



## *Spring 2024 Newsletter*

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### *A Message from the GMF President*

*John Ellis*

Thanks to all donors who sent donations for the fall appeal, as well as those who joined us in Florida for the annual Celebration event. It appears the results will allow us to make awards in the range of our previous levels.

The application process is beginning for the Grants and Scholarship award programs. Once the application deadline is closed, our committees will go through the evaluation process and present their results for the Board of Directors approval.

At the end of July the awards and final amounts will be sent to the winners.

Our committee chairmen need volunteers to evaluate the scoring

process. PLEASE consider taking the time to be a reader. It is a rewarding experience and will allow you to understand better the needs of those we fund. It is also one of the most important responsibilities of the Foundation.

As many of you know GMF conducted a donor survey over the past several months and was completed in January. The results are being documented and a report will be released shortly. We also want to thank the many people who took the time to respond and make this project meaningful.

We feel the survey results will help us plan for the future of GMF and maintain our goal of being an ongoing independent supporter of the LGBT community.

## ***Fiscal Year 2023 Scholarships***

*Thirty Two Scholarships totaling \$115,000*



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 \$115,000 for 37 scholarships.

We currently have 14 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 is for \$5,000. The remaining 18 scholarships are for \$2,500 each.

**The Named Scholarships Awarded are:**

Clark Trust  
Stephen Crocker and Donald Jolly  
Foils and Goodwin Scholarship in memory of Ray Williams  
Gamma Mu 50th Anniversary  
Art Husky and Herman Philips Memorial  
Steve Lotterer Memorial  
Robert L. McCullough  
Robin McDonald Memorial  
Douglas Morgan  
Phil Papel Memorial  
Cliff and Aileen Pettit  
Wade Simpson and Gordon Mann  
Steinhilber Weiser Foundation  
Tonomora

***THE IMPACT YOUR  
DONATIONS HAVE ON THE***



# ***RURAL LGBTQ COMMUNITY THROUGH THE GAMMA MU FOUNDATION GRANT PROGRAM.***

## ***A Letter To Gamma Mu Foundation From OUT MY CLOSET***

Out My Closet is a non-profit organization that empowers displaced and under resourced LGBTQ+ youth with clothing, care and compassion and creates affirming multimedia messages of hope and inclusiveness and support. .

**SUBJECT: Thank you, Gamma Mu Foundation!**

**"Team Gamma Mu Foundation,**

**Reflecting on a monumental year! Out My Closet has reached new heights, breaking records and making waves in our mission to support our unhoused and under-resourced LGBTQ+ community.**

**34 Pop-Up Shops later, we're ecstatic to share that we've achieved a remarkable 50% increase in service! This means more lives saved, more opportunities created, and a stronger impact on the community we hold dear.**

**But the impact doesn't stop there! This year, we proudly launched our Queer Men's Empowerment Groups, adding an extra layer of support to our incredible journey. Together, we aim to reduce HIV rates and foster holistic healing for those we serve.**

**A heartfelt thank YOU. Gamma Mu Foundation, our amazing funder, for investing in our work. Your support fuels the positive change we bring to the lives of our youth. Let's celebrate these achievements and look forward to an even brighter future in 2024!"**

**Michael A. Narain  
President  
Out My Closet  
[www.outmycloset.org](http://www.outmycloset.org)**

### ***A few comments from our current Scholars***

**Joe Servidio | Yale Law School**

**"Good morning Doug, (Doug Morton, Chair Scholarship Committee)**

**I hope you are having an enjoyable holiday and getting ready for a fun new year's celebration! As my first semester at Yale Law School officially closes, I wanted to thank you and the Gamma Mu Foundation for your generous support.**

Two weeks into the semester my nine-year old laptop died. I was fortunately able to panic less and remain focused on school because of the Gamma Mu Foundation. Every day I open my laptop to read, write, and study, I remember how fortunate I am for your support.

While the semester was difficult, it was also so rewarding. I learned more than I thought possible in four months and developed close relationships with my professors. In the spring, I am taking a "sexuality, gender, and the law" seminar and I will be researching LGBTQ social movements.

I would not have been able to build such close relationships with professors, or assimilate into Yale's student community without Gamma Mu Foundation support.

Worrying about finances has been a constant reality for most of my life. I am hopeful the J.D. will change that. THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU. I hope I get a chance to say that in person one day."

**Clyde Engle, Harvard Law class off 2025**

"This is truly wonderful news and I'm endlessly thankful to you!"

**Ryder Griggs**

"Thank you for considering my application! The support you give the LGBTQ+ community is amazing!"

**Patric Ryan**

"Thank you so much for awarding me this scholarship! I am very honored to have been selected among a group of qualified candidates. I will begin medical School at University of Connecticut in a few weeks, and the scholarship will be very helpful in purchasing a new computer for classes."

**Ian Leach**

"I just wanted to write to express my very, very sincere thanks to the Gamma Mu Foundation for your support. This is going to go a long way for me and my ability to pursue my career goals as a lawyer, and I am deeply grateful.

If there is anything I can do for you all - including writing a letter to the individuals who funded the Robin McDonald Memorial scholarship - please don't hesitate to let me know."

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## ***Meet Stephen Crocker New Member of the Board of Directors***

**I'm Stephen Crocker and recently joined the Gamma Mu Board after being a scholarship reviewer for about 3 years. I am currently also a reviewer for EQuality California (5 years) and previously was a reviewer for PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays); 5-6 years. I became a Gamma Mu donor in 2021 after discovering the website and the organization's outstanding priorities.**

**The three which most attracted the support of my husband Donald Jolly and I are: Scholarships are focused on gay males, the award structure is focused on a rural orientation, and the organization functions on an all-volunteer basis. On that basis, we are focusing our financial contributions to Gamma Mu now. Our goal is to establish at least one named scholarship in perpetuity; one of which we hope to achieve in the next year or two. After that, we would look forward to continuing donations on an annual basis.**

**I have served on the Board of Directors of the Silicon Valley Gay Men's Chorus in San Jose, California for 14 years, and am also a singer. I am currently Vice President, and have served as President for 5 years and Vice President for 3. My main interested has been in financial issues, and have also assisted with marketing and membership development. I also was a Board member for the Tabard Theatre Co. in San Jose.**

**As a Gamma Mu Board member, I would like to help promote the organization's mission and contribute to its continuing growth by helping to develop additional outreach capabilities involving our scholarship and donor base. I also have administrative, project management, non-profit board/LGBTQ board, financial oversight, and marketing experience, which hopefully can be of assistance to Gamma Mu. In terms of Gamma Mu priorities, I really support those already in place and want to see them continue.**

**Now retired, I have been employed at the Rand Corporation in Santa Monica California, and Stanford Research Institute in Palo Alto California, primarily as a project director and research director focused on marketing and survey research. Most recently, I ran my own business as an independent research consultant for 7 years. My B.A. is from Stanford University, my M.A. and Ph.D from the University of California at Berkeley.**

**On a more personal note, my husband of 41 years (20 years legally married) and I live with our cat Tyson mainly in Emerald Hills (northern) California, and have a second home in Palm Springs-- where I get to meet with Doug Morton!**





## ***Less Labels, Please***

Ryan Adamczeski  
The Advocate  
January/February 2024

**Gen Z has become known as the generation with the most our LGBTQ+ individuals, but recent research reveals that it is also the generation most likely to embrace nonspecific labels.**

**Among 18 to 26 year-olds, 26 percent said they identify as something "other than straight," according to a recent poll from *Business Insider* and YouGov. This compares to 15 percent of millennials, 11 percent of Gen X, and 7 percent of baby boomers.**

**Gen Z is more likely to identify under the umbrella term of "queer" rather than a specific label. Five percent self-identify as queer, compared to just 1 percent of millennials and Gen X and less than 1 percent of Boomers.**

**Gen Z is also more likely to embrace the labels like "bisexual" and "pansexual," as opposed to more binary terms that suggest they're only attracted to one type of person, such as "gay" or "lesbian." Thirteen percent of Gen Z identify as bisexual, compared to seven percent millennials and four percent of Gen X. Only 1 percent of Boomers identify as bisexual.**

**However, researchers noted that this does not necessarily mean there are more bi/pan people in today's generation, but that the data could instead suggest more youth today just feel more comfortable coming out and being open about their sexuality.**

**Many respondents also stated that they sometimes alternate between labels depending on the context, using the term queer in tandem with others, such as lesbian or gay. One 24-year-old respondent said that she primarily uses queer but added that "I also think lesbian a political meaning, so I like that work as well."**

**Another 21-year-old respondent said he uses both queer and gay, but tends to use queer because "some people like to miscategorize [gay] as excluding people."**



***Meet Frank J Maguire  
New Member of the Board of  
Directors***

Frank Maguire is a seasoned entrepreneur and accomplished interior designer. With a background in print production and home furnishings, Frank has made significant contributions to the industry throughout his career.

As the former President of Horan Imaging Solutions, a family-owned print production company in New York City, Frank successfully managed the business for 40 years. Following the sale of the company, he opened Quigley Maguire Interiors, a renowned home furnishing store in Delray Beach, Florida. For the past 20 years, Frank has assisted clients in renovating and designing their homes, gaining extensive experience in the home improvement marketplace and collaborating with suppliers.

Additionally, Frank co-founded Bella Casa Property Services in Fort Lauderdale, which specializes in managing clients' homes while they are away. He is also actively involved in community service, volunteering at Sloan Kettering and participating in organizations that provide meals to the homeless and offer support to hospice patients. Being introduced to Gamma Mu four years ago was right up his alley, helping those in need in the LBGT Community and continuing the education of HIV is very near and dear to his heart.

In his leisure time, Frank enjoys music, art, golf, the beach, yoga, travel and maintaining a healthy lifestyle.



## ***SOME GOOD NEWS FOR THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY***

A bill signed into law by Washington state Gov. Jay Inslee (D) will require schools in the state to teach LGBTQ+ history. First introduced in January, S.B. 5462 requires school districts to “[incorporate]

inclusive curricula and [select] inclusive instructional materials that include the histories, contributions, and perspectives of historically marginalized and underrepresented groups.” That includes “people from various racial, ethnic, and religious backgrounds, people with differing learning needs, people with disabilities, LGBTQ people ... and people with various socioeconomic and immigration backgrounds.”

## ***FISCAL YEAR 2023 GRANTS***

***This Fiscal Year \$174,000 in Grants  
were awarded.***



*There were five named awards.*

The Source LGGBTQ+ Center - *Vanden Heuvel & Greeson Award*

New Mexico Community AIDS Partnership - *The Richard Karpowich Award for Research and Education*

Colorado ManReach - *The Gamma Mu 50th Anniversary Award*

Alzheimer's Association, Minnesota-North Dakota Chapter, Edina, MN. - *The Jones-Kahle Award In Honor of Martin Culbreth.*

Green Mountain Crossroads.- *The Gordon Mann Memorial Award*



## ***GAMMA MU FOUNDATION CELEBRATION A GREAT SUCCESS***

**"Celebration 24"**  
had over a hundred attendees and the event  
generated \$39,500 in donations for the Foundation.

A very special thanks to Frank Maguire, David  
Andrews and John Ellis for the work they did to again make this  
another success.

## ***A MESSAGE FROM THE GAMMA MU FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS.***

***THANK YOU TO ALL WHO RESPONDED TO  
OUR SURVEY  
THE RESULTS ARE NOW BEING STUDIED  
AND RESULTS WILL BE SENT AS SOON AS  
COMPLETED.***

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.

***THE GAMMA MU FOUNDATION HAS RECEIVED 4 MILLION  
DOLLARS SINCE IT'S INCEPTION AND AWARDED IN EXCESS OF  
4 MILLION DOLLARS IN GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS WHILE  
MAINTAINING A HEALTHY INVESTED CORPUS.***

With your help, the Gamma Mu Foundation will play an even bigger



role in 2024 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.

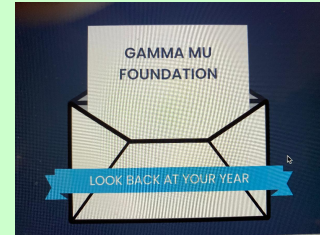
**Please consider signing up for a recurring monthly donation.**

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

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## ***WHAT YOUR DONATIONS HAVE DONE OVER TIME !***



Since the Gamma Mu Foundation was formed 35 years ago, awards have been made for **\$4,436,000**. The highest amount ever awarded is Fiscal Year 2023 at \$297,000.

### **Grants**

534 Grants have been made for **\$3,652,000**.  
In 1990 the first two grants were awarded at \$750 each.

### **Scholarships**

350 Scholarships have been awarded for **\$784,000**.  
In 2000 the first scholarships awarded at \$1000.

This fiscal year we awarded \$297,000 in Scholarships and grants.



***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.

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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 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.*

Visit our website

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



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