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local news

Investing in pride

Funds awarded by philanthropic groups reap big returns in access, achievement and visibility

by Jann Gilbert

hat do the Equity Foundation, the Pride Foundation, American Express and the McKenzie River Gathering have in common? They've all recently given money to support programs involving the gay and lesbian communities.

One of Equity Foundation's grants went to the YWCA, to support its "Family CampOUT" program. The money will help provide scholarships

so that lowincome lesbians and gay men with children may attend the camping event.

solutely crucial that we FOUNDATION serve this population.

Support for this program from both the gay and lesbian and the heterosexual community has been overwhelming," said Miriam Callaghan, director of camping programs at the YWCA. "These families can come together and just be a family. That's what it's all about. The scholarship money will help us provide so many more families with that opportunity."

Family CampOUT is a four-day camping program held at the YWCA's Camp Westwind on the Oregon Coast from Aug. 25 to 28. For more information contact Miriam Callaghan, (503) 994-2393.

he Pride Foundation of Seattle, Wash., has announced the recipients of its 1994 scholarships: Christian Fung, Keith Jackson, Rebecca Phillips, Andrea Stoops and Kevin Wilcox. Drawn from 75 applicants, the five will receive awards of \$1,000 to \$2,000 to assist with educational expenses.

Fung, Jackson and Wilcox received Brian M. Day Scholarships for Seattle-area gay men of color. This is the second year the scholarship has been awarded. It was established by a gift from the estate of Brian M. Day, an AIDS activist and community leader. Fung will use his scholarship to pursue a master's degree in public policy at the University of Washington. Jackson will continue to work towards his associate of arts degree in community psychology from Seattle Central Community College. Wilcox used his award to attend the World AIDS Conference in Japan this month.

Andrea Stoops, the first recipient of the newly established Pride Scholarship, is a student at Evergreen State College. She is studying film and political economy. Rebecca Phillips will receive the Pride Foundation/Frontrunners Scholarship. She will use the award to begin her studies in criminal justice and psychology at Central Washington University.

This year the Pride Foundation worked closely with the Greater Seattle Business Association to develop its application and selection process. The Pride Foundation's goal is to strengthen the lesbian and gay community today and build an endowment fund for tomorrow. Its activities include fund raising for its granting and scholarship programs, educating about community needs and solutions, fostering leadership, and promoting the leveraging of available community resources. The foundation has granted awards to over 100 organizations since 1987.

his year, ASAP Treatment Services of Portland received a grant from the American Express Philanthropic Foundation in support of its Triangle Project, a drug and alcohol treatment program for gay men and lesbians which began in the fall of 1992. The project is the only such program in Oregon that addresses the unique needs of the queer community.

he McKenzie River Gathering Foundation is awarding \$168,000 this year in grants for grass-roots community work. The money is awarded to outstanding organizations working in the areas of peace, the environment and human

MRG receives contributions from donors throughout Oregon. Its commitment is to building a more just, equitable and environmentally sound community. Grant award decisions are made by a statewide committee of 14 volunteers. MRG has disbursed over \$3 million since its formation in

Groups receiving awards this year include the Anti-Racism Training/Strategizing Committee in Scappoose, for training to equip it with the tools, power and language to include anti-racism work in its anti-bigotry agenda; Citizens for Acceptance, Cottage Grove, for funding to develop a group response to local hate activity and bigotry; and Citizens for Human Dignity, Pendleton, for general support of the group as it focuses on coalition-building among local Native American, Latino/a and lesbian and gay communities.

Also receiving grants are Communities Against Hate, Eugene, for a Youth Art Against Fascism program and a gathering of Lane County clergy addressing the increasing incidence of local hate crimes; Coos County Coalition for Human Rights, Coos Bay, for general support of the group in focusing its agenda to challenge all anti-bigotry activity in the region; and the Oregon Native Youth Council, Otis, for a gathering to bring Native American youth and elders from reservations and urban areas together, to strengthen cultural identity and address social problems affecting Native youth.

Portland groups awarded grants are the Coalition for Human Dignity, a resource group monitoring and opposing right wing attacks; the Lesbian Community Project, to expand its Anti-Violence Project; the Native American Program of Oregon Legal Services, for education and organizing; the Oregon Human Rights Coalition, a group dedicated to empowering low-income people; PCUN Boycott Committee, part of the Oregon farm

workers union, for general supgroup in its boycott of and Stein-

MCKENZIE port of the GATHERING NORPAC FOUNDATION

feld's products; and the Sabin Community Development Corp., whose focus is fighting the gentrification that displaces low-income people

in this Northeast neighborhood. Peace House in Ashland and the Theater Adelante/Teatro Nuestro in Eugene also received awards from MRG. Peace House will use the money to implement a "listening project" on gay and lesbian rights. Theater Adelante will use its grant for a project involving at-risk Latino/a youth.