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NORTHWEST news

INVESTMENTS IN DIGNITY

Equity Foundation doubles grants during 2000 by Jonathan Kipp



PHOTO COURTESY OF EQUITY FOUNDATION

From left, Anne Hoot of Equity Foundation's board of directors congratulates Allen Brady and Bill Space of Friends of People with AIDS Foundation on their grant

The Nike World Campus served as the backdrop when Portland's Equity Foundation presented 24 grants, totaling \$68,672, to organizations from throughout Oregon.

The "Investments in Dignity" awards reception was the final event in what was a successful year for the foundation. In all, Equity granted \$170,882 in 2000 through its programs, scholarships and donor-advised funds—almost double the amount in 1999.

"We are delighted to have been able to assist so many great organizations across the state this year," foundation co-chair Liz MacDonell said. "They are dedicated to creating a more tolerant, inclusive Oregon—for all people, not just gays and lesbians—and we are honored to support them in their mission."

Grants Committee members Karen Keeney, Dan Ryan and Jenny Gilbert helped in announcing the awards.

Executive director Matthew Nelson said the grants are given in partnership with many of the foundation's donor-advised funds. In addition, Portland General Electric matched portions of the grants, totaling \$7,600.

Equity Foundation, founded in 1989 by a group of lesbians and gay men concerned about hatred, violence and divisiveness, has

provided more than \$900,000 in funding since its inception. Every year it makes awards in the areas of human dignity, arts and culture, health and social services, and youth and family programs.

The foundation began by providing funds to organizations that address issues important to the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community. Its mission later expanded to include work that recognizes the dignity and worth of all people.

The organization's net assets total more than \$1 million. More than 2,100 donors have supported Equity, including many from the sexual minorities community.

A 1996 survey by the Institute for Gay and Lesbian Strategic Studies showed that sexual minorities contribute 2.5 percent of their household income to nonprofit organizations, slightly higher than the 2.2 percent from the average donor in the United States. The study showed that donors' gifts to foundations fell behind gifts to advocacy groups, political campaigns and the arts. **JK**

For more information about EQUITY FOUNDATION, call 503-231-5759, e-mail mnelson@equityfoundation.org or write to P.O. Box 5696, Portland, OR 97228-5696.

GRANT RECIPIENTS

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, NW (Portland), \$2,900 for suicide prevention training • Artists Repertory Theatre (Portland), \$2,500 for *Never the Sinner* by John Logan • Cascade AIDS Project (Portland), \$1,000 for Teen to Teen Workshops and Outreach Program • Community Advocates (Portland), \$1,500 for volunteer training for Kids Can and No Punching Judy • Do Jump! Extremely Physical Theater (Portland), \$1,500 for interns to tour 40 schools • Encored Theatre (Eugene), \$5,000 for middle/high school performance tour • For Us Northwest (Portland), \$4,900 for general support • Friends of People with AIDS Foundation (Portland), \$1,177 for general support • Hambleton Project (Portland), \$2,150 for support for lesbians with cancer and other illnesses • HIV Alliance (Eugene), \$5,000 for Sana Needle Exchange and Harm Reduction Program • Human Dignity Coalition (Bend), \$4,800 for Bridges to Understanding (public meetings) • Lesbian Com-

munity Project (Portland), \$3,150 for general support • Love Makes a Family (Portland), \$4,900 for Project Link (YouthNet and Parents in Schools Action Project) • Multicultural Resource Center (Portland), \$2,000 for general support • New Avenues for Youth (Portland), \$3,750 for day services for gay and lesbian homeless youth • O.N.E./Portland Taiko (Portland), \$5,000 for Portland Taiko Oregon Outreach Project • Oregon Tradeswomen Network (Portland), \$1,050 for Trades Offer Girls Options • Our House (Portland), \$2,000 for volunteer program • Phoenix Rising/ Network Behavioral Health (Portland), \$5,000 for Sexual Minority Youth Recreation Center • Planned Parenthood of Oregon (Medford), \$2,000 for Teen Theater Program • Rural Organizing Project (Scappoose), \$5,000 for general support • triangle productions! (Portland), \$1,145 for 2001 Pride Series • Willamette Bridge/Janus Youth Programs (Portland), \$750 for Youth Leadership Workshop Series • Women's Intercommunity AIDS Resource (Portland), \$500 for Living a Positive Life: HIV Prevention Education for Youth.