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northwest

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tion that is still much needed," said Oules. "People are still sick from AIDS, and they still die."

Our House has expanded its services to include Swan House, an adult foster care facility in Milwaukie, and the Neighborhood Housing and Care programs, which provide in-home services for people with HIV/AIDS who are able to live on their own. To continue to provide such services, Our House works to raise money in a variety of ways.

Oules is busy promoting the "Dinner at My House for Our House" series. Volunteer hosts and chefs will throw dinner parties from July through February to raise more than \$90,000 for Our House. Oules is also working on the grand opening of the new Our House facility, which is scheduled to open in early July. "There are a lot of people to thank for their support of this project and a lot of people that we'd like to introduce to Our House through the reopening of this state-of-the-art building."

A native of Portland, Oules is also the founder of the theater company Live on Stage. He is rehearsing singers and dancers for its upcoming production of *Night of 100 Stars* May 18 to 20 at World Trade Center Theatre.

"Live on Stage and Our House are a great combination of work for me," said Oules. "I'm passionate about the missions of both organizations, and both organizations allow me to work with wonderful people."

Red Dress Party Makes Green

The sixth annual Red Dress Party attracted nearly 1,600 partygoers April 1 and raised thousands in the process. Nothing is better than a grand party that benefits a good cause or, in this case, three good causes. The Red Dress Party board of directors, headed by party founder Jeff Hawthorne, presented proceeds from the spectacular event April 21 to Q Center, Camp Starlight and Our House of Portland.

Q Center, the new queer facility located at 1028 S.E. Water St., received \$6,000. Tim Healea, Q Center board co-chairman, was delighted with the contribution. "We really need the proceeds to build the center and to pay for our new staff person, Gene de Haan, who starts May 1."

Camp Starlight, a program of Cascade AIDS

Project that serves kids with HIV by underwriting the expense of attending summer camp and "gives a child with HIV the chance to forget their treatment for a week," received \$6,000. Helene Rimberg said this year's campers will be changing to a "disclosure program," meaning that all participants will know they have HIV/AIDS to "reduce the stigma associated with the disease."

Wayne Miya of Our House received the largest donation from the Red Dress Party: \$11,000. As Our House is completing its capital campaign and plans to reopen its new facility in July, the funds help not just with the reopening but with operational expenses that are challenged as many donors "have given to the new facility, adversely affecting the operational funds that we normally receive," according to Miya. "We really need this money!"

All the organizations needed money, and a board of 10 volunteers and nearly 1,600 queer and queer-friendly folks donning wild, wacky, sexy and outrageous red dresses made it happen.

Stand Up for SMYRC

Anyone who has benefited from the Sexual Minority Youth Resource Center, used its services or sees it as a vital component of the Portland queer community can support the nonprofit organization by offering public testimony at upcoming Multnomah County budgeting sessions.

Now is the time to affect funding choices by letting county commissioners know what types of programs are important to you. Public hearings are 6 p.m. May 9 in the conference room at North Portland Library, 512 N. Killingsworth St.; 6 p.m. May 22 in Suite 175 at the Multnomah County Building East, 600 N.E. Eighth Ave. in Gresham; and 6 p.m. May 31 in Commissioners' Boardroom 100 at the Multnomah Building, 501 S.E. Hawthorne Blvd.

Organizers are asking participants to sport SMYRC T-shirts and buttons in support. For more information contact R.E. Szego at 503-784-5813 or r.e.szego@cascadiabhc.org.

PFLAG Northwest Celebrates Its Diversity

The Northwest region of Parents, Families and Friends of Gays and Lesbians gathered at Lloyd Center Double Tree Hotel in Portland from



Gwenn Baldwin, communications chairwoman for Q Center, accepts a check for \$6,000 from the Red Dress Party's board of directors.

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