



Building a Foundation for All

PRESS RELEASE

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Pride Foundation Awards Grants to 56 Organizations Supporting LGBTQ Community in the Northwest *Five Idaho 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 \$23,000 was invested in five organizations in Idaho—American Civil Liberties Union of Idaho, Inland Oasis, Inc., North Idaho AIDS Coalition, PFLAG Coeur d’Alene, and Youth Alliance for Diversity.

In Idaho, despite the recent marriage equality victory, the majority of residents can still be fired or denied housing because of their sexual orientation and/or gender identity. The 2015 legislative session will mark the ninth year of the “Add the Words” campaign in Idaho—which seeks to add the words “sexual orientation” and “gender identity” to the state’s Human Rights Act. Every session, the legislature has denied a public hearing on passing an “Add the Words” bill.

In addition to lacking statewide legal protections, LGBTQ people also face heightened risks of hate crimes, poverty, homelessness, discrimination, bullying, HIV infection, and mistreatment in social and human services.

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.”

All of the grantees in Idaho are focused on filling gaps in services for the LGBTQ community—addressing the range of issues that continue to impact LGBTQ people and families.

“We are thrilled to continue our partnership with Pride Foundation to achieve equality in Idaho,” said Leo Morales, interim executive director of the ACLU of Idaho, a 2014 grantee. “The grant funds we received are critical in realizing our Advocacy Training at the Statehouse—a premier training for community members who want to make a difference and voice their hopes and concerns to policy leaders shaping the laws of our state.”

Pride Foundation’s 2014 Grants in Idaho include:

American Civil Liberties Union of Idaho (Boise): \$5,000 to support ACLU of Idaho’s annual Advocacy Training Program, which provides education, hands-on experience, and materials to teach

citizens their rights and help advocate for themselves and others through policy creation and change.

Inland Oasis, Inc. (Moscow): \$5,000 to support the only LGBTQIA community and resource center between Boise, ID and Spokane, WA in serving the social and educational needs of the LGBTQIA population in North Idaho and Eastern Washington.

North Idaho AIDS Coalition (Coeur d'Alene): \$5,000 to support North Idaho AIDS Coalition's new HIV/AIDS prevention program geared toward young gay and bisexual HIV-negative men in rural settings to promote safer sex and HIV testing.

PFLAG Coeur d'Alene (Coeur d'Alene): \$3,000 to support the only PFLAG chapter in North Idaho—increasing the organization's strength and capacity to meet the needs of the LGBTQ community in the area.

Youth Alliance for Diversity (Boise): \$5,000 to maintain and expand the program's services for LGBTQ youth in Southwestern Idaho—including meetings and workshops on LGBTQ history, arts, life skills, relationship skills; and survival in the home, school, and workplace.

"With the generous support of Pride Foundation, we will better be able to create a solid foundation for our PFLAG chapter, particularly in our education and outreach efforts," said Juli Stratton, board chair of PFLAG Coeur d'Alene. "This grant will allow us to develop and conduct outreach especially in our faith communities, schools, the medical and mental health communities, and with local businesses."

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.