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# HAPPY HOLIDAYS

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## **A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT JOHN ELLIS**

On behalf of the Foundation Board of Directors, please accept our best wishes for a great Holiday season, and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

It is probably safe to say we are all ready for the change to the year 2021 when hopefully, a normal lifestyle will begin to return.

While 2020 was a very challenging year for all non-profits, the Gamma Mu Foundation is in an exceptionally good financial position. We look forward to being able to award our Grant and Scholarship programs at record levels.

During the last year, the generosity of our donors and the investments of our endowment generated substantial growth and income allowing us to maintain generous awards.

"CELEBRATION 2021" will be held as a virtual event in February around Valentines Day. Further details will follow as plans are finalized.

This fall we sent out our first electronic Annual Report. This saves the Foundation considerable printing and mailing cost and certainly contributes to a "green" society. We are also providing a link in this Newsletter to view or download the annual report at your leisure.

Our Fall Appeal letter was sent to all donors and friends of the Foundation. to all who have responded, a heartfelt "THANK YOU."

To those who have not yet responded, please consider supporting the Foundation during these difficult times of COVID-19.

As we approach the New Year, we will begin the process of receiving applications for scholarships and grants. We need and welcome volunteers to read and score these applications. Those of us who do this will attest to the rewarding experience to understand the needs of the applicants and the phenomenal help we provide.

***On behalf of the Foundation Directors, please accept our***

***"Best Wishes" for a wonderful Holiday Season and New Year.  
Thank you for your ongoing support of Your Foundation!***

## **Annual Report**

### ***CONGRESS WILL HAVE RECORD NUMBER OF LGBTQ LAWMAKERS NEXT SESSION***

*NBC OUT  
BY Dan Avery*

**A record number of LGBTQ lawmakers will be heading to Congress next session after an Election Day marked by historic firsts.**

**In New York, Democrats Ritchie Torres and Mondaire Jones won their House races and became the first two gay black candidates elected to Congress. Jones told NBC News he is excited about serving alongside Torres. "He's a tremendous candidate and a good friend," he said. "This is a chance for us to be the role model we looked for growing up - for queer youth and especially queer youth of color."**

**Torres, a Bronx native who identifies as Afro Latinx is also the first LGBTQ congressperson from New York City. "Most would have thought New York City's first LGBTQ member of Congress would be from Chelsea or Greenwich Village or Hell's Kitchen, but the Bronx beat them to it," said Annise Parker, president of the LGBTQ Victory Fund, which works to elect openly LGBTQ candidates at all levels of government. The election of Torres and Jones "shattered a rainbow ceiling," Parker said, adding that they will bring new and vital perspectives to Congress. "As our nation grapples with racism, police brutality and a pandemic that disproportionately affects people of color and LGBTQ people, these are the voices that can pull us from the brink and toward a more united and fair society," she said. With the addition of the two New Yorkers, the next session of Congress will likely have 11 openly LGBTQ members - nine House representatives and two senators - the most in U.S. history.**

**Six of the seven LGBTQ incumbents on the ballot, all Democrats, won re-election: David Cicilline of Rhode Island, Chris Pappas of New Hampshire, Mark Pocan of Wisconsin, Angie Craig of Minnesota, Mark Takano of California and Sharice Davids of Kansas, who became the first openly gay Native American in Congress in 2018.**

## ***"CELEBRATION" REIMAGINED FOR 2021***

**THE GAMMA MU FOUNDATION ANNUAL  
FUNDRAISING EVENT IS MORE VITAL THAN EVER  
IN LIGHT OF COVID-19**



**Many nonprofits we support are facing severe budget cuts because of COVID-19 and its associated impact on operations. Many of our scholarship recipients face the added burden of lack of part time jobs due to COVID-19**

The Gamma Mu Foundation's January event has raised \$495,329 since it's inception 15 years ago! It has been the highlight of winter events for numerous attendees, both local and from out of state.

In light of travel restrictions and group sizes, we are planning a virtual event in *February* and are appealing to our past participants and donors to continue their support this year. We will resume our regular historically popular event in Ft. Lauderdale as soon as health and safety regulations will allow.

***Information about our virtual event will be forthcoming.***

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### ***LGBTQ FACE VIOLENCE AT HIGHER RATE, STUDY SAYS***

Phoenix (AP)

The first study of its kind found that people who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer or nonconforming are nearly four times as likely to be victims of violent crime than those outside such communities.

Although other research has long shown that LGBTQ people and gender minorities are disproportionately affected by crime, the study published in *Science Advances* is the first comprehensive and national study to examine the issue.

It found that members of such communities experienced a rate of 71.1 violent victimizations per 1,000 persons a year, compared with 19.2 per 1,000 among heterosexual, cisgender communities.

But it was the fact that sexual and gender minorities are victims of such a variety of crimes at such disparate rates - and who they're victimized by - that surprised researchers, said lead author Andrew R. Flores, an assistant professor at American University.

For example, researchers found that such a population is much more likely to be victimized by someone they know well than not, which according to Flores, "does kind of raise questions hopefully future research can address about the nature of these incidents and the nature of these relationships."

"I think many people are socialized and have certain disdain for trans and queer people," said Tori Cooper, director of community engagement for the Human Rights Campaign's Transgender Justice Initiative.

Cooper said transgender people are particularly vulnerable, especially by partners or people close to them. The HRC has documented the killings of at least 30 transgender or non-gender conforming people in 2020 alone. The majority were Black and Latina transgender women.

The study found that sexual and gender minorities are burglarized at twice the rate of other households, and that they're more likely to be victims of other types of property theft.

The study is based on a national crime survey conducted by the federal Bureau of Justice Statistics, until 2016 had not asked respondents

about their sexual orientation and gender identity. Researchers examined responses to the 2017 survey, which was released last year.

But it may be awhile before researchers can look at the data in this way again. The Trump administration, without seeking public comment, announced that it was moving the sexual orientation and gender identity questions from the general demographic section of its national crime survey only pertaining to victims. This will limit what researchers can learn about crime disparities because asking only victims about their sexual or gender identification makes it impossible to compare those rates of violence to the general population.

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## ***SPOTLIGHT ON GRANT RECIPIENT***

### ***New Mexico Community AIDS Partnership***

***Peter Harvey***  
***Chairman Grants Committee***

The nonprofit New Mexico Community AIDS Partnership (NMCAP) has been a consistent recipient of grants support from the Gamma Mu Foundation with 7 grants in the last 12 years for both AIDS support programs as well as research and education programs. NMCAP was founded in 1993, and under the guidance of the Executive Director, Robert Sturm, NMCAP works to assure that the diverse populations of New Mexico receive high quality, culturally appropriate HIV prevention, education and care.

The most recent completed project the Foundation helped fund was an initiative to reach out to remote communities in NM via community forums to assess the need, and to educate MSM about PrEP. After identifying the need this was followed up by several actions - making training available to primary care providers in New Mexico who are interested in prescribing PrEP; working with current providers of PrEP in New Mexico to support the expansion of this service via telemedicine; and working with out-of-state organizations that are already offering PrEP via telemedicine to help develop the infrastructure that would allow them to provide effective care to New Mexicans. The project was successful and made significant progress on all three fronts.

There are now a number of provider organizations in the state who are able to offer PrEP consultation and management, using phone and online platforms, and a plan is in place to disseminate this information to the community and to local providers around the state who may want to refer patients for PrEP. NMCAP are also working with a group based in El Paso, Texas on the implementation of an additional telehealth PrEP program in New Mexico.

As a grants application evaluator I have read many of the program proposals that have been submitted by this Organization and it is very evident to me that being gay in rural New Mexico is probably more challenging than most parts of the country. There are significant barriers that prevent MSM getting access and support for HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment due to remote geography, poverty, cultural issues, educated medical professionals etc. I find it gratifying that so many of my companion reviewers have also recognized the worthwhile needs of this non-profit and seen fit to fund their programs on many occasions over the past decade. As a Foundation we seek out the rural and underserved gay community that need support and New Mexico Community AIDS

Partnership are a very fitting recipient in that respect.

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*Donations in memory/ honor of in 2020*

**Brian Koepl IMO Chip Mazda**

**Randy Bell IMO Chip Mazda**

**Andy McLean & Michael Burham IMO Chip Mazda**

**Bill Hayden IMO Chip Mazda**

**Wade Simpson & Gordon Mann IMO Chip Mazda**

**Murray Vise IMO Chip Mazda**

**Murray Vise IMO Jerry Pair**

**Martin Culbreth IMO Chip Mazda**

**Douglas Morton IMO Jim McCelland**

**Gordon James IMO Rich Lisenbee**

**Gordon James IMO Chip Mazda**

**Bryan Koepl IMO Jim McCelland**

**Knox Haynes IMO Dana Wallingford**

**Ray Julson IMO Chip Mazda**

**Ray Julson IMO Dale Fiala**

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***Amazon Smile is a program that returns a percentage of sales to non-profits as designated by the purchaser. As you shop, help our Foundation at the same time by buying through "Amazon Smile"***

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***Tell you friends and family !***

**amazon smile**

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***PLEASE USE THE WEBSITE TO MAKE DONATIONS***

Our **Foundation** is receiving an unprecedented number of requests for Grants and Scholarships and we are only able to fund a small fraction of our requests.

Please consider making an "**Extra**" donation this year so that the Foundation can fulfill more of our requests.

**The Gamma Mu Foundation is an *all volunteer* organization**

GAMMA MU FOUNDATION

