

PRESS RELEASE

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Pride Foundation Invests Over \$7.5 Million to Support LGBTQ People in 2015 *Announces 66 Northwest Organizations Receiving Community Grants*

Seattle, WA—Pride Foundation announced that it has invested over \$7.5 million this year to expand opportunities and advance full equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) individuals and families throughout the Northwest.

“2015 represented another important milestone for our community,” said Kris Hermanns, Executive Director of Pride Foundation. “Despite the setbacks and losses we faced locally and nationally, we continue to make progress so that one day all LGBTQ people are able to be who they are, where they are. Our recent investments give me hope that when we join together, we can chart a future filled with opportunity and promise for each of us.”

The foundation utilizes a variety of strategies to inspire giving and affect change, including community grants, educational scholarships, and timely initiatives, as well as partnerships with donors through their advised and designated funds.

This year, the foundation’s community grants program awarded a total of \$373,500 to 66 organizations in Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington. This represents a 23 percent increase from last year’s community grant awards, directing much-needed funds to organizations that are working to increase opportunities for LGBTQ people and communities. Forty percent of this year’s grantees are focused on supporting LGBTQ youth, and 15 percent of funding was awarded to HIV and AIDS prevention and direct services.

Here in Idaho, \$30,150 was awarded to seven organizations. Highlights from Pride Foundation’s 2015 community grants in Idaho include:

- **American Civil Liberties Union of Idaho (Boise, ID):** For their “Activist Training” program, which focuses on policy and advocacy issues affecting Idaho’s LGBTQ community—with an emphasis on increasing participation from rural residents to create a larger, more diverse network of equality advocates.
- **Idaho Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence (Boise, ID):** For Idaho Coalition’s Rural LGBTQ Youth Leadership Initiative against gender violence, which works to empower LGBTQ youth in rural Idaho by creating opportunities to participate in activism and organizing.
- **Pocatello High School (Pocatello, ID):** For a collaborative project involving the three main high schools in Pocatello with the goal of establishing new gay-straight alliance (GSA) clubs in each school as a way to improve the culture of the schools for LGBTQ students.

You can read the full list of Pride Foundation’s community grant partners at:

<http://www.pridefoundation.org/pride-foundation-announces-2015-2016-community-grants-awards>.

“While we have made incredible progress in recent years, we know there are still too many LGBTQ people who are vulnerable to discrimination, violence, and injustice,” said Hermanns.

“Now, more than ever, we need to invest greater resources to translate legal equality into the opportunity we all deserve: to thrive within—and be celebrated and embraced by—the communities we call home.”

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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.