

horizons foundation PRESS RELEASE

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CONTACT: Roger Doughty, Executive Director
415.398.2333 x102
rdoughty@horizonsfoundation.org

HORIZONS ANNOUNCES \$690,000 IN GRANTS TO 50 BAY AREA ORGANIZATIONS THAT SUPPORT LGBT ISSUES AND CAUSES

- *Total 2011 Grant Giving Exceeds \$1.65 Million*
- *Donations By Horizons Are Crucial As New Report Shows California Foundations Allocate Less Than .3% Of Their Funding To LGBT Community Organizations*

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (December 13, 2011) – Horizons Foundation today joined together with community leaders and supporters to announce \$690,000 in grants that have been awarded to more than fifty non-profit organizations that support lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) issues and causes in the San Francisco Bay Area. Total giving by Horizons will total more than \$1.65 million in 2011.

The grants, ranging from \$1,500 to \$35,000, are being provided to non-profit organizations that strengthen and support LGBT programs in three areas of focus: community issues, elders and people of color. Recipients include anchor LGBT community organizations and smaller, community-based nonprofits that rely heavily on grant funding and the Horizons grants are critical to their annual operating budgets.

“Horizons is proud to announce these grants to support issues and programs important to the Bay Area LGBT community,” said Roger Doughty, Executive Director of Horizons. “These grants provide critical resources to nonprofits that touch, change, and even save lives every day.”

Organizations receiving the grants range from San Francisco to Santa Clara and include other surrounding counties such as Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin and San Mateo, among others. Their work includes funding educational programs, community events, arts and culture, human and health services, legal services, and, advocacy for LGBT rights. Two organizations receiving funding include **\$27,500 for Lavender Seniors of the East Bay**, funds that allow the organization to increase the hours of its care coordinator; expand the Elder-Friendly Emblem Project; and improve its technological capabilities in order to better track and serve clients. **Somos Familias, of Oakland, received a \$5,000 grant** for programs to create support and acceptance for Latina/o LGBT youth and their families. Additional support went to the **Asian & Pacific Islander Wellness Center in San Francisco (\$17,000)** and the **Black Coalition on AIDS (\$19,000)** for capacity building and education. A full listing of the grantees and programs being funded can be found at www.horizonsfoundation.org.

NEW Report Released: “California-Based Foundation Funding of California LGBT Nonprofits”

The importance of the Horizons grants are even more important this year, as a new report also released by Horizons, “California-Based Foundation Funding of California LGBT Nonprofits,” shows that of California’s 7,184 foundations, only 48 made grants to California LGBT organizations or projects in 2009 (the latest year data are available).

“What this report reveals is that the great majority of foundations continue to overlook the needs and issues that the LGBT community confronts every day,” said Doughty, the foundation’s executive director. “The lack of such support poses profound challenges to LGBT nonprofit organizations already wrestling with tough economic conditions.”

The study also showed that between 2006 and 2009, grant making by California-based foundations to California-based LGBT organizations dropped 3.5% while in contrast, during the same period their overall grant making to California-based nonprofits increased 14.7%. Funding from non-LGBT funders to LGBT issues in California fell by 19.1% between 2006 and 2009.

The report can be found at <http://www.horizonsfoundation.org/pdf/CAFoundationLGBTFunding2011.pdf>.

Founded in 1980, Horizons was the world’s first community foundation focused exclusively on LGBT issues. During that time, Horizons has provided more than \$20 million in financial support to community organizations and causes in areas ranging from youth to elders, from LGBT arts and culture to civil rights advocacy. Horizons Foundation fuels the LGBT movement by increasing support for diverse San Francisco Bay Area nonprofits that help thousands of people each day. Horizons’ work strengthens organizations and their leaders, mobilizes donors and funders to inspire giving, and actively secures the LGBT community’s future for generations to come. For more information, visit www.horizonsfoundation.org or call 415.398.2333.

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