

## NORTHWEST newsbriefs



PHOTO BY MARY DAVIS

Christa Orth and Kevin M. Gebhart have new positions at Equity Foundation

volunteers and staying organized through the campaign season.

To register call 503-543-8417, e-mail [cara@rop.org](mailto:cara@rop.org) or visit [www.rop.org](http://www.rop.org).

### SMYRC TRAINS VOLUNTEERS

The Sexual Minority Youth Resource Center will hold a free volunteer training from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. May 1 at 2100 S.E. Belmont St.

The day will be filled with interactive workshops, youth stories, intervention skills and more. Lunch is provided.

The training is for people who are interested in helping queer kids 23 and younger in any SMYRC program. For example, volunteers will have the opportunity to become a mentor, work at the drop-in center, run a leadership group and participate in Clackamas County groups.

SMYRC supervisor Zan Gibbs says this is a great opportunity for people "to positively impact the lives of hundreds of at-risk youth. Volunteers make a world of difference here and have fun at the same time."

To register call 503-872-9664, ext. 27.

### FOUNDATION REORGANIZES

Equity Foundation, which has given more than \$1.75 million in grants to queer-friendly nonprofit organizations since its founding in 1989, announced March 16 the appointment of Kevin M. Gebhart as marketing and major gifts development coordinator.

"We're delighted to welcome Kevin to the development position that has been made possible through the three-year Meyer Memorial Trust 'Inspiring Philanthropy' grant," said Linda Traeger, Equity executive director. She added that he brings expertise in marketing, fund raising, public speaking and education to the position.

At Tulane University, Gebhart had oversight responsibility for a \$1 million publication budget and an extensive direct mail and communications calendar. Within the admissions office, he worked on student recruitment and met with major donors throughout the United States.

As a former teacher, and an adviser to gay and lesbian student associations at both the secondary and college levels, Gebhart has had direct experience with issues central to Equity's Safe Schools Initiative. He also wrote many successful grants for arts organizations, with a focus on queer projects.

Christa Orth, who has worked as Equity's resource development coordinator for 1 1/2

years, will become grants and individual gifts development coordinator. "As Equity Foundation has grown, her responsibilities have expanded to include significant interactions with grantees and donors, and this position change more accurately reflects the level and scope of her work," Traeger said.

Orth will continue to be responsible for Equity's Workplace Giving Program, volunteer coordination and special events. She will also serve as liaison with Equity's grantee organizations and pledge-based giving programs.

### RELATIONSHIP SEMINAR OFFERS TOOLS, INSIGHTS

A dynamic, insightful and emotionally based seminar will help gay and lesbian couples deal with the many opportunities in same-sex relationships April 9 to 12 at Breitenbush Hot Springs near Detroit.

"Creating and Maintaining Successful Gay and Lesbian Relationships" will be presented by Larry Rogers, a Portland counselor in private practice with more than 14 years of experience facilitating a wide range of seminars. The sliding-scale cost is \$110 to \$310 plus lodging.

The seminar will focus on the challenges and dynamics that differentiate queer and heterosexual relationships. In addition to all of the usual issues, same-sex couples face unique internal and external emotional forces: power and control, communication, stability, how to be close without giving up yourself, are we in or are we "out," anger, sex, money and whatever else comes up.

All queers are encouraged to attend, whether they are single or in a newly minted or long-term relationship. The seminar will offer tools and insights designed to help form and maintain healthy connected unions.

For more information call 503-781-6542, fax 503-248-0101, e-mail [larryr@teleport.com](mailto:larryr@teleport.com) or visit [www.larryrogers.com](http://www.larryrogers.com).

### RELATIONSHIP CLASSES HELP QUEER COUPLES

Whether they're experiencing a healthy relationship or in need of some expert advice, couples who are looking for deeper intimacy, less strife and more fun can strengthen their bond by attending Portland Community College's noncredit Gay and Lesbian Relation-

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