



Summer 2024 Newsletter



A Message from the GMF President John Ellis

Welcome to Summer.

As you read this newsletter we are finalizing several events for this year.

Our grants and scholarship committees have scored the applications and final recommendations have been approved by our board. Winners will be notified shortly and funds will begin to be distributed.

The donor survey that was done over the winter is in final draft and will be published and sent in the next few weeks to all donors.

While the survey was very positive, it also gives us the information we need to plan for future improvements, and we will be working on this when our summer meeting is held in Atlanta in August.

We encourage all donors to come to our summer meeting to be held in Atlanta on Monday August 12. The timing and location is close to the social weekend "HOUSE PARTY" in Blue Ridge.

Our annual winter event in Florida, **CELEBRATION**, will again be held in January on Sunday **January 19**, (holiday weekend) located in Wilton Manors. There will be other weekend events added to the calendar.

In response to several requests we are also planning a similar event in the Palm Springs area during the early winter period. More on this as details are put in place.

On behalf of the Foundation board, best wishes to all for a great summer, and we look forward to meeting you or hearing from you soon, and of course thank you for your ongoing support.



LGBTQ Pride Month

The month of June was chosen for LGBTQ Pride Month to commemorate the riots held by members of the LGBTQ community against a police raid that took place at the Stonewall Inn in New York City on June 28, 1969.

The so-called Stonewall riots were a "tipping point" for the gay liberation movement in the United States, according to the Library of Congress. The uproar also paved the way for the modern fight for LGBTQ rights.

Pride Month events have drawn millions of participants from around the world each year. Typically, there are month-long celebrations and in-person gatherings that take place across the nation. Memorials are also often held for members of the LGBTQ community who have lost their lives to hate crimes or HIV/AIDS.

The rainbow LGBTQ flag is prominently displayed throughout the month.

Gilbert Baker, an American artist, gay rights activist and U.S. Army Veteran created the flag in 1978 as a new symbol for the gay and lesbian political movement at the suggestion of his friends and colleagues, including Harvey Milk, the first openly gay elected official in California. Milk was assassinated later that year. According to Baker's website, the colors of the LGBTQ flag each have a meaning: red for life, orange for healing, yellow for sunlight, green for nature, blue for harmony and violet for spirit.



2024 Grants &
Scholarships

\$300,000

5,000,000

Life to Date Grants &
Scholarships

THE IMPACT OF YOUR DONATIONS!

This year 25 Organizations qualified for a Grant and \$183,715 has been awarded to these organizations.

The Foundation received applications for Scholarships from rural areas in Iowa, South Carolina, Florida, and Minnesota to name a few. Of the applications 35 scholarships have been awarded for a total of \$125,000.

The total awarded this year for Grants and Scholarships is \$308,715.

The Gamma Mu Foundation has donated close to \$5,000,000. since its inception!

THE FOLLOWING DONATIONS WERE MADE FOR "IN MEMORY OF" AND "IN HONOR OF"

Gene Svrcek and Paul Gitnickk in memory of Bernie Langellutig

Cliff Pettit in memory of Donn Wells

Bryan Keoppl in memory of Donn Wells

John Ellis in memory of Don Wells

Gordon James in memory of Rich Lisenbee

John Ellis in memory of Michael Pack

Ken Thompson in memory of Michael Pack

Shari McFarlane in memory of Michael Pack

Tom Nall in memory of Chip Mazda

Bill Britt in memory of Bob Baxter

Finn Longinotto in memory of Lai Cao

Mr.& Mrs. Jack McCulloch in memory of Bob McCulloch

Bryan Keoppl in memory of Michael Pack

Bryan Keoppl in memory of George Douglas

John Ellis in memory of George Douglas

Jan Donsback and Jordan Budd in memory of Eugene Avrett

Gordon James in memory of Rich Lisenbee

Edward Richard in memory of Warren Kendrick-Richard

Gordon James in memory of Rich Lisenbee

Jack Varga in memory of Chi-Yi Lin

Finn Longinotto in memory of Lai Cao

Gina Koepl in honor of Bryan Koepl

Lloyd Judson in honor of Cliff Pettit

Lloyd Judson in honor of Cliff Pettit

Joe Pacetti in honor of David Andrews

Bryan Koepl in honor of Martin Culbreth

Brett Stover in honor of Cliff Pettit

Mike Render in honor of John Ellis

Ron Lushing in honor of John Block and Chuck Kuglen

Congratulations to new Cliff Pettit Fellows

**Thomas Nico
Bill Venuti
Phillip Laffey
Mario Pinizzotto
Ron Lushing
Peter Sperlich
Andy Martin
Jeremy Johnson
Al Stewart
Brandon Hogue
Jordan Montano**

2024 Named Scholarships

Phil Papel Memorial Scholarship \$5000. Kai Huong

Tonomoro Scholarship \$5000. Hans Bode

Art Huskey and Herman Phillips Memorial Scholarship \$5000. Myles Chapman

Clark Trust \$5000. Nguyễn Darien

Steven Crocker and Donald Jolly \$5000. Giovanni Ledoux

Cliff and Aileen Pettit Scholarship \$5000. Clayton Singleton

Wade Simpson and Gordon Mann Scholarship \$5000. Adam Sherwood

Doug Morton Scholarship \$5000. Jack Bachman

Professor Peter W. Sperlich Fund \$5000. Alexander Sticha

Steve Lotterer Memorial Scholarship \$5000. Nicholas Cicchinelli

Robin McDonald Memorial Scholarship \$5000. Daniel Darskey

Robert L. McCullough Scholarship \$5000. Robert Del Carlo

Steinhilber-Weiser Foundation \$5000. Joe Servedio

Gamma Mu 50th Anniversary Scholarship \$5000. Gregory Alan

2024 Named Grants

**The Vanden Heuval & Greason Grant Award
New Mexico Community AIDS Partnership**

**The Gamma Mu 50th Anniversary Award
The Source LGBT+ Center**

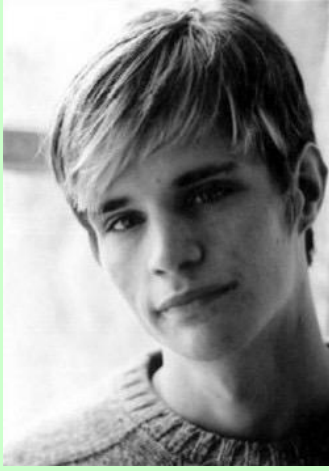
**The Jones Kahle Award In Honor of Martin Culbreth
Wyoming Equality**

**The Gordon Mann Memorial Award
Legacy Counseling Center**

**The Richard Karpawich award for Research & Education
Stonewall National Museum, Archives and Library**

25 Years Since Matthew Shepard's

Death



On October 6, 1998, Shepard was tied to a fence, robbed, and tortured in a remote area outside Laramie, Wyoming. Shepard survived the initial attack but was not found until 18 hours later, and eventually succumbed to his injuries in a local hospital on October 12. He was 21 years old.

Days before he was pronounced dead, Shepard had already become a nationally mourned martyr, as information spread that his killers, Aaron McKinney and Russell Henderson, had targeted Shepard to rob because he was gay.

McKinney's attorney attempted a "gay panic" defense in court, claiming that Shepard's flirting with McKinney and Henderson in their car led to "temporary insanity," but the judge rejected the argument. (Henderson's lawyer, conversely, denied that Shepard's sexuality had any role in the crime at all.) Both McKinney and Henderson eventually received two consecutive life sentences in prison for the murder. In 2018, Shepard's ashes were interred at Washington, D.C.'s National Cathedral.

President Joe Biden, who oversaw the passage of the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act in 2009 as vice president, issued a statement on Thursday commemorating Shepard's death and called on Congress to finally pass the Equality Act, a landmark civil rights bill that would ban anti-LGBTQ+ discrimination but which has languished in Washington after passing through the House in 2019 and 2021.

"Matthew's tragic and senseless murder shook the conscience of the American people," Biden wrote. "And his courageous parents, Judy and Dennis Shepard, turned Matthew's memory into a movement, galvanizing millions of people to combat the scourge of anti-LGBTQI+ hate and violence in America." Biden was referring to the Matthew Shepard Foundation, the nonprofit founded by Shepard's parents to spread their son's story and "foster a more caring and just world."

The Gamma Mu Foundation has supported the non-profit WYOMING EQUALITY for a number of years with their support to a statewide coalition of Pride and PFLAG organizations, amplifying their valuable work and offering a range of resources to help them grow.

Now Trending: Hate?

1 in 5

The ratio of students ages 12-18 in the U.S, that have been bullied during the school year.

By Ryan Adamczeski
The Advocate March/April 2024



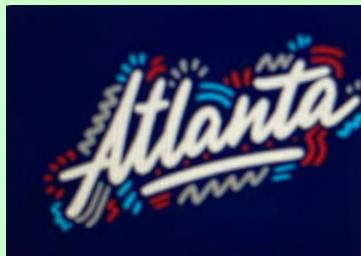
Hate crimes have been going up across the board, but a new FBI report is shining light on a setting that's seen a particularly alarming rise in violence in recent years - schools and college campuses.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation findings show that elementary, secondary and university campuses accounted for 10 percent of all the hate crimes reported in 2022.

In the same period, the most common victims of hate crime offenses at schools were Black students. The second most common targets were Jewish students, followed by LGBTQ+ students as the third most victimized group.

The data reflects the growing number of hate crimes in the United States, particularly against the LGBTQ+ community, while highlighting the role that educational institutions play in such incidents.

The latest FBI annual crime report, released in October 2023, found that LGBTQ+ hate crimes jumped by 19 percent in 2022 compared to the previous year. Kelley Robinson, president of the Human Rights Campaign, said in a statement that at the time that the data "serves as another alarming indicator of the state of emergency our community finds itself in."



*The Gamma Mu Foundation
Summer meeting will be held in
Atlanta on Monday August 12 at
the Embassy North Atlanta
Airport.*

Please contact John Ellis to reserve rooms at the group rate of \$217/night. We suggest arriving on Sunday August 11.

johnefla@aol.com



*Join fellow members and
friends of The Gamma Mu
Foundation on Facebook and
Linkedin and keep informed of
social and business events of your friends.*

Facebook

LinkedIn



GuideStar awards The Gamma Mu Foundation it's highest rating!

GuideStar, the largest non-profit rating organization, has awarded the Gamma Mu Foundation it's highest rating for transparency.

How does this help the Foundation?

- Demonstrates that we are an organization that is focused on measuring our progress and results.
 -
- Gives potential funders information they crave, so it's good for fundraising.
 -
- Shows our improvement and results year over year.
 -
- Provides a concrete alternative to donors evaluating us using our overhead ratio.

The Impact of Your Donations!

***ALSO YOUTH
SARASOTA AND MANATEE FLORIDA***



ALSO Youth was created in 1992 by individuals who were alarmed at the statistics documenting high rates of suicide among gay and lesbian teens. In cooperation with other local organizations such as Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG); Planned Parenthood; and YMCA Youth and Family Services, volunteers were recruited to conduct a support group for Sarasota area youth. Upon realizing that more comprehensive services were needed throughout the community, ALSO's founders

initiated contact with school officials and implemented a training program for educators. The types of services and numbers of youth and community members served have steadily increased. Today, ALSO Youth is a non-profit organization providing peer support services, community enrichment, scholarships, free counseling, and so much more for LGBTQ+ youth ages 10 to 24, their families and friends, and the community.

The organization has "Drop -In" centers in Sarasota and Manatee Florida that offer a parent support group, art-centered support programs, movie nights, book club with free books.

The Gamma Mu Foundation awarded a \$15,000. Grant to ALSO YOUTH this current Grant cycle.

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 current Grants or Scholarships.

[Donate Now](#)

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



[Unsubscribe info@gammamufoundation.org](#)
[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by info@gammamufoundation.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!