Identity Advocacy Team Receives Pride Grant

In November 2007, Pride Foundation announced grant awards totaling $85,000 to 22 organizations working for LGBT equality in WA, OR, ID and AK. The organizations were funded after a thorough review by Pride Foundation volunteers.

“Eighty-one organizations requested funding and it was very difficult to narrow the recipients to the final 22 chosen,” the Pride Foundation said in a recent press release. “Those chosen show the incredible complexity and diversity of groups working for LGBT equality in the Northwest.”

Identity was one of the 22 organizations whose funding requests were approved. Identity received $5,000 for the Identity Advocacy Team (IAT), a program formed in 2007 to advocate for the interests of the Alaska LGBTQ community.

IAT will educate the public about LGBTQ issues through presentations at community events, conferences, ads, public service announcements, and a web site focused on resources and issues outside Anchorage. IAT will also use many no cost and low cost methods of advocacy, including letters to the editor and having trained spokespersons accessible for media interviews, meetings, and discussions with politicians, civic, and business leaders, school boards, and other appropriate community constituents.

Identity also thanks the Elmer and Ruth Schwantes Fund of the Alaska Community Foundation for their $1,000 grant for web site development and advocacy.

IAT hits the ground running!

- December 2007: IAT joins Anchorage PFLAG to host GLBT information table at 2007 Alaska Health Summit
- October 2007: IAT members take part in Mayor’s Diversity Awards during Diversity Month
- October 2007: Anchorage Daily News “Compass” column in response to negative column opposing hate crimes protection for GLBT individuals, written by Rev. Johnathan Jones
- September 2007: Presentation at Office for Public Advocacy Conference on communicating to the GLBT community about mentoring for Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), by Jackie Buckley, Larry Michael and Mary Parker
- August 2007: Presentation on GLBT concerns at University of Alaska Anchorage Residence Life Training, by Jackson Steele

Do GLBT Angels exist?
A big resounding trumpeting “YES!”
Thank you so much to the GLBTA community members who are making sure Identity and the work it does are supported, even after they as donors are no longer here, by naming Identity, Inc., or the Identity Fund at Alaska Community Foundation in their wills.
Would you, too, like to be a GLBTA angel?!
Identity News

A day of Change, Hope and Celebration!

Pride Conference 2007 (Oct. 20) was a great success. Our keynote speaker was Dr. Ellen Cole, Alaska’s only certified sex therapist and a distinguished author. She spoke on the dynamic changes that have taken place over the last 60 years and the challenges we continue to face as LGBTQI people. She told many personal stories, adding a very intimate touch to her lecture. Thank you, Dr. Cole!

Many of the workshops were well attended and the presenters were excellent. The food was fantastic (thanks to TLFMC & MCC!) and the fellowship was awesome. With over 80 attendees, I personally feel the entire conference was an extraordinary success.

I would like to thank the many volunteers, the presenters, the caterers, our wonderful partner organizations, Identity, Inc. and Alaska Pacific University for creating such a wonderful day of “Change, Hope and Celebration!”

We look forward to seeing you in June for Anchorage PrideFest 2008. The parade and festival will be held June 28, with great community events the week prior. We’re looking for volunteers to help with PrideFest this year. If you’re interested, please call me at 258-5266. The only experience you need is to work hard and have fun.

I hope you all have a wonderful and safe 2008!

Rev. Johnathan Jones
Co-chair, Pride Conference 2007 & Anchorage PrideFest 2008

Hello and Goodbye, Web Master

Hello to volunteer Bren McIver, our new Identity web master. She is redesigning the web page to make it more attractive, functional, and user friendly. Check it out at www.IdentityInc.org. Bren’s goal is to create a dynamic site that members of our community want, need, and regularly use. To do this, she needs to hear from you about what you want and would find useful. Please contact Bren with your ideas at identityinc.webmaster@gmail.com.

Goodbye and a very grateful thank you to Mark Trick, who stepped up to the plate to pinch hit and keep our web site afloat during our web master search. Thank you, Mark. You were a life saver.

Meet Tonei Glavinic

The average age of Identity dropped significantly with the addition of Youth Representative Tonei Glavinic (glsentonei@gmail.com).

Tonei is a senior at Steller Secondary School and plays with the West Anchorage High School Orchestra. He has played violin since sixth grade. He is passionate about GLBT activism. Locally, Tonei is leader of the Gay-Straight Alliance at his school. He is involved with youth courts as a presiding Judge in the Anchorage Youth Court and president of United Youth Courts of Alaska’s board of directors.

Nationally, Tonei is a member of the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network Jump-Start Leadership Team and co-chair of the National Transgender Education Project Youth Review Board, a project of the National Youth Advocacy Coalition.

Tonei plans to study political science and gender equality issues and work at the national level setting policy. Be watching for this young man!

Tonei is one of two Alaska students selected as delegates to the U.S. Senate Youth Program to be held March 1-8 in Washington, D.C. Tonei was chosen from hundreds of applicants to be a part of the group of 104 student delegates who will attend the program’s 47th Annual Washington Week. In addition to a week of being immersed in the American political process, each of the student delegates receives a $5,000 college scholarship.

Tonei and the Identity Board are interested in what the younger members of our community have to say, so please let us hear from YOU!
National Coming Out Day

The annual celebration of National Coming Out Day 2007 at the GLCCA included a potluck dinner and enough desserts to make coming out very sweet indeed. The center was packed with familiar faces, new faces, and some faces not seen out and about for a while. Meeting new people and catching up with friends made coming out something to celebrate!

Thanksgiving with Family

Many members of our GLBTA family shared Thanksgiving Day dinner at the community center. The tables were laden with delicious foods for traditional, gourmet, and vegetarian tastes that were enjoyed by singles and families alike. So many friends and such good food and conversation made it easy to remember we have much for which to be thankful. It’s great to be family!

Holiday Open House

The GLCCA was cheerily decorated with lights and bulbs, Santas and cherubs, menorahs and dreidels for our holiday open house on December 16. Visions of sugar plums may have danced in our heads, but the tables were once again heavy with sweet holiday treats meant to dance in our mouths.

The center was packed with GLBT family happy to visit and relax in each other’s company. Fudge, frosted cookies, toffee bars, nuts, punch and hot cider lined the tables as friends popped in and out during the afternoon to spread good wishes. Some used this opportunity to check out books and DVDs from the library, while others added their support by adopting a day or two for 2008.

New Year’s Day Cookie Exchange

Cookies, cookies, and more cookies. The GLCCA opened its doors on New Year’s Day for a Cookie Exchange. The event gave members of our community a place to come hang out, watch TV, surf the Internet, and visit together.

To all the folks who brought cookies, brownies and drinks, made a donation to Identity, or just came by to have a cookie and conversation, YOU made the day a great success! Also, special thanks to the guys at Kodiak Bar & Grill who helped pass the word.

GLCCA library grows

The GLCCA library collection is now better than ever, thanks to several generous donors.

In the past few months, we received donations of about 250 books enriching the fiction, transgender, and bisexual sections of our library. If you want a book we do not have or you think there is a book we should have in our collection, please let us know. Our librarian will see if we can acquire it.

Our DVD collection has recently grown by about 70 DVDs. While the DVDs are generally entertainment movies, the VHS collection contains both entertainment movies and educational programs and documentaries on a variety of topics.

Current library rules allow you to check out five books for three weeks and one DVD/VHS for one week. To check out a DVD/VHS now requires a $5 returnable deposit and identification. The GLCCA does not carry money for change, so please bring exactly $5 cash for the deposit.

New GLCCA Volunteers

Welcome to Jay Her, our newest GLCCA volunteer. Jay is new to Alaska. He moved here just a few months ago from Marysville, CA. Jay works at Alaska Children’s Services and is an AmeriCorps member with Nine Star Education and Employment Services. He looks forward to continuing his college education at UAA with a focus on business and psychology, specifically neuropsychology. Jay’s passion is hypnosis and stage hypnosis. He enjoys Adam and Steve events and is busy building his new life in Alaska. Jay can be contacted at Jher@Jayher.com.
Welcome to GLCCA volunteer Michael Haase. Already on the Identity Board of Directors, Michael has now added the GLCCA to the activities he does for our community. Michael enjoys helping people, politics, current/world events, and is passionate about reading, movies, and spending time with friends. He owns the e-mail list Alaska Gay Discussion (Groups.google.com/group/alaskagay discussion). He can be contacted at MichaelH2001@gmail.com.

Data Input Queens

The GLCCA tracks which services visitors to the Center use, so we can best allocate our precious resources. Volunteer Barbara Seifert has added entering this information into our database to her list of volunteer activities. Thank you, Barbara, our new Data Input Queen. A big thank you to Mary Crosby, who is handing over her crown to Barbara. Mary, thanks for being our Data Input Queen for the past 3 years. We appreciate all you did for the GLCCA.

And the Multi-tasking Award Goes to...

GLCCA volunteer and local attorney Rick Helm, who recently attended a telephonic court hearing while working his shift at the GLCCA. Now that is commitment, both to the GLCCA and his professional obligations.

Trans in Alaska

The Trans Group held a holiday party Dec. 28 at the GLCCA. Some came dressed casually and others attended in formal holiday attire. It was a fun opportunity to dress up, nibble holiday treats, and enjoy the season together.

The Trans Group is on the move. To accommodate more members, the group will meet Sunday afternoons from 4-6 p.m. beginning in February.

Is the Trans Group for you? If you want a safe supportive environment where you can dress up and be yourself while socializing and sharing information and resources with others, this group may be for you. All who identify as Trans or questioning, whether in the closet or leading the parade, as well as our family and friends, are welcome. Just show up or, if you prefer, call Cam at 441-7069 for more information.

There is also an online Trans group at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/TransgenderedInAlaska.

The GLCCA is here for YOU. If you have ideas or suggestions to make the Center better, please let us know. We are listening. Don’t forget to check the calendar at www.identityinc.org to stay informed on “everything Identity”!

GLCCA Adopt-a-Day Sponsors

The following cool people supported the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Anchorage through the Adopt-a-Day program during the last quarter of 2007!

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<th>Date</th>
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<td>10/01/2007</td>
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<td>10/04/2007</td>
<td>Phyllis Rhodes</td>
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<td>10/10/2007</td>
<td>Sena Ramsey, birthday</td>
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<td>10/11/2007</td>
<td>Phyllis Rhodes</td>
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<td>10/12/2007</td>
<td>Mikel Haase, in memory of Matthew Shepard</td>
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<td>10/13/2007</td>
<td>Evelyn Doggett</td>
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<td>10/15/2007</td>
<td>Patricia Wong, for Libby’s birthday</td>
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<td>Dan &amp; Al Carter-Incontro</td>
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<td>10/18/2007</td>
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<td>Mike Travis, for Nathan Travis’ birthday</td>
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<td>10/25/2007</td>
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<td>Susan Halvor, for the day Susan met Erin</td>
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<td>Katie Hickey, for Mari J’s birthday</td>
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<td>Julie &amp; Gayle Schmidt/Schuh, for Gayle’s birthday</td>
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<td>11/20/2007</td>
<td>Katie Hickey &amp; Mari Jamieson, 10th anniversary</td>
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<td>Tess Bensussen &amp; Carol Rose Gackowski, for Carol Rose birthday</td>
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<td>11/28/2007</td>
<td>Kelly Simon &amp; Kerri Dowd, 3rd anniversary</td>
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<td>11/29/2007</td>
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<td>12/03/2007</td>
<td>Susan Niman, for baby’s 15th birthday</td>
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<td>12/07/2007</td>
<td>Bert Mead &amp; Steve Cook</td>
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<td>12/08/2007</td>
<td>Tess Bensussen &amp; Carol Rose Gackowski, 11th anniversary of adoption of our children</td>
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<td>Ann Marie Moylan, for Katelyn Troy’s birthday</td>
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<td>Michael Haase, for Jefferson Earl’s birthday</td>
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<td>12/19/2007</td>
<td>Katie Hickey &amp; Mari Jamieson, for KT’s birthday</td>
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<td>12/20/2007</td>
<td>Gale Smoke, birthday</td>
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<td>12/21/2007</td>
<td>Pam Richter, for Winter Solstice</td>
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<td>12/21/2007</td>
<td>Mary Lu Harle, for Susan Klein’s 60th birthday</td>
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<td>Wendy Parsons, birthday</td>
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<td>Phyllis Rhodes</td>
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<td>12/30/2007</td>
<td>Victor Carlson</td>
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<td>12/31/2007</td>
<td>Pam Richter, goodbye 2007!</td>
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If you’d like to celebrate a special day, why not adopt that day at the GLCCA?! Go to www.identityinc.org for information or drop by the Community Center.
DONOR SPOTLIGHT

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I want to show my support for the GLBTA community by volunteering for:

- Anchorage PrideFest (June)
- Alaska Pride Conference (October)
- GLCCA
- Helpline
- Fundraising
- Youth programs

□ I DO NOT wish to receive Identity’s newsletter or other mailings to keep me informed of community events.
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