

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 striving 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.

Highlights from Pride Foundation’s 2015 community grants include:

- **Flathead Reservation Human Rights Coalition** (*St. Ignatius, Montana*): 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.
- **Identity, Inc.** (*Anchorage, Alaska*): For the first-ever LGBTQ statewide health assessment in Alaska. The project is a collaboration of Identity, Inc., the Institute of Social and Economic Research at the University of Alaska Anchorage, and a coalition of partner organizations and stakeholders.
- **Inland Oasis** (*Moscow, Idaho*): For HIV/AIDS-related testing services at Inland Oasis, which provides a community center, HIV and Hepatitis C screening, and other social and health programming for LGBTQ people and allies in Southeastern Washington and North Central Idaho.
- **Old Lesbians Organizing for Change (OLOC)—Puget Sound Chapter** (*Tacoma, Washington*): For the Oral Herstories Project, which includes live dramatic readings of oral Herstories, the production of a Herstories video and companion guide, and the distribution of lesbian anthologies to senior centers across the Puget Sound area.
- **PFLAG Portland Black Chapter** (*Portland, Oregon*): For expansion of its current peer educational leadership program serving LGBTQ youth of color in the Portland metro area.

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/2015/11/>.

"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.