

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 Montana, \$35,500 was awarded to five organizations. Highlights from Pride Foundation’s 2015 community grants in Montana include:

- **Flathead Reservation Human Rights Coalition** (*St Ignatius, MT*): For a joint community organizing training with local youth and the National Coalition Building Institute with the goal of helping build a stronger GSA network in area schools.
- **Great Falls LGBTQ Community Center** (*Great Falls, MT*): For programming and outreach to LGBTQ and ally communities of Great Falls and the rural and reservation areas of Central and Eastern Montana.
- **Montana Human Rights Network with Forward Montana Foundation and Montana Women Vote** (*Helena, MT & Missoula, MT*): For a collaborative project to pursue LGBTQ-affirming laws, regulations, and policies. Funding will support research, community building, and organizing impacted individuals to advocate for reforms.

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.