A message from the GMF President

John Ellis

Our fiscal year ended on June 30 and the Foundation experienced a very successful year. The generosity of our donor base, the success of our virtual “Celebration” fundraiser, and a very strong return on the Foundation's investments has allowed us to increase our contributions to the LGBTQ+ community.

As a result, the Board voted to allocate substantially larger amounts for the awards for grants and expand the number and amounts of scholarships. Our last level of funding was around $250,000, but this year we were able to increase our funding to $400,000. This amount was for 29 grants and 45 scholarships. In addition “named scholarship” awards were raised to $5000, and grant applicants were allowed to request up to $15,000, making these awards more meaningful to the winners when it was needed most. Funding for the awards has been done and the winners have received their awards.

During July we held our annual summer retreat in Burlington, Vermont. While we hoped COVID 19 would have been less dominant and had more attendees, we did hold a simultaneous virtual call during the event to include as many as possible. We thank all who did attend in person and joined virtually.

As we approach the fall, we are planning our normal activities. We are planning a virtual ZOOM call for the annual / board meetings on October 11. Our plans for the annual renewal drive are in process, and we are looking at what options we have for the annual “Celebration” event. While we hope to return to a winter Florida event, it will depend on the level of safety for our guests and their willingness to be together and travel.

Our appeal this year will be to help us continue to increase the awards we give to the “rural and underserved” community. Our award winners need what we do and there is no lack of qualified
applicants. We appreciate the generosity of our loyal donor base and thank you for your ongoing support.

Best wishes to everyone and please do all you can to stay safe and healthy.

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**Fiscal Year 2021 Scholarships**

**Forty Five Scholarships totaling $140,000.**

Since the inception of the Scholarship Program in 1999, the number of awards and the amount of the awards has dramatically increased. This year we were able to fund $140,000 in scholarships, an all time record for the Foundation! There were 45 recipients.

We currently have 11 named scholarship awards. These named awards are by donors who have contributed the $50,000 threshold necessary to name a scholarship award in perpetuity. Each named scholarship was for $5,000. The remaining 34 scholarships were for $2,500 each.

**Phil Papel Memorial Scholarship**
Colton Boney - attending Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine to pursue a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree.

**Folisi & Goodwin Scholarship in memory of Ray Williams**
Chloee Stephensen - attending University of Utah to pursue a Bachelor of Biomedical Engineering

**Art Husky and Herman Phillips Memorial Scholarship**
Ricardo Locci - attending Northwestern University to pursue a Doctor of Physical Therapy and Master in Public Health.

**Robin McDonald Memorial Scholarship**
Nicholas Cicchinelli - attending Fletcher School at Tufts University to pursue a PhD of International Human Rights Law.

**Wade Simpson and Gordon Mann Scholarship**
Adam Stoker - attending Alliant International University to pursue a PhD of Clinical Psychology.

**Steve Lotterer Memorial Scholarship**
Issac James - attending University of Texas at Austin to obtain a Bachelor of Fine Arts.

**Steinhilber WEISER Foundation Scholarship**
Nam (Danny) Hoang - attending David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA to obtain a Medical Degree.

**Clark Trust Scholarship**
The N.F.L.'s First Openly Gay Player
Lets a Milestone Pass Quietly.

By Emmanuel Morgan
New York Times
September 19, 2021

One of the most significant cultural milestones in the recent history of North American sports occurred with about as much pomp and circumstance as a shrug of the shoulders. No openly gay player had ever competed in a regular-season game in the N.F.L.'s 102 year history until September 13. Las Vegas Raiders defensive end Carl Nassib strode onto the field just as he had done in every game of his six-year pro career. Nassib's barrier-breaking moment took a back seat to the Raider's ceremonial opening of their new jet-black, $2 billion stadium to fans. The biggest acknowledgment of Nassib's feat came from some wearing his No. 94 jersey, not from any other orchestrated gesture. On Sunday, he will do it again as the Raiders play the Steelers, with Nassib and the team making a concerted effort to take what he has achieved in stride and leaving it to others to discern and dissect whether a significant cultural shift has occurred in the league. Experts on diversity and inclusion in sports said that was how it should be.

"I think the fact that it wasn't a distraction is a very positive sign", said Richard Lapchick, director of the Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport. "This is a sign of how much this has been accepted and that there was not a big fuss being made."

On June 21, Nassib, came out as gay in a video posted to his Instagram account, saying he had internalized his sexuality as a secret for 15 years. The one-minute video, filmed outside his home in West Chester, PA., ignited a flurry of congratulatory messages on social media, including from his N.F.L. peers, celebrities and President Biden. Nassib's jersey became the top-seller in the N.F.L. within 24 hours, according to Fanatics, the league's e-commerce partner.

Before Nassib, 15 players in league history identified as gay or bisexual, according to Outsports. But unlike Nassib they either announced their sexuality after their playing days had ended or had
never appeared in a regular-season game. Ahead of the season's start, Nassib said he would donate $100,000 to the Trevor Project, a crisis intervention organization for LGBTQ youth. He contacted the organization about two months before his Instagram post to discuss a plan, said Amit Paley, the Trevor Project's executive director. In their conversations, Paley said Nassib wanted to raise awareness of LGBTQ issues rather than just focus the spotlight on himself.

Forty percent of the more than 60,000 LGBTQ youth respondents in a 2020 Trevor Project survey said they had contemplated suicide, and 68 percent of respondents in another survey conducted by the organization this month said they had not participated in sports for their school or community club for fear of discrimination. As Nassib's post spread, traffic to the Trevor Project's website increased by over 350 percent, and the organization received at least $225,000 in pledged donations by the end of the week. "I think Carl really didn't want this to be a big deal, and hopefully one day it isn't a big deal when someone comes out and be the first in this way."

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*Openly LGBTQ Olympians Would Rank 14th In Medal Wins If they Were a Country.*

By Vanessa Romo

If all of the publicly out LGBTQ athletes at the Olympics represented a country under a single rainbow flag they'd be coming in 14th in the world for their medal count.

That's the assessment of *Outsports*, which has been tracking the athletes — 168 of them.

British diver Tom Daley, who is competing in the games for the fourth time, is the only gold medalist in the group. French judoka Amandine Buchard won a silver medal in just 16 seconds, while three members of the USA women's softball team — Ally Carda, Amanda Chidester, Haylie McCleney — also nabbed second place. Meanwhile, Larissa Franklin and Joey Lye on the Canadian women's softball team took home bronze. And, British equestrian Carl Hester earned a bronze to add to his gold and silver medals collection from previous Olympics.

Following his first gold medal win on Monday, Daley offered an inspiring message for LGBTQ youth.

"I hope that any young LGBT person out there can see that no matter how alone you feel right now, you are not alone and that you can achieve anything and there is a whole lot of your chosen family..."
"I feel incredibly proud to say that I am a gay man and also an Olympic champion," he added. The jump in openly out gay, transgender and non-binary athletes this year underscores changing attitudes around the world and within the Olympic Games. The Associated Press reports as recently as the 2012 Olympics there had been just two dozen publicly out competitors, among more than 10,000.

"It's about time that everyone was able to be who they are and celebrated for it," U.S. skateboarder Alexis Sablone, told the AP.

She added: "What I hope that means is that even outside of sports, kids are raised not just under the assumption that they are heterosexual."

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**CALIFORNIA ADDS STATES WHERE STATE-FUNDED TRAVEL IS BANNED**

California added five more states, including Florida, to the list of places where state-funded travel is banned because of laws that discriminate against members of the LGBTQ community, the state attorney general announced. Democratic Attorney General Rob Bonta added Florida, Arkansas, Montana, North Dakota and West Virginia to the list that now has 17 states where state employees travel is forbidden except under limited circumstances.

"Make no mistake: We're in the midst of a wave of bigotry and discrimination in this country - and the State of California is not going to support it," Bonita said. California lawmakers in 2016 banned nonessential travel to states with laws that discriminate against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people. The 12 other states are: Texas, Alabama, Idaho, Iowa, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Kentucky, North Carolina, Kansas, Mississippi and Tennessee.

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**The Gamma Mu Foundation Annual Summer Meeting/workshop was held July 17-18 in Burlington Vermont.**

The Annual Summer Meeting of the Gamma Mu Foundation included a Saturday morning meeting including Zoom
presentations. Saturday afternoon the group met with Peter Jacobsen, the Executive Director of Vermont Cares at their headquarters in Burlington. Peter explained the operations of their organization and how important the Grants from the Gamma Mu Foundation have been for them in expanding HIV testing and client support.

President John Ellis, Vice-President John Block and Board member Mark Hendon and other attendees met with the executive director of Outright Vermont, Dana Kaplin. "Outright Vermont has brought life-saving programs and services to LGBTQ+ youth in every corner of our state since 1989. We provide support directly to LGBTQ+ youth while working to transform the communities in which they live. GMF funding supports our work to rural LGBTQ+ youth in Vermont's schools throughout the state."

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**FISCAL YEAR 2021 GRANTS**

*This Fiscal Year $260,000 in Grants were awarded.
There were four named awards.*

Pride and Joy Foundation, Queen Creek Arizona - **Vanden Heuvel & Greeson Award** of $6,300.

Mississippi Safe Schools Coalition, Jackson Mississippi - **The Richard Karpowich Award** for Research and Education of $11,600.

Four Corners Rainbow Youth Center, Durango Colorado - **The Gamma Mu 50th Anniversary Award** of $11,000.

Pride Link, Charlotte North Carolina - **The Jones-Kahle Award** In Honor of Martin Culbreth.

**In their own words - Interim reports form a few Grantees.**

**Equality Maine Foundation, Portland Maine**

"Maine has both the oldest population in the country and one of the largest populations of folk who identify as LGBT, and the unfortunate reality is that many older LGBT people in our community - who have already lived a lifetime experiencing discrimination and stigma - who don't have the same level of acceptance and understanding amongst their peers. In fact, they express a very real fear about having to go "back in the closet" as they age due to the lack of LGBT-inclusive
long-term care facilities, home health care agencies, hospice programs, and other aging service providers. GMF funding supports services and programming for LGBT older adults in our state, including 1) Ensuring previously existing SAGE Maine programing can continue and grow; 2) Hiring the first-ever staff person dedicated to LGBT elders work in our state; 3) Providing cultural competency training to aging service providers.

**Movable Feast, Lexington Kentucky**

"Movable Feast prepares and delivers hot, nutritious meals to the homes of low-income people in Fayette County who have HIV/AIDS or are in Hospice Care for any reason (55% Gay Male). All meals consist of an entree (protein), a starch, a vegetable, bread, a salad and dessert. The neediest of our clients also receive, along with the hot meal, a cold lunch for the next day. In 2020 we delivered approximately 32,625 meals to 250 unduplicated clients. We are also seeing an increase in clients due to the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and will use GMF funds to increase our offering to additional clients impacted by Coronavirus."

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**The Gamma Mu Foundation annual report is now available online.**

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**What is the meaning of the new flag?**

*Why Many LGBTQ People Have Started Using A New Pride Flag*

Jamie Wareham
"For the last 42 years, the flag with six distinct colors, red, orange, yellow, green, blue and violet, Gilbert Baker's six stripe flag, has been the internationally recognized symbol of the LGBTQ community.

A number of factors have driven the community to a new flag, with little discussion or debate.

Ultimately the pandemic has been in the center of them, which is inspiring a change in the way we all think, including Black Lives Matter and vitriol about trans people.

Designed by Daniel Quasar in 2018, it features black and brown stripes to represent people of color, and baby blue, pink and white to include the trans flag in its design."

A MESSAGE FROM THE GAMMA MU FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

The Board of Directors thank you for the role you are playing in strengthening the LGBTQ+ community. As a donor to the Gamma Mu Foundation we are reaching out in hope that you will continue your commitment to supporting our Foundation in the Fall Appeal.

With your help, the Gamma Mu Foundation will play an even bigger role in 2022 and beyond. The earlier your financial support, the more our Foundation can invest in helping non-profit groups and student scholarships in the LGBTQ+ rural community.

Together we have a giant opportunity to continue to make outstanding financial contributions to those in our community who most need our financial support.

We thank Gina Koeppl for her generous donation in honor of Bryan Koeppl.

We invite all donors and friends to join the Gamma Mu Facebook Page.

GMF Facebook Page

Join the great group of donors who volunteer time to the operations of the Gamma Mu Foundation.

The Foundation welcomes anyone who
wishes to participate in the operations of our great organization. Many donors and friends of the Foundation have expertise that could be a benefit to the Foundation. Contact any member of the Board of Directors for information on how you can volunteer and contribute your time and knowledge.

Anyone interested in becoming an evaluator for either Grants or Scholarships, please contact Doug Morton (palmspringsdoug@gmail.com) for Scholarships or Peter Harvey (pharvey@sbcglobal.net) for Grants.

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 during these uncertain times so that the Foundation can fulfill more requests.

The Foundation is an all volunteer organization and every dollar that you donate is awarded to Grants or Scholarships.

PLEASE BE CAREFUL AND STAY HEALTHY

Visit our website

PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVE A CHANGE IN YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION OR A CHANGE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD