

## 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 Washington, \$219,350 was awarded to 39 organizations. Highlights from Pride Foundation’s 2015 community grants in Washington include:

- **API Chaya** (*Seattle, WA*): For the Queer Network Program, which engages the Asian, South Asian, and Pacific Islander lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer, and questioning community in the greater Seattle area to address and prevent intimate partner violence. The program builds skills among allies and community members, raises visibility, and supports survivors of violence as well as their friends and family.
- **Blue Mountain Heart to Heart** (*Walla Walla, WA*): For outreach education and HIV prevention work, focused on people in tribal communities and Latino men who have sex with men (MSM). Funding will help expand current service areas to Lewiston and Clarkston and promote case management services in order to link people to care.
- **Legal Voice** (*Seattle, WA*): For legal, policy, and coalition advocacy work to advance, secure, and enforce LGBTQ rights in Washington State and across the Northwest to ensure that all LGBTQ families are protected in the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court marriage equality ruling.
- **Old Lesbians Organizing for Change (OLOC)—Puget Sound Chapter** (*Tacoma, WA*): 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.
- **Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane** (*Spokane, WA*): For the Young Activist Leaders Program (YALP), an intensive nine-month program that builds a movement for

justice and equality by developing leadership, skills, analysis, and relationships among LGBTQ and allied young activists.

- **River of Life MCC (Kennewick, WA):** For *A New Start in Life* (ANSIL) Hall, a live-in dormitory for up to 15 low-income and homeless LGBTQ young adults ages 18-24. The goal is to reduce and limit homelessness in Tri-Cities and the surrounding community, while providing stability and resources.

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](http://www.pridefoundation.org).*