

NORTHWEST BRIEFS

in picture: Melanie Davis (left), David Martinez (middle, also the honoree for Latino Pride), and Karol Collymore (right), giving the award on behalf of Basic Rights Oregon (BRO).

BRO's 27th Annual Dinner and Auction was a huge success. With 700 supporters, the function raised over \$200,000 for the organization. Storm Large emceed the event. Senators Ron Wyden & Jeff Merkley, Secretary of State Kate Brown, Portland Mayor Sam Adams, City Commissioners Nick Fish & Dan Saltzman and many more were all attendees.

» More pictures from the BRO Dinner and Auction on page 47



Basic Rights Oregon Dinner and Auction Recap

The theme of "love" was in the air on Saturday, October 10, when Basic Rights Oregon threw its 27th Annual Dinner and Auction at the Oregon Convention Center. "The event was a huge success, attracting over 700 supporters and raising over \$200,000 to help ensure that all lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Oregonians experience equality," BRO Executive Director Jeana Frazzini said via press release.

The final number "[beat] expectations," according to Organizing Director Thomas Wheatley—as did Storm Large's stint as emcee, thanks to a couple of high-profile kisses, including a heated, good-humored smooch with Oregon Secretary of State Kate Brown at Brown's request. Brown was one of several officials to take the stage, including U.S. Senator Ron Wyden, city commissioners Nick Fish, Dan Saltzman and Amanda Fritz, Multnomah County Chair Ted Wheeler and Mayor Sam Adams.

Later in the evening, Fighting Spirit Award honoree and U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley told the assembled crowd that President Barack Obama, in his own address at that night's Human Rights Campaign's Annual Dinner in Washington D.C., pledged his commitment to end "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." Merkley's announcement drew cheers and applause.

Frazzini told *Just Out* that BRO adjusted the event's budget and economic

expectations this year in light of the current financial climate. Still, despite a slight decrease from 2008 in funds raised, the drop was "not like anything we had anticipated," she said, expressing "incredible gratitude" to "everyone who gave so generously and who brought such amazing energy to the event. We certainly couldn't have lived up to the theme any better."

For more information, visit www.basicrights.org.

SMYRC Celebrates Relocation to New Facility in Northeast Portland

On Saturday, October 24, The Sexual Minority Youth Resource Center (SMYRC) will celebrate its move to a new facility in Northeast Portland (3024 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.). Local performers, food, raffle prizes and more are on tap from 2 to 6 p.m., with a 6-9 p.m. youth open mic.

SMYRC—the only community resource center in Oregon devoted exclusively to the needs of sexual and gender minority youth—joins Cascadia and North by Northeast Community Health Center at the Garlington Center, a clinical hub serving the area. The center, which has fostered safety and support for more than 1,000 lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning (LGBTQQ) youth in Oregon annually since 1998, had been located on SE Belmont.

» More NW BRIEFS on 11

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