Volunteer Spotlight

Katelyn Lanier-Moylan is a senior at West Anchorage High School where she is the president of the Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA). She also serves as the Co-Chair of the Youth Engagement Committee of the One Anchorage Campaign and as the new Youth Representative on the Identity Board. Through these titles, Katelyn works to bring high-school aged youth together and increase youth involvement in the LGBT community. She feels very fortunate to be working with so many wonderful people and is especially excited for the equal rights initiative to be passed in April!

Report Shows Discrimination Against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Alaskans

Anchorage, AK, Nov. 10, 2011 – The non-profit group Identity released today preliminary results of a study conducted this year about discrimination in Anchorage’s lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender (LGBT) community. The Anchorage LGBT Discrimination Survey’s initial results indicate members of the LGBT community in Anchorage continue to experience significant levels of discrimination in areas of employment, housing, education, public services and child custody as a result of their sexual orientation or gender identity or presentation. They also experience high levels of verbal harassment and physical violence.

“Unfortunately, we know discrimination within the LGBT community continues to be a problem in Anchorage as it does in other communities across the country,” stated Phyllis Rhodes, Executive Director of Identity. “The survey will help us quantify the problems we face so we can work to eliminate discrimination in our community as a whole.”

In the area of employment, 44 percent of respondents reported being harassed by employers or other employees; nearly 21 percent believed they were turned down for a job when otherwise qualified; almost 18 percent were denied a promotion and close to 15 percent said they were fired by their employer based on their sexual orientation or gender identity.

In housing, over 18 percent of respondents reported being harassed by a landlord or other tenants, and more than 10 percent said they were denied a housing lease, even though they were otherwise qualified, because they were LGBT.

The Anchorage LGBT Discrimination Survey also continues on page 6
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT TO THE PRIDE FOUNDATION

November 11, 2011

Dear Jeff, Pride Foundation staff, board of directors and supporters:

The plight of Alaska’s GLBTQ youth in rural Alaska and the extremely high incidence of attempted suicide in this population of youth prompted Identity to seek this grant from Pride Foundation.

After Pride Foundation’s initial grant of $3,500, more very successful fund raisers were held here in Anchorage and in addition to money 75,000 Alaska Air miles were donated to bring rural GLBTQA youth together for Identity’s 17th Annual Pride Conference.

Our somewhat limited vision was grasped by a group of young adults, and Identity’s first Pride Conference 2011 Youth Summit became not only to be a reality but a success beyond our wildest dreams. The Youth Summit spanned three days, the first day being a series of workshops and activities just for youth on everything from LGBTA history, healthy relationships and personal story boarding.

Pride Foundation grant dollars provided travel for three youth from Kodiak, one from Homer and one from Fairbanks. Air miles were used for travel for two youth from Juneau ; a third Juneau youth traveled on a family pass. Approximately 20 youth and two adults traveled from Fairbanks by auto after Friday high school classes. One youth came from Ketchikan at his own expense; Identity provided accommodations.

Some meals and housing were provided by St. John’s Methodist Church, some meals were provided by Moose Tooth Pizzeria. Identity used Pride Foundation funds for additional meals and housing expenses. The AMP program at Alaskan Aids Assistance Association provided bowling for everyone on Saturday night. The Trevor Project provided a key note speaker who also led separate workshops on suicide prevention for both youth and adults working with youth. A team from the Alaska Suicide Prevention Council attended and presented a workshop New partnerships were forged.

We are enclosing a copy of the Pride Conference schedule for your review of the programs provided to youth and adults.

A survey of youth at the conclusion of the Conference showed the outcomes we were hoping for. One hundred percent of the youth participating in the three day conference said, among other things:

I feel more confident and comfortable with myself and my identity
I feel more connected to other LGBTQA youth from around the state
I am more aware of resources available to me and other LGBTQA youth in Alaska
I feel there are adults who care about me
The workshops provided me the opportunity to reflect upon my past and envision a positive future for myself
I feel I was a respected member of this Conference
I would recommend the Conference to other LGBTQA youth

And so we hope that Pride Foundation will plan and budget with us for Alaska Pride Conference Youth Summit 2012.

Another 50,000 air miles have already been pledged. We think that in 2012 we will be able to reach many more youth from rural Alaska as they discover that it does in fact “get better.”

But wait…there’s more! The success of the Pride Conference Youth Summit is moving Identity quickly along toward its goal of coordinating programs and services for GLBTQA youth across Alaska. With limited resources, we are developing a network for existing GSA facilitators and GSA students. Schools without a GSA are seeking mentors …Identity can assist in making that connection. Every non-profit program in Alaska working with youth needs to be sensitive to GLBT youth. We have been working in that direction with Alaska Youth and Parent Foundation, Covenant House for homeless youth…the list is long. This is a huge undertaking and Identity is anxious to be the contact to make it all happen.

Thank you for your continued confidence in Identity’s ability to successfully provide programs to Alaska’s GLBTQA population.

Sincerely,

Phyllis Rhodes
Executive Director
Thank You, Thank You, Thank You

Many, many thanks to the 112 of you who donated to Identity through the Click-Pick-Give program! Your total gift of $5,675 will be used wisely for our many GLBT programs. Some of you gave through the Click-Pick-Give to other charities as well. Thanks for your part in making our State a better place for all by sharing your permanent fund dividend.

Best holiday wishes to one and all!

IDENTITY NEEDS YOU!

We need your time, your energy, and, yes, your money to keep offering you are services. Although Identity is supported by grants, we rely on people like you for our day-to-day operations.

FOUR WAYS YOU CAN HELP IF YOU LIVE or WORK IN ALASKA:

Thank you very much for thinking of Identity, Inc. when you plan your workplace giving and permanent fund donations. We sincerely appreciate you.

1. UNITED WAY – WORKPLACE GIVING:
   In Health & Human Services write in “Identity, Inc.”

2. ALASKA COMMUNITY SHARE–WORKPLACE GIVING:
   Simply select Identity,Inc.

3. COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN–WORKPLACE GIVING:
   Federal Workers select Identity Inc. (Hooray, we are finally included!)

4. ALASKA PERMANENT FUND:
   Identity, Inc.is an approved charity for selection when you apply online for 2009. If you check that you want your name disclosed to us, we would love to send you a thank you letter when your contribution arrives at Identity, Inc.
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Please Party Responsibly!

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IT’S THE PERFECT GIFT

What never goes out of style, is never the wrong size or color, and is rarely duplicated? It’s an Adopt-A-Day. You can designate the date and honor someone special, call attention to something whimsical, show your appreciation, or remain anonymous. Your gift will keep the doors of the Gay and Lesbian Community Center open by helping us pay the rent, utilities, and insurance. You can use the donor form on the back of this NorthView or go to our website for online giving. Your donation can even be spread out over several months of credit card charges and your information is always secure with us. So why wait? There are plenty of 2011 dates available and waiting to be adopted. Be the first one on your block to own one.

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Democratic Party Grant

Each year the Anchorage Democratic Party of Alaska awards several grants to organizations throughout the Anchorage area. These grants are to assist in furthering the mission and goals of each organization as these groups aid different people and assist in providing services throughout the community and beyond.

This year Identity, Inc. was one of several organizations to receive one of these grants. A total of $450 was awarded to allow Identity to help youth from rural areas of Alaska to travel to the Pride Conference in October.

Identity wishes to thank the Democratic Party of Alaska for recognizing the need and importance networking with LGBT youth throughout our great state.

showed that roughly three out of four survey respondents experienced verbal abuse, and nearly 43 percent were subjected to threats of physical violence. Further, almost 13 percent experienced property damage because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. Melissa S. Green was the principal investigator for the project and authored the preliminary report released today. Green was also part of two similar research efforts in the 1980s conducted by Identity to document sexual orientation bias and discrimination in Alaska. The new study added transgender Alaskans to the survey and was conducted between January and March of this year, and involved paper and online surveys collected from 268 respondents in Anchorage who identified themselves as being LGBT. The project was designed by members of the Alaska LGBT Community Survey Task Force in consultation with Dr. Brad A. Myrstol and Khristy Parker of the Justice Center at University of Alaska Anchorage. Dr. Myrstol also assisted with statistical analysis.

Identity is an Anchorage--based, non---profit organization founded in 1977, and provides programs supporting equality for the LGBT community and its allies. The complete report from the Anchorage LGBT Discrimination Survey will be released in December 2011.

A copy of the complete preliminary report is available online at www.identityinc.org or www.alaskacommunity.org.

continued from page 1
Thank you to these businesses for their financial support of NorthView.

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Identity Donor and Pledge Form

Adopt-A-Day or choose your donor level and become a member of Identity today. Memberships expire in one year.

_____ Adopt-A-Day Donor, $50 per adopted day

☐ Red Donor: $30
☐ Orange Donor: $100 or $10 per month for 12 months
☐ Yellow Donor: $250 or $25 per month for 12 months
☐ Blue Donor: $1,000 or $100 per month for 12 months
☐ Purple Donor: $2,500 or $250 per month for 12 months
☐ RAINBOW LIFETIME MEMBER! $5,000 or $500 per month for 12 months

Please specify # of days you wish to adopt

☐ Please specify # of days you wish to adopt

____ Please specify # of days you wish to adopt

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 ______________
SIGNATURE  ____________________________________________________________________________________

Identity, Inc. is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) Alaska corporation. Contributions are deductible to the full extent of the law.

Identity, Inc.
P. O. Box 200070
Anchorage, AK 99520-0070