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local news

Equity Foundation issues awards

Equity Foundation, which was originated by Oregon's lesbian and gay community, has awarded grants totaling \$55,411 to 40 nonprofit organizations throughout the state for its second grant cycle of 1995. The grants are designed to further Equity's goal of "creating communities that embrace the worth of all people."

Recipients include Beyond the Closet, Bend, \$1,200; Artists Repertory Theatre, Portland, \$900; Lambda Community Center Association, Medford, \$2,300; Urban League, Portland, \$6,840; and Peace House, Ashland, \$1,200.

In addition to these grants, Equity distributed \$4,165 in grants to 22 organizations as the result of designated contributions from its workplace-giving campaign. Recipients include the HIV Day Center, \$590; Our House, \$750; Outside In, \$280; and Self Enhancement Inc., \$390.

Equity Foundation has distributed nearly \$350,000 in direct grants and program services since it was founded in 1989.

HIV Honor Awards set for March 11

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon is sponsoring the third annual HIV Honor Awards on March 11 at Portland's Hilton Hotel.

Award winners, selected from more than 100 nominations, will be acknowledged for their "outstanding work in addressing those who are infected with HIV."

The honorees include David Filipe, director of the Klamath County HIV/AIDS Center in Klamath Falls; Jeanne Gould, project director and grant writer



Barbara Roberts

for the Multnomah County HIV Clinic; Ann Huntwork, a volunteer medical social worker at Our House, a residential care facility for people with AIDS; Neil Johnson of Vancouver, Wash., who has handled various leadership and service roles; and Barry Kurath, an educational speaker for the Speaker's Bureau Program at Cascade AIDS Project.

Former Oregon Gov. Barbara Roberts will be the dinner's keynote speaker; the Portland Gay Men's Chorus will perform. Tickets are available from EMO by calling (503) 221-1054.

Transsexual youth support group to form

Phoenix Rising Foundation, a Portland-based mental health counseling agency for sexual minorities, has received a \$9,000 grant to serve transsexual and transgendered young people.

The Transsexual Peer Youth Support group will target people from ages 18 to 25 who identify as transsexual, transgender or transvestite. Funding is provided through the Multnomah County Health Department.

"Within that age range, individuals are often confused about where they fit in," says Phoenix Rising Foundation Executive Director Allanya Guenther. "Are they only attracted to cross-dressing, are they motivated to undergo hormone therapy, or do they believe that they need sex reassignment surgery? This program is designed to provide support while individuals sort out those issues."

Phoenix Rising Foundation, a nonprofit agency which has served sexual minorities since 1977, has an existing transsexual support group. This new entity, however, focuses on the needs of younger

participants, who often have different issues than do those in their 30s and 40s.

For more information, call Phoenix Rising Foundation at (503) 223-8299.

Sten kicks off campaign

Erik Sten, chief of staff for Portland City Commissioner Gretchen Miller Kafoury, held a campaign kick-off on Feb. 1 at his new campaign headquarters at 310 NW Broadway in Portland.

Sten is running for a seat on the Portland City Council. Other candidates vying for the post are state Rep. Gail Shibley (D-Portland), who became Oregon's first openly gay or lesbian lawmaker in 1991; and Portland attorney James Francesconi. The primary will be held May 21.

Sten, a Portland native who graduated from Stanford University, has received awards for his work on behalf of the homeless and housing and social justice issues.

Goose Lake Ranch camp out planned

Given the cold, windy winter that Pacific Northwesters have had to endure, May seems like a long way off—but it's not too far off for the planners of the sixth annual Goose Lake Ranch Equestrian Camp Out Memorial Day Weekend.

The event, slated for May 24-27, features riding, hiking and biking activities, live entertainment, and a chance for gay men and lesbians to kick back for a little Western fare.

The camp out is held at the Goose Lake Ranch, a 40-acre spread just east of Bend. Last year more than 250 people attended the gathering, which is hosted by Steve Jones and C. Ray Gould.

Equestrian and cycle events will include barrel racing, flag races, jumps, poles and an obstacle course. Interested parties may camp at Goose Lake Ranch (no hook-ups) or stay at the Red Lion North, which is offering special rates to those who mention they are attending the Goose Lake Ranch Equestrian Camp Out.

More information about rates, which vary, is available from Steve Jones, Goose Lake Ranch, 24166 Dodds Road, Bend, OR 97701; phone/fax: (541) 388-3680.

Urban League holds Feb. 22 dinner

Ronald Daly, president of telecommunications for RR Donnelley & Sons Co., will be the guest speaker at the Urban League of Portland's Equal Opportunity Dinner on Feb. 22 at the Portland Hilton.

The dinner's theme is "Building Community: Education, Employment and Equality." Daly will discuss his experiences as an African American who has broken through corporate America's glass ceiling. Another highlight will be the honoring of three individuals who have advanced the cause of equal opportunity: Oregon state Rep. Avel Gordly, Self Enhancement Inc. President Tony Hopson, and Volunteers of America President Gerald McFadden.



Avel Gordly

The dinner begins at 6:30 pm. Tickets are \$150 per person, and proceeds will benefit the Urban League's diversity agenda for economic justice through education and employment. For more information, call the Urban League of Portland at (503) 280-2600.