Gay & Lesbian
Community Center of Anchorage
Identity
NORTHVIEW
January 2009

Gay Pride

PrideFest 2009

For the new kids on the block, PrideFest is nine days each summer in which we celebrate being ourselves in all our GLBTQA wonderfulness. Local businesses and non profits celebrate with us by sponsoring a variety of interesting, fun, or delicious (Larry’s BBQ!) events. The highlight is the parade and festival on Delaney Park Strip which features live entertainment, food, vendor and information booths, and lots of friends. PrideFest this year is June 13th through 21st. The parade and park strip festival is June 20th with the parade at 11AM and the park Strip festival 12-6PM.

Go! Go now and reserve those dates in your calendar.

Go on, I’ll wait.

The Trans Among Us

In an effort to be more inclusive of the T in our GLBT community, NorthView will be giving increased exposure to the trans among us in the next several issues. This is the first in a question and answer series. The answers are a compilation of information from male, female, and intersex trans folk.

1) How do transgendered people want to be referred to as individuals and as a group? What is the language?

Trans identity is an individual thing. Each person and group is different. Some FTMs call themselves trannyboys and, as a matter of fact, some young lesbians who dress up as guys call themselves trannyboys as well. Others may not call themselves trans at all, especially many FTMs who, once they transition and if they are straight, often disappear into the woodwork. Other acceptable words are trans, transgender, and transsexual. She-he is a derogatory term usually associated with porn or prostitution.

Transgender is such an umbrella statement. It is like saying “gay.” There are all types of gay people and also all types of transgender people. I like to think of myself as dual gender. I have never understood why we must be one or the other. Most intersex people choose to change to fit the gender which best suits them. I love being both and don’t wish to change. I was born this way for a reason although I have yet to figure it out. I don’t think many trans people like to be called trannyboys.

Most of us find it offensive to be called by our original sex. If we are transitioning to a female then we want to be referred to as “she” and the opposite for someone transitioning to a male.

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Pick. Click. Give.

When you apply for your PFD online you can designate Identity, Inc to receive all or part of your dividend. Yay! Just Pick. Click. Give. Identity, Inc is a non profit and your donation is tax deductible. The deadline is March 31st, 2009. For more information, please visit the Pick. Click. Give. Website at: http://www.pickclickgive.org/
Gayle Schuh and Julie Schmidt

Julie Schmidt and Gayle Schuh of Eagle River were married Aug. 1, 2007 in Vancouver, British Columbia. Their marriage celebrated 30 years of loving commitment to each other.

A reception celebration was held at Bernie’s Bungalow in Anchorage.

Lita (Flash) White and Tami Lubitsh

Lita (Flash) White and Tami Lubitsh may hold the GLBT record for saying “I do” to each other the most times. Tami and Flash had their first commitment ceremony on Maui, May 1, 2002. Their second commitment ceremony, presided over by a shaman, was held May 29, 2002 at McHugh Creek, Alaska.

Their first legal marriage took place August 12, 2003 in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Tami and Flash were not expecting their first United States marriage to happen when it did. Prior to this marriage, Flash and Tami were traveling with others on a marriage equality bus which moved from town to town protesting marriage inequality. The bus would stop at Wal-Mart parking lots and everyone would pile out and march with their signs declaring “What do we want? Marriage equality!” When the marriage equality bus reached San Francisco and Tami and Flash realized they would be allowed to be married the next day, the quickly decided to take advantage of the opportunity to marry in the United States. They spent the night in line in a tent and took their vows in the rain February 12, 2004 on the steps of City Hall in San Francisco.

They were among the first ten couples married in California and the very first bi-national couple. Flash is a U.S. citizen and Tami a citizen of Israel. Tami remembers the steps at City Hall were full of flowers and that the energy was absolutely amazing. Flash recalls being disappointed they were marrying in their camping and protest rally clothing rather than having the opportunity to dress nicely. Their honeymoon was spent back on the marriage equality bus as it traveled to Sacramento and marching with their signs in more Wal-Mart parking lots. To their disappointment and against their wishes this marriage was later annulled.

Flash and Tami were most recently married November 4, 2008 in San Francisco. They were one of the last couples to wed before it was again banned.

The photograph shows Tami, on the left, and Flash, on the right, being interviewed by Channel 7 upon the occasion of their most recent marriage.

Courage Campaign

The Courage Campaign is an online organizing network to push for progressive change. They have a campaign right now to repeal prop 8 and restore marriage equality to California. If this sounds like something that interests you, visit their site at: http://www.couragecampaign.org/page/s/repealprop8

Sean Penn wins for Milk

Were you watching the Oscars? Sean Penn won for Milk and, in his acceptance speech, gave a heartfelt plea for marriage equality. See it here: http://jointheimpact.com/2009/02/milk-and-the-oscars/
Get Involved!

PrideFest Time!

Do you like it when a hot leather clad man tells you what to do? Then e-mail Scott Turner and volunteer to be his PrideFest volunteer. Or, do you like to dress in leather and tell others what to do? PrideFest needs you, too! In private, do you like to dress in a business suit and role play being a republican Wall Street stock broker? Volunteer to help make this year’s market and information booths more numerous, more gay, more faaabulous than Wall Street ever thought of being. Do you love to sweetly say the word “gay” out loud to unsuspecting others? You are hereby elected to help with publicity! The anti-gay people have been accusing you of “recruiting” for decades. Why not put those skills to work and recruit lots and lots of entertainment for the PrideFest stage? Don’t have any skills? You are needed, too.

Will you help make PrideFest the biggest, best, and most joyously fabulously gay pride event Alaska has ever seen? Email info@anchoragepride.com and say you want to volunteer. Or, go to www.identityinc.org and click on Pridefest.

AA Meetings

Gay, Joyous, and Free AA meetings are held every Monday from 6PM to 7PM in the conference room at GLCCA (336 East 5th Avenue, Anchorage.)

Do you know about…?

Gay and Lesbian Activist Alliance (GLAA) is a volunteer advocacy non profit devoted to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender civil rights. Their website is rich with up to date information on GLBT issues nationwide: http://www.glaa.org/index.shtml

NorthView

Do you have information about our LGBTQA community appropriate for inclusion in NorthView? If so, we want to hear from you. Please e-mail us at editornorthview@gmail.com.

PrideFest Float

Let’s have a fabulous parade this year rich with colorful and exciting floats. PFLAG, Identity, GLCCA, Imperial Court, Trans Group, Adam and Steve, Last Frontier Men’s Club, Four A’s Grrlzlist, UAA Family, GLSEN, MCC, Kodiak, Mad Myrna’s, Raven, gay professionals, tax payers, voters, and all the rest – you know who you are – I’m calling you out! Come! Build a float for the parade! Build your own; join with others; sponsor someone else’s float.

Your float can have any GLBT positive theme. It can be funny, serious, political, campy, historical, dignified, or outrageous.

Right now is the time to find others with whom to work, choose a theme, find a sponsor if need be, and secure the vehicle for your float. It could be a flatbed truck, pick-up, motorcycle, riding lawn mower, boat, shopping cart, wagon, or, you can wear your float.

Helpline

Identity, Inc.’s Helpline is staffed by trained and caring volunteers and is here to provide all Alaskan GLBTQA people with information on resources, referrals for assistance, and a sympathetic ear. Helpline hours are 6 PM to 11PM, seven days a week. In Anchorage call: 258-4777. Outside of Anchorage call toll free: (888) 901-9876.
Spotlight on . . .

MatSu LGBTA Center

You have a new home!

Do you live in Palmer, Wasilla, or beyond? The pleasure of your company is enthusiastically requested at your new MatSu LGBTA Community Center in Palmer! Your new center is located at 415 South Bailey Street, Palmer. The Church of the Covenant is donating basement rooms to you until you can get on your feet enough to rent.

Right now YOUR center consists of empty rooms with Internet access, a library in boxes, a computer, and a coffee can with your logo in the middle of a table in the Vagabond Blues Restaurant in Palmer.

The brave nucleus of your new center is Brianne Elizabeth Lyons who is committing to being at Vagabond Blues Restaurant each Wednesday at 5PM with coffee can placed square in the middle of the table so you can easily find her. This is more comfortable than sitting on the floor in your new empty LGBTA. She is waiting for YOU to come and join her and a couple of others to volunteer to help organize, to form a Board of Directors, to move boxes, to donate goods, services, or money, or simply to visit and chat about your ideas for your new community center. Brianne is hoping enough people will begin attending so you can make arrangements to furnish and move into your new center before people actually begin tossing spare change into the coffee can and asking her to perform.

A letter to the Church of the Covenant thanking them for their support is something we all can do right now to help the MatSu LGBTA Community Center.

Please call Brianne Elizabeth Lyons at: (907) 775-3440.

VA Trans Group

Sue Ellen May, a licensed clinical social worker, is facilitating a support group at the Veteran’s Administration Social Behavioral Health clinic each Thursday from 4 to 5 PM. This is a new group and still forming its personality, based upon the needs of the members, but Sue Ellen May described it as “…a support group with a therapeutic edge to it.”

The group is open to veterans already receiving services at the VA clinic – though not necessarily the Social Behavior Health clinic. This is not a walk-in group so please call ahead of time if you wish to join. Sue Ellen May can be reached at 257-4846.

Trans Social Group

The Transgendered Alaskans Social Group (TASG) is a new group meeting at GLCCA (336 East 5th Avenue) each Sunday evening 6:30-8:30PM. Come and join us for good company, good conversation, and a variety of social activities. The group is open to MTF and FTM, TG/TS, their partners/spouses, and adult children. Since we meet after normal GLCCA hours, the doors will be locked and it will be necessary for you to ring the doorbell. This social group is co-facilitated by Anja (MTF) and Dan (FTM).

For information on attending meetings or other social gatherings held by TASG, please contact Anja or Dan at alaskanadian1010@yahoo.com.

There is also a new local trans website: http://www.transakpipeline.com.

Need a Speaker at Work or School?

Would your work place or school benefit from some GLBTQA education? Contact Identity, Inc.’s Advocacy Team. Skilled advocates have been trained to facilitate workshops to area businesses, governmental agencies, schools, and other organizations and would be pleased to bring workshops to your meeting or work site or invite you to theirs. The facilitators bring a broad range of professional, educational and life experiences and are prepared to discuss sociological, human resource, educational, familial, or other topics tailor made to meet your needs. For more information contact the Advocacy Team at info@identityinc.org.
Equality Works

Equality Works is a gathering of organizations and individual people who believe the citizens of Anchorage should be protected from discrimination based upon sexual orientation and gender identity in matters of employment, housing, and public accommodations and are working now to bring that change to Anchorage.

If this is a goal you share, you can help right now by sending a Facebook “friend” invite to Equality Works to spread the word.

As part of the town hall meeting (2/11/09), Tiffany McClain and Jeff Mitman, both with our local ACLU, discussed steps for implementation of this equality measure developed by the GLBTA community. These steps to implementation include public education, coalition building, gathering stories of discrimination, training speakers and other volunteers, business outreach, fundraising, and more.

To find out about what more you can do and about upcoming events, please visit the Equality Works website at www.equalityworks.org.

Remember, this is happening right now, so do not put this off if you want to help insure the success of this measure. You can be sure those who do not support this measure are working hard at this very moment to make sure no such protections of equality are afforded the GLBTA community.

“Gay,” More Than Just Another Word

By Bryce Mahn
Identity Youth Representative

GLSEN’s Think Before You Speak campaign, targeting anti-LGBT language, was launched back in October, and I’m not sure if I’m the only one, but I certainly felt that hit really soon. I went almost 2 months without people using the word “Gay” derogatorily. It was a sigh of relief for me, being an openly gay youth in high school; I had often felt trapped by those who used it so offensively. But it had gone away, or so I thought.

More recently I began to hear it again, and it really got to me, but sadly, I ignored it. Soon, I learned that if no one spoke up, no one would stop, and the derogative use of “Gay” seemed to become common again. That was, until, an ally friend of mine spoke up. It is one thing for “The Gay Kid” to get on to someone about being homophobic, but it really seemed to get a response when it was just another straight friend of theirs.

So, to all the allies who help us feel accepted, know we, your “Gay Friends” really appreciate everything you do for us; and to all of those who feel similar to me about how much it hurts to be discriminated against, speak up. People feel the same way you do, and we’re always willing to stand up and help.

Project Postcard

Project Postcard is a program aimed at reminding President Obama that we have read his civil rights agenda and are looking to him to follow through with his commitment of equality for all Americans. If you are interested in doing this, here is how it works:

1) Get one (or many) postcards, Alaska postcards would be great.
2) Write your message short, simple, and clear.
3) Address the postcard(s) to:
   President Barack Obama
   The White House
   1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
   Washington, D.C. 20500
4) Sign your name.
5) Put on a stamp and mail your card.
6) Repeat.

For more information, you can visit: http://www.civilrightsfront.com
Proposition 8 Protest Rally

Photos by:
Steve Gingrich
Melissa Green
Welcome to our new volunteers. We are so happy you have joined us and we look forward to working together with you all!

**Candi Trumbly**

Hello to everyone. My name is Candice Trumbly though I prefer to be called Candi. I moved to Alaska in January of 2006 and am in a committed relationship with my fiancé. I love to sing and was honored to perform for you at PrideFest 2006, though, I did get nervous and forget to sing some of the song. I was also very honored to be one of the winners of the 2006-2007 Alaska Aces’ “Oh Say Can You Sing” National Anthem contest and to sing the Star-Spangled Banner at the Alaska Aces’ game. I am a Leo and very passionate about life and love, and all that I can learn during my life. I have a heart of gold and am eager to help if I am able. I am volunteering at GLCCA.

**Chris Grgich**

I’m Chris Grgich. I’m a young gay professional from Wasilla, AK. I’ve been living in Anchorage for three years. In my off time, I enjoy video games, live music, and travel. You’ll find me around town at Kaladi’s or working a local film festival. Stop by and say “Hi” sometime. I’d love to meet you.

**Cassandra Lindin-Lamon**

Hi, I’m Cassandra. I’ve been volunteering at the center for a few months and it’s been really great getting to know everyone here. I’ve just moved into Anchorage from Chugiak partially with the intention to expand my social network. I enjoy performance art, music, and spend my time with the people I love. By nature, I’m an artist in many forms, but in this last year my main outlet has been writing. I’m an acupuncturist by profession. I am incredibly blessed and wowed constantly by my beautiful patients. I’m at Identity on Friday nights, and I am the facilitator for the Group Acupuncture for relaxation and stress reduction. I look forward to meeting you at the center sometime soon!

**Wesley Honeycutt**

I am the one who walks into a room and brings a smile to everyone’s face. I laugh, I love, I am human...at least I think I am. Maybe I’m not. I think maybe I was dropped on this planet by my parents (who must have been aliens) because I just don’t fit in. But, by not fitting in, I do. If that makes any sense. Well this is me in a nutshell; no worries, no fear. Live, laugh, love and play. And always have a good day!
What Is Adopt-A-Day?

Adopt-A-Day is a way for you to shine! It costs money to keep the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Anchorage (GLCCA) open. While every single staff member is a volunteer we still need to pay for rent, utilities, Internet, and other expenses. To adopt-a-day means that you donate $50.00, the approximate cost of keeping GLCCA open for one day. GLCCA puts up a sign in the community center to dedicate that day to you or to whomever or whatever you may wish to honor or recognize. Not only do you get to give the great gift of helping to keep GLCCA open for the GLBTA community, but it is all tax deductible for you as well! You can become the proud new parent of an adopted day or two, give a gift to the GLBT community, and get a tax deduction, too! It is a win-win-win situation! What could be better?

Adopted Days

A gigantic thank you and congratulations to the wonderful people listed below who have adopted days in the fourth quarter of the year. It is not too late. We have plenty of days just waiting to be adopted by a good parent like you.

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<th>Date</th>
<th>For</th>
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<th>Reason</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Bert Mead</td>
<td>Roger Crandy</td>
<td>Thanks for Pride Logos</td>
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<td>1/2/2009</td>
<td>Roger &amp; Kirt</td>
<td>Crandy &amp; Beck</td>
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<td>1/7/2009</td>
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<td>Rhodes</td>
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<td>Dana</td>
<td>Kelly</td>
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<td>Jackie and Dawn</td>
<td>birthday +10 months</td>
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<td>Karen Cook</td>
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<td>Gale Smoke</td>
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<td>In Honor of Steve and Bert</td>
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<td>Schmidt &amp; Schuh</td>
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<td>Cook</td>
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<td>2/28/2009</td>
<td>Susan Orlansky</td>
<td>Jackie and Dawn</td>
<td>birthday + 11 months</td>
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<td>Bert</td>
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<td>Carter-Incontro</td>
<td>40th Anniversary</td>
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<td>Rhodes</td>
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Wish List

There is a white board in the snack area of GLCCA with little post-it notes stuck to it. This is GLCCA’s interactive wish list. The way this interactive wish lists works is that volunteers write on post-it notes things we need or want at the center, such as individual bottles of water or juice, individual snacks, DVDs, envelopes, and so forth and then stick the post-it on the white board. You check the wish list from time to time to see if there is anything on it that you can provide. You pull off the post-it and take it with you to Costco, or wherever you shop, get the item, and bring it to GLCCA. A fridge full of drinks is especially appreciated as it gets hot and dry working in the center. Remember, whatever you donate is tax deductible. Just ask the volunteer for an in-kind receipt.

Those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for themselves.”
-- Abraham Lincoln
Personally, I am a WOMAN (though a GYN may differ with me just now) and, as a member of a political group, I am a transwoman. I know if I was as pretty as some of the trans sisters I have met, I would probably blend in and never mention trans as part of my identity, but would still fight for T rights for those who couldn’t. As it is, I don’t have that luxury.

Terms that fly around are M2F or MTF meaning male to female and F2M or FTM meaning female to male. Pre-op and Post-op (no-brainers there) refer to surgery. SRS is sexual reassignment surgery and GRS refers to the genital surgery. RLE stands for real life experience where one is required to live as the identified gender for 1-2 years in order to gain access to SRS. For FTMs who are on testosterone, we talk about being on T or getting our T. Passing means that people perceive us as our preferred gender. Transmen have “top” or “bottom” surgeries to remove breasts and add a penis and the opposite for the transwomen. Too bad we can’t cross-donate!

2) Is there some hallmark event in trans history, such as Stonewall for gay and lesbian people?

It is important to remind the community that the event of Stonewall was started by transfolk. The cops had been used to coming in on a regular basis, lining everybody up, cleaning out the till and beating on anyone they chose. That night they tried to arrest a couple of the drag queens and that was the breaking point. The first bottle thrown was by a transwoman! Often some of us feel that the GL community is more than happy to remove themselves from us, especially when passing rights ordinances and bills like the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA). But there might still be no organized Gay Rights movement had a transwoman not started that melee. Sadly, most of our other “hallmark” events center on who was beaten and murdered for being one of us, which is why we have a yearly “Day of Remembrance” in November.

The only thing that I can think of is the National Day of Remembrance, which is November 20th. There is a website rememberingourdead.org. A transwoman by the name of Gwendolyn Ann Smith started this after Rita Hester, who was a transwoman, was murdered. Actually, Stonewall was the drag queens revolt. Since the drag queens are considered transgendered, Stonewall belongs equally to the GLB and T communities.

3) How do straight trans folk feel about being grouped with the GLBT world?

That is a totally confusing mix. Straight transfolk is a twisted concept to begin with. A transwoman who is strictly attracted to women was considered straight but is now a lesbian. One who is attracted to men was considered gay but now would be perceived as straight. As for homophobic transwomen - I have known of a couple. I know that straight cross dressers (CD), such as those who join the “Tri-Ess” group for hetero CDs and their wives, do not like being lumped with the GLBT. This is one of the reasons that they expel any CD who comes to realize that she is actually TS.

Many of them don’t like it, especially those who feel that they are heterosexual. Right now many trans people are angry at the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), a non profit working for GLBT rights, because last year, when they were trying to get ENDA passed, they dropped “gender identity” from the bill. Plus, individuals connected with HRC have said some things about transpeople that weren’t very nice, such as we are just confused gay people. So, that makes trans people angry. As a result we have the National Center for Transgender Equality and last year several HRC events were picketed by trans folks.

4) Is there a sense of humor particular to trans culture? Jokes? Examples?

Well, I have heard of some crude humor, but no pleasant ones. Although, it is a standing joke among some of my friends to say “Hey girl Hey” when one of us walk into a room.

Try these sites for some T humor. This first site has humor, story lines, and informational or emotional content:
http://venusenvy.comicgenesis.com/d/20011201.html

This second site is a spin-off from Venus Envy and is almost all humor:

You have to have a sense of humor because people can be mean and say stupid stuff. You have to learn to laugh and just let things roll off your back.

Some very helpful trans folk have agreed to answer any of your questions. So, now is the time to learn whatever it is you need to know to better advocate for and befriend the trans folk among us. If you have questions you would like to pose to members of the trans community, please e-mail them to editornorthview@gmail.com.
COMMUNITY CENTER ADOPT-A-DAY PROGRAM

Yes, I will participate in the Adopt-A-Day program! My donation will help pay for the Community Center’s operating expenses.

(Please print)

Name:__________________________________________________

Street/Mailing Address:__________________________________________

City:________________________ State:_________ Zip:__________________

Telephone:_________________ E-mail:______________________________

Adoption day(s):
1. Date: ___________ In Honor of: ________________________________________
2. Date: ___________ In Honor of: ________________________________________
3. Date: ___________ In Honor of: ________________________________________
4. Date: ___________ In Honor of: ________________________________________
5. Date: ___________ In Honor of: ________________________________________
6. Date: ___________ In Honor of: ________________________________________
7. Date: ___________ In Honor of: ________________________________________
8. Date: ___________ In Honor of: ________________________________________

If you need additional space, please write date(s) and reason for adoption on a separate sheet of paper and include it with this form.

Total amount of donation for adoption: $50 x _________ day(s) = $_________

(Make check payable to Identity, Inc. or provide credit card information below)

Please charge the above days to:
CHECK ONE:      ____VISA;  ____MasterCard;   _____American Express;   _____ Discover

NAME (as it appears on card):_____________________________________

CARD NUMBER:____________________________________________ Expiration Date: ___/___

SIGNATURE:__________________________________________________

Identity, Inc. is a 501 (c)(3) tax exempt organization. As such, any donations made to Identity, Inc. are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Thank you very much for your support!

Please mail this form and your check or credit card information to the address below. If cash donation is preferred, please bring this form and your donation to the Community Center at 336 East 5th Avenue. Please do not mail cash.
Donor Spotlight

Identity, Inc. thanks these businesses and organizations that provided financial support for NorthVIEW!

NorthVIEW is a quarterly publication of Identity, Inc., a nonprofit 501(c)(3) Alaska corporation concerned with issues of sexual and gender identity.

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Helpline GLBT Information & Referrals
(907) 258-4777 (Anchorage); 1-888-901-9876 (Statewide)
Identity Donor and Pledge Form

Choose your donor level and become a member of Identity today. Memberships expire in one year.

☐ Red Donor: $30
☐ Orange Donor: $100 or $10 per month for 12 months
☐ Yellow Donor: $250 or $25 per month for 12 months
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☐ RAINBOW LIFETIME MEMBER! $5,000 or $500 per month for 12 months

NAME ____________________________________________
MAILING ADDRESS __________________________________
CITY/STATE/ZIP _____________________________________
Telephone/e-mail (optional) ____________________________

Please check one: ☐ New membership ☐ Annual membership renewal ☐ Donation

I want to show my support for the GLBTA community by volunteering for:
☐ Anchorage PrideFest (June) ☐ GLCCA ☐ Fundraising
☐ Alaska Pride Conference (October) ☐ Helpline ☐ Youth programs

☐ I DO NOT wish to receive Identity’s newsletter or other mailings to keep me informed of community events.
☐ I DO NOT wish public recognition of my donation.

Please make check payable to Identity or charge this donation to: ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ AMEX ☐ Discover

NAME (as it appears on card) ____________________________________________
CARD NUMBER ____________________________ Exp date ________________
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