



For Immediate Release
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LGBT Giving Circle Awards \$35,550 in Grants

Rochester, NY – The LGBT Giving Circle has awarded \$35,550 in grants to 18 nonprofit organizations.

This year's grants awarded by the Giving Circle demonstrate the variety of community needs the group supported, including programs addressing at-risk youth, cultural and financial literacy, and LGBT rights. Members, guests, and grantees celebrated at a November 12 reception at the Memorial Art Gallery.

"We are pleased to support organizations that are addressing the challenges affecting those most vulnerable in our community," said Nancy Brown and John Williams, co-chairs of the Giving Circle, established in 2011 at Rochester Area Community Foundation. "Through the power of collective giving and throughout the eight-county region, the Giving Circle is making a positive impact on the lives of people of all ages."

The Giving Circle received grant applications from 26 organizations requesting more than \$69,000. In the seven years since it was founded, the LGBT Giving Circle has awarded more than \$165,000 in grants while simultaneously growing its endowment to nearly \$180,000. (More details at www.racf.org/LGBT).

To achieve its mission, the Giving Circle awards grants to community organizations that are LGBT-focused as well as those that have LGBT-inclusive policies and programming. Inclusivity is a priority in the Giving Circle's work and it has been successful in helping many organizations improve their policies to become fully inclusive.

The 18 grants approved by the Giving Circle membership this year are:

ACT Rochester: Data-based report on sexual health in Rochester. \$2,000

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Rochester: Mentoring program for LGBT youth. \$2,000



BOA Editions: Publication and promotion of *Documents* by Jan-Henry Gray. \$2,000

Center for Teen Empowerment: Youth peace initiatives. \$3,000

The Children's Agenda: Children's Social-Emotional Health Needs Priority. \$2,000

East House: LGBT group support and staff training. \$1,000

Family Counseling Services of the Finger Lakes: *You Are Not Alone* youth group program. \$1,500

Gandhi Institute: School Climate Transformation Project at the Rochester City School District. \$3,000

Girls Rock!: The Queer Rock! Camp. \$3,250

ImageOut: Film rentals for 2019 film festival. \$2,000

Jewish Community Center: CenterStage production of *Indecent*. \$2,500

Junior Achievement of Central Upstate NY: Financial literacy and work readiness program. \$2,000

A Magical Journey Thru Stages: Musical theater productions for young audiences. \$1,000

OUT Alliance: Production of *The Boys in the Band* and *A Late Snow*. \$1,500

Rochester Gay Men's Chorus: Production of *Finding Oz*. \$2,000

Seneca Waterways Council/Boy Scouts of America: After-school scouting partnerships. \$1,300

St. John Fisher College: Clemente Course in the Humanities, focused on Wilson Commencement Park residents. \$1,000

Veterans Outreach Center: Transition to home and self-sufficiency program for homeless veterans. \$2,500