



Gamma Mu Foundation Autumn Newsletter September 2019



John Ellis, President, Gamma Mu Foundation

Welcome to our Fall news update. As you will soon read in our Annual Report, the Foundation has enjoyed a very successful year. We attribute this success to our very generous donors who support our work on an ongoing basis.

In early July, at our annual meeting in Chicago, the Board voted to allocate nearly \$250,000 for our grants and scholarship awards for the coming year. In fact, as you read this, the funds are being distributed to the winners. As always, the caliber of the winners of both grants and scholarships is exceptional. It is also fitting to thank *Peter Harvey* (grants chairman) and *Doug Morton* (scholarship chairman) and their team of volunteers for the time and work spent on this project.

We look forward to the fall Gamma Mu Fly In in New Orleans. On Saturday we will hold our annual meeting and fall board meeting.

Prior to the annual meeting, the Foundation will hold a complimentary buffet breakfast for all ACTIVE Cliff Pettit fellows. We hope you will plan to attend, both the breakfast and meetings. During the fly in we will be talking about updates we are working on as a result of the Fremont study completed last year. Our goal is to better communicate with our donor base as well as ensuring the long-term success of the Foundation.

On behalf of the Board, I want to thank you all for your generous ongoing support. As always, you, our donors, are our most valuable



Gamma Mu Foundation Summer Meeting - Chicago

The Summer Meeting of the Gamma Mu Foundation was held in Chicago in July. The agenda included Committee Reports from Finance and Investments by *Michael Pack* and *Ken Thompson*, Scholarship Committee by *Doug Morton*, Grants Committee by *Peter Harvey*, Public Relations Committee by *John Block*, Web Site Update by *Bobby Meehan* and Legacy and Fundraising by *John Ellis*.

Discussion Topics included allocation percentages of grants and scholarships, archiving of files at stonewall library, expanding website use, annual report, annual meeting election openings and implementation of Fremont recommendations.

A special thank you to *Bill Hayden* for hosting both local members and Meeting participants at his home during the meeting.

Communication with Donors and Friends of the Foundation

One of the primary goals of the Foundation is to keep our donors and friends updated with the activities of the Foundation.

PLEASE HELP US BY KEEPING US INFORMED OF ANY ADDRESS, EMAIL OR HOUSEHOLD CHANGES

[Visit our website](#)



A Word from our Grants Director, Peter Harvey

"Hundreds of you over the years have donated millions of dollars to the Foundation, allowing us to build a Foundation fund which, with the prudent investment management from our successive Treasurers, has allowed us to give away over 3 million dollars, and still have over 3 million in the Foundation's fund today.

So where does your money go? To deserving students and LGBTQ nonprofits in the way of Scholarships and Grants. This past year the Foundation gave away \$165k in Grants and this coming year it will be over \$193k. Through your generosity, our grants improve the lives of dozens of LGBTQ people every day, hundreds every month

and thousands every year.

During the 2018-2019 grant period, our funding has touched thousands of LGBTQ people across the country, both young and old; as well as educators and medical staff that interact with the LGBTQ community in our schools and medical facilities. Our dollars are helping provide food and medical transportation support to LGBTQ clients in rural North Carolina; funding HIV/STD testing and counseling services to the gay men of Cape Cod and the Islands; supporting outreach messaging thru Grindr and Scruff to gay men in rural Pennsylvania with follow up services; financing outreach gatherings for gay men in rural Colorado and Maine; giving nutrition counseling, vitamins and supplements to HIV patients in Sonoma County California.

Your money is providing a safe space for LGBTQ youth to meet in the four corners region of Colorado; helping homeless gay young people in Arkansas with shelter, food, housing and finding work; supporting outreach programs for LGBTQ students in Gay-Straight Alliances (GLA's) in schools from Maine to Wyoming; and funding outreach to elder LGBTQ people across 'hurricane' ravaged Puerto Rico.

While I have only mentioned a few of the wonderful initiatives that the staff at the nonprofits we have chosen to fund, are providing to our Community in rural and underserved parts of the USA, many of them would not be able to do what they are doing without the support you provide thru the Foundation.

Your Foundation's Board members are unpaid volunteers as are the many reviewers who read our Grants and Scholarship applications. Between us, we strive to ensure the funds we give away each year are used to maximum effect and are getting us, and the communities we support, the best 'bang for the buck'. Our grantee recipients are incredibly grateful for the money we provide, and I am thrilled when I get great positive letters of thanks and project reports of their achievements. It's all due to you, our donors, and with your help I know our annual grants giving will allow us to make a difference to the LGBTQ community across this country for many years to come. Thank you for your ongoing support and please think about the Gamma Mu Foundation the next time you plan your annual charitable contributions."



SAVE THE DATE!

Please plan to join the Gamma Mu Foundation for our ***CELEBRATION 20 on Sunday Jan 19, 2020 at the Richardson Manor and Carriage House in Wilton Manors, Florida.***

Invitations for the Weekend Event To Follow



Idaho attorney general had joined the U.S. Department of Justice in arguing before the U.S. Supreme Court that federal civil rights laws do not protect LGBTQ employees against workplace discrimination.

The Idaho Statesman reported that Idaho Attorney General Lawrence Wasden joined the friend-of-the-court brief filed Friday arguing the 1964 Civil Rights Act prohibiting discrimination based on gender doesn't apply to those who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender.

The Supreme Court in April decided to hear cases involving people who claim they were fired because of sexual orientation and one that involves a funeral home employee fired after disclosing she was transitioning from male to female.

Reprinted from the Jackson Hole Daily, August 29, 2019

The Gamma Mu Foundation has repeatedly funded "All Under One Roof" in Pocatello Idaho. One of their missions is to educate educators in LGBTQ issues.

FISCAL YEAR 2019 SCHOLARSHIPS

This year we funded 24 scholarships at \$45,000. We received 152 total qualifying applications. 50 gay undergraduate and 55 gay graduate applications as well as 47 LGBT scholarships. In addition to the 2 LGBT scholarships we awarded 11 undergraduate and 11 graduate scholarships. Thanks to donors who have contributed \$50,000. for a named scholarship, we were able to issue 10 "Named Awards" Scholarships.

Folisi and Goodwin in memory of Ray Williams, *Phillip Papel* Memorial Scholarship, *Steve Lotterer* Memorial Scholarship, *Tonmora* Scholarship, *Gamma Mu 50th Anniversary* Scholarship, *Robin McDonald* Memorial Scholarship, *Clark Trust*, *Art Husky* and *Phillip Herman* Memorial Scholarship, *Cliff and Aileen Pettit* Scholarship.

As always the scoring committee concentrated on applicant plans to increase respect for individual or human differences in society, challenges in discrimination, LGBTQ activities, and applicants indication of success scholastically, and in life as well as rural background.

A very special thank you goes out to our 15 Scholarship Committee members. Each member devoted many hours to the challenging task of selecting our scholarship recipients. Also, thank you to all of our donors who make these scholarships possible.

If you would like to know more about how to create a "Named Scholarship" in the future, please contact Doug Morton (Scholarship Committee Chair) at 512-6691134

**PLEASE VISIT THE GAMMA MU
FOUNDATION DISPLAY AT THE NEW
ORLEANS FLY IN FOR CURRENT
INFORMATION AND JOIN OTHER ACTIVE**



**CLIFF PETTIT FELLOWS AT THE
FOUNDATION BREAKFAST ON SATURDAY
PRIOR TO THE ANNUAL MEETING**
Active Fellows are donors who have
donated a cumulative minimum amount of
\$1000 and remain "active" by donating a
minimum of \$350/year.

DONATE NOW



**SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT
WADE SIMPSON AND GORDON MANN
SCHOLARSHIP**

**GABRIEL PINEDA \$2500 UNIVERSITY OF
CALIFORNIA RIVERSIDE - BA OF THEATRE FILM &
DIGITAL PRODUCTION**

"While growing up in a church, I was told that homosexuality and femininity as a male was an abomination towards God's natural purpose. The majority of my church memories are filed with endless therapy sessions of repentance and countless efforts to convert my sexuality to a heteronormative standard. When I was sixteen, I tried to end my life because after expressing my true feelings of my sexuality, I was excommunicated from the church and expelled from my Christian high school. Even though my coming out story, for myself, is the most emotional, I consider it my proudest accomplishment because after much time of healing and acceptance, I have gained much gratitude for my personal growth. As an individual, I have learned that my sexuality is an immutable part of my identity that I am blessed with, along with my powerful voice, to tell the stories of others and my own. My coming out story reflects the purpose of my pursuit of higher education because through my gift of storytelling, I want to bring representation, advocacy, and education for tolerance and overall acceptance of the LGBT community.

In 2005, my mother and I immigrated from Mexico to the United States, after escaping a domestic violence relationship with my father. Since moving to the states, my family has struggled financially and physically to achieve our goals because of our socioeconomic status. While dealing with family issues I attended a high school within a small and conservative town, and as a queer Latino, I faced constant adversity and opposition from my peers. For the longest, the idea of attending a four-year University was never within my reality, until my high school advisor told me that I had the potential to earn scholarships to assist me in my journey. Even with a family contribution expectancy of zero, I've had the amazing opportunity to attend the University of California Riverside (RCU). Since moving to RCU, I have found myself excelling in my academics, promoting LGBT acceptance, and pushing myself to grow as an individual."

You can do your shopping and benefit the Foundation. All purchases by a shopper who designates the Foundation as a favorite charity will be subject to a 1/2% donation from the Amazon Smile Fund. All at no cost to you. Try this when you do your shopping.

Go to <http://www.smile.amazon.com/> and log in as you normally would on Amazon. Go to "your account" and select 'pick or change you charity'. Search for and select Gamma Mu Foundation as a favorite charity and when you shop a donation will automatically be made.

amazon smile



**2019 GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT
FOOD FOR THOUGHT, FORESTVILLE
CALIFORNIA**

The Gamma Mu Foundation had provided partial grants for three consecutive years to this nonprofit. Food for Thought self-identifies as an HIV/AIDS services organization.

Food for Thought operates about 70 miles north of San Francisco in rural Sonoma County. Located in Forestville, Food for Thought is a nonprofit organization dedicated to meeting the nutritional needs of people living with HIV and other serious illnesses in Sonoma County.

They provide free weekly groceries, including fresh produce, nutritional supplements, vitamins, and whatever other items are on hand, along with frozen meals. Services include nutrition counseling, healthy cooking classes, a congregate lunch program three times a week, and an organic gardening project.

They currently feed 700 people, including men, women, and dependent children of parents who live with HIV and other serious illnesses. They provide services in English and Spanish. More than one third of their clients receive delivery services because they are homebound due to ill health or lack of transportation. Almost 600 volunteers help prepare meals, stock groceries, deliver food, and more.

Gamma Mu Foundation funding for 2019 contributed to the AIDS Nutrient Bank program, contributing to providing hundreds of people affected by HIV in Sonoma County, California, primarily gay seniors, with nutrition counseling and appropriate vitamins and supplements for their individual concerns and conditions.

The following is from an *Interim Report* from *Food for Thought*.

A client named Rafael, has been receiving services for just over three years from the AIDS Nutrient Bank. At 69 years old, he has been an HIV survivor since the early 1980's. HIV and decades of antiretroviral medications have taken a toll on his gut, and he has a lot of trouble with nausea and appetite. As a result, he has been extremely underweight for years. At the suggestion of his doctor, he began to receiving a probiotic supplement, glutamine powder, and a digestive enzyme from the Nutrient Bank, all of which improve his digestive system functioning. These supplements have helped decrease his nausea and increase his appetite, and he has put on over 25 pounds in the last two years. These supplements, available to Rafael for free would otherwise cost over \$80 per month, which Rafael would not be able to afford. Your support makes it possible for gay seniors like Rafael to be healthy.

Thank you again for your support, and for all that you do to support our LGBT communities.

We hope that the information in this newsletter helps you understand the importance and scope of your donations to the thousands of members of our community that benefit from your help.

We unfortunately cannot begin to fund all the Scholarship and Grant requests that we receive during this time of extreme income inequality.

Please consider making an "extra" special donation this year to allow your Foundation to provide even greater support to the students and organizations that request our help.

Gamma Mu Foundation is urging donors to use the Foundation web site to make donations rather than mailing it in the envelope.

DONATE NOW

