



SMYRC's new program director, Favor Ellis, is a pool shark as well as experienced confidant.

SMYRC Hires New Program Director

The Sexual Minority Youth Resource Center has found a program director with experience working at every local nonprofit organization specializing in meeting the needs of at-risk youth.

Favor Ellis began volunteering for SMYRC 10 years ago and has worked as a case manager, crisis drop-in supervisor and point person for homeless youth at New Avenues for Youth, Outside In and Janus Youth Programs. "I've spent all of my professional life working with marginalized and at-risk youth," she said.

Ellis, 35, was drawn back to SMYRC because "I've really enjoyed working with people in crisis. And I'm queer."

Ellis was hired in September to replace outgoing program director Jonathan Weedman, who resigned July 18 to counsel elementary school students at Catlin Gable School. Before his resignation, he secured five years of funding for SMYRC through the Schools Uniting Neighborhoods Multnomah County contract.

A hiring committee composed of SMYRC administration, staff and youth selected Ellis for the job.

Ellis says the youth have taken a shine to her, coaxing her from her office to play pool or curling up on her comfortable couch to dive into urgent issues such as housing. She carries a small caseload of youth because of her contacts in the homelessness sector.

In her spare time, Ellis writes biographical fiction, is learning to play the fiddle and has a knack for communicating with animals.

Pride Foundation Groups Grant Application

One application will give queer students and straight allies access to \$350,000 from 50 different scholarships.

Residents of Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Washington and Oregon are eligible for scholarships that reward students for showing leadership and promoting diversity in the queer and ally community. Scholarships support college, creative or vocational training.

"Each year we continue to have new funds from more available scholarships," said Anthony Papini, scholarship program director at Pride Foundation. "The scholarship program for Pride

Foundation is truly a community event. It's an opportunity to feel safe and comfortable talking about ourselves and the challenges faced as a queer student or ally."

Applications are available by calling 800-735-7287 or visiting www.pridefoundation.org and must be postmarked by Jan. 23, 2009.

SMYRC Launches Podcast

The Sexual Minority Youth Resource Center has launched a podcast hosted by Portland's own gay Spanish "voice of the MAX," Enrique Andrade.

The SMYRC *Revolution Podcast* grew from Andrade's past year of getting to know SMYRC youth as a volunteer. "Some of these kids have tremendous stories that need to be recorded," he said.

Andrade, who produces and hosts the show with chatty candor, called the podcast "therapeutic and informative" for himself and the dozens of Portland-area queer youth he highlights on it: activists, artists, drag queens, trans and gender-fluid teens, military recruits and more.

Andrade says the podcast has proven to be just as valuable for adults as for kids. "The identity of queer youth has changed so dramatically, and for many of us queer adults, we don't know what's happening with queer youth and the youth don't have a platform to explain what's happening."

So far, the *SMYRC Revolution Podcast* has 11,500 listeners and 27 archived episodes.

Andrade, a voice-over artist and bilingual translator, said he learned from the project that queer youth need more mentors. "Queer youth do not have enough appropriate adult mentors in their life."

For more information visit www.smyrc.org.



Enrique Andrade's podcast gives a platform for SMYRC kids' stories.

HIV Day Center Benefits from Give Guide

Willamette Week has chosen the Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's HIV Day Center as one of 50 recipients of its annual Give Guide.

The Give Guide, which will be inserted into the Nov. 12 issue with an accompanying Web site, encourages readers to donate money to the hand-selected and prescreened nonprofit organizations.

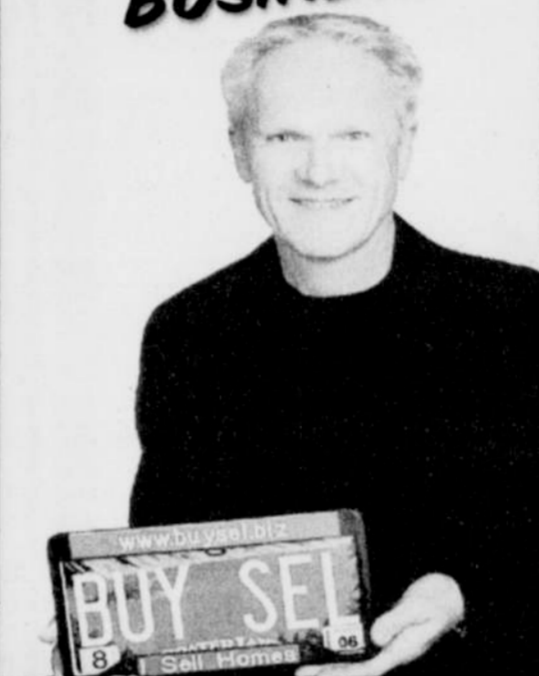
HIV Day Center director Lowen Berman said he hopes the to raise approximately \$10,000

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