

## 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 Oregon, \$70,000 was awarded to 12 organizations. Highlights from Pride Foundation’s 2015 community grants in Oregon include:

- **HIV Alliance** (*Eugene, OR*): For prevention education, outreach, and HIV testing to gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men (MSM) in Lane, Douglas, Josephine, and Curry Counties in Oregon.
- **Lotus Rising Project** (*Medford, OR*): For the expansion of its flagship program, Not Straight Not Sure (NSNS), a youth support and social group, and to enhance the organization’s services to transgender youth and adults.
- **PFLAG Portland Black Chapter** (*Portland, OR*): For expansion of its current peer educational leadership program serving LGBTQ youth of color in the Portland metro area.
- **TransActive Gender Center** (*Portland, OR*): For the expansion of services due to unprecedented growth in the number of families needing services and an increase in demand for educational workshops, professional training, and advocacy for transgender rights.

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).*