said Hermanns. "We are honored to partner with wonderful organizations and individuals throughout our region and country that share our values and hopes for our community."

The full list of Pride Foundation grantees and project descriptions is available at www.pridefoundation.org/grantees.

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Pride Foundation is a regional community foundation that inspires giving to expand opportunities and advance full equality for LGBTQ people across the Northwest. Learn more at www.pridefoundation.org.