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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Youth Projects Lead in LGBT Giving Circle Grants Awarded

Rochester, NY — In its fourth year of grantmaking, the LGBT Giving Circle has awarded \$23,090 in grants to 14 nonprofit organizations. Among the broad array of social service, cultural, historic, and LGBT rights projects the grants support, more than \$9,000 in awards have been directed at programs serving youth.

Giving Circle members, guests, and grantees attended a reception November 16 celebrating the announcement of the grants at Rochester Contemporary Art Center.

“The mission of the LGBT Giving Circle at the Rochester Area Community Foundation is to help make a real difference in the quality of life for LGBT individuals and for the community at large. With LGBT youth particularly at risk, we are pleased to make a significant impact this year by focusing on a number of projects that address challenges faced by youth across our eight-county region, while continuing to support a broad mix of social service, cultural, and LGBT rights projects.” said Angela Bonazinga, co-chair of the Giving Circle.

To achieve its mission, the Giving Circle awards grants to organizations that are LGBT focused and others that serve the community at large and have demonstrated that they are LGBT inclusive in both their policies and their work.

The 14 grants approved by the Circle membership are:

- **Center for Teen Empowerment:** \$2,000, to support the 2016 Youth Peace Initiative that will engage up to 500 young people, including LGBT youth, in community change efforts in southwest Rochester.
- **Center for Youth:** \$2,000, to support monthly drop-in nights and networking for LGBT youth in a safe and trusting environment in Rochester’s Monroe neighborhood.
- **Chances and Changes of Livingston County’s Coalition of Sexual Health:** \$1,840, to provide continuing support for monthly youth Gay-Straight Alliance support group meetings, increase training for agency and school staff working with LGBT youth, and expand services for LGBT youth in Wyoming County.



- **Gandhi Institute:** \$2,000, to support the training of more than 100 middle school girls and boys in the Rochester City School District using a curriculum that promotes nonviolence and develops skills to manage anger and conflict.
- **RAPA/OFC Creations:** \$1,500, to support a theatrical production of *Spring Awakening*, which includes themes of coming of age, sexual identity, right and wrong, and spirituality using an age-appropriate cast.
- **Empire Justice Center:** \$2,000, to support the continuation of the LGBT Rights Project, which helps LGBT clients in discrimination cases of employment, education, housing, health, and immigration, and assists transgender and gender non-conforming individuals with changing their names and gender markers.
- **Geva Theatre Center:** \$1,000, to support the Out at Geva program, which welcomes and celebrates the members of Rochester's LGBTQ community.
- **ImageOut:** \$2,000, to support film rentals for the annual festival in 2016.
- **Jewish Community Center:** \$2,000, to support the production of *25 Questions for a Jewish Mother* with LGBT comedian Judy Gold.
- **Landmark Society of Western New York:** \$1,000, to provide support to help identify and recognize buildings historically significant to the LGBT community.
- **Macedon Public Library:** \$750, to support a series of LGBT book discussion programs, moderated by the education arm of the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley, and to add the selected books to the collection and available across the Pioneer Library System.
- **Trillium Health:** \$2,000, to support a social marketing campaign aimed at young men of color who have sex with men and focused on Trillium's health education and HIV prevention resources, including pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP).
- **Volunteer Legal Services Project:** \$2,000, to help continue and expand birth certificate and name change services for the transgender population in Monroe County.
- **WXXI:** \$1,000, for general programming to focus on LGBT Pride month in 2016.



The LGBT Giving Circle was established in 2011 at Rochester Area Community Foundation. Currently there are 72 member households. Annual membership contributions are split evenly between grant making for the coming year and an endowment to meet future needs. In four years, the group has awarded more than \$73,000 in grants.

To be eligible for grants, organizations must be a 501(c) 3 charitable entity in the eight-county region served by the Community Foundation and must have a nondiscrimination policy that is inclusive of LGBT people or be in the process of developing one. Projects and activities need to align with the mission and scope of the LGBT Giving Circle, which is to support organizations that serve, are inclusive of, or are allied with the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community to enhance and strengthen our region.

For more information about the LGBT Giving Circle, visit www.racf.org/LGBT.