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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**LGBT Giving Circle Awards \$23,250 in Grants,  
Reaches \$50,000 Grant Milestone in 3 Years**

Rochester, NY — The LGBT Giving Circle awarded \$23,250 in grants from its LGBT Fund for Greater Rochester to 12 nonprofit organizations, bringing the total of grants awarded in three years to \$50,000.

Giving Circle members, guests and grantees attended a celebration on November 17 at Rochester Contemporary Art Center, where the new grants were formally announced.

“Members of the Giving Circle are extremely pleased to increase our philanthropic impact and our visibility in the community. This round we have awarded grants to a broad mix of social service and arts organizations that are either LGBT-focused or serve the community at large but are LGBT inclusive,” says Angela Bonazinga, co-chair of the Giving Circle.

The Giving Circle’s mission is to help make a real difference in the quality of life across the Rochester region, for LGBT individuals and for the community at large.

The 12 organizations receiving grants that were approved by the Circle membership were:

- **Alternatives for Battered Women:** To increase awareness of LGBT intimate partner violence (IPV) and of ABW as a Safe Zone to support IPV victims through the development of print materials, website, and social media presence. \$1,800
- **Center for Dispute Settlement:** To recruit volunteer mediators from the LGBT community in Monroe, Ontario, Wayne, Livingston, Seneca, and Yates counties to participate in the agency core training principles of mediation. \$2,000
- **Center for the Finger Lakes:** To expand a youth program, piloted in 2013 in the Geneva schools, that incorporates administrative, teacher, and staff training, as well as technical support for students who want to start a Gay-Straight Alliance in three schools. Culminates with school climate surveys. \$2,000

- **Center for Teen Empowerment:** To supports the June 2015 Youth Peace Initiative in southwest Rochester that will engage LGBT youth among the 500 participants. \$2,000
- **Chances and Changes of Livingston County's Coalition of Sexual Health:** To establish a monthly youth Gay-Straight Alliance support group that will provide professional speakers and experts and work towards acceptance by the broader community. \$1,800
- **Gandhi Institute:** To work with seventh- and eighth-grade students at the Rochester City School District's Northwest College Prep to provide them with tools related to internal and interpersonal applications of nonviolence and increase skills for managing conflict. \$2,000
- **Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley:** To increase knowledge of regional LGBT history and issues by promoting and screening the *Shoulders to Stand On* documentary and holding a panel discussion or other interpretive programming at a public library in Monroe County and at one regional location. \$1,000
- **Geva Theatre Center:** To diversify the social offerings available to members of LGBTQ organizations through "Out at GEVA" events that encourage communication and cooperation among organizations. \$2,000
- **HCR Cares:** To develop materials, conduct, and document "Can We Talk" train-the-trainer workshops that will improve the awareness of and empathy for LGBT persons among health care professionals and lead to better health outcomes. \$2,000
- **ImageOut:** To help support film rentals for the 2015 festival. \$2,000
- **Rochester Gay Men's Chorus:** To support the development of an original musical composition based on LGBT experiences, which would be performed in 2015. \$2,000
- **Susan B. Anthony Institute for Gender and Women's Studies:** To support "Out at Work," a new day-long initiative that will address issues faced by LGBTQI undergraduates and graduate students when choosing, applying to, and attending graduate school and those in the community who work in professional jobs. \$1,500
- **21<sup>st</sup> Century Fund:** To support Rochester Area Community Foundation's anti-poverty efforts to increase awareness of the concentration of poverty and its impact on the community at large. \$1,150

The LGBT Giving Circle, established in October 2011 at Rochester Area Community Foundation, has 60 member households. Annual membership contributions are evenly split between grantmaking for the upcoming year and an endowment to meet future needs.

For more information on the LGBT Giving Circle, visit [www.racf.org/LGBT](http://www.racf.org/LGBT).