



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
OF GREATER BIRMINGHAM

For Immediate Release

August 29, 2018

Media Contact: Ginger Jefferson

(205) 327-3806

gjefferson@cfbham.org

LGBTQ FUND OF THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION PROVIDES GRANTS TO LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

BIRMINGHAM, AL – The LGBTQ Fund of the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham announced a record \$30,000 in grants awarded to seven nonprofits serving Blount, Jefferson, Shelby, St. Clair and Walker counties. Thanks to generous donors, the fund has awarded \$60,000 in grants to area nonprofits over the last three years.

The LGBTQ Fund is a charitable endowment at the Community Foundation that supports programs in Jefferson, Shelby, St. Clair, Blount, and Walker counties which:

- Strengthen the infrastructure of organizations led by or serving LGBTQ persons
- Support the provision of services to LGBTQ youth, individuals and families
- Provide educational opportunities that highlight the needs of the LGBTQ community
- Advance collaboration between LGBTQ organizations and other community organizations
- Support nonprofit partners advocating on public policy and social justice issues that intersect with LGBTQ concerns

Organizations receiving funds this year:

AIDS Alabama – \$5,700 to provide emergency hotel vouchers for homeless LGBTQ Youth (18-24 years of age). Once safe, supportive permanent housing is secured, the grant funding will also be used for “Welcome Home Baskets” with items selected by clients with their social worker to ensure a smooth transition to their new home. A portion of the grant will also be used to purchase cots and meals, allowing the HUB to be used during the winter months as a safe space warming station.

Alabama Moving Image Association’s SHOUT About Youth Program (SAY) – \$3,000 to provide educational opportunities for 30 LGBTQ youth ages 13-24 during SHOUT, a component of the annual Sidewalk Film Festival. Youth interested in film and media will experience film screenings, panel discussions, festival culture and networking free of charge during the weekend.

Birmingham Aids Outreach (BAO) – \$5,700 to create “*It’s Lit!*” the Magic City Acceptance Center’s (MCAC) Literary Works Program for LGBTQ youth, ages 13-24. The program will incorporate multiple literary and historical workshops, including professional poetry and writing workshops, guest speakers, a new monthly peer-led LGBTQ Youth Book Club, guided self-care conversations and a year-end field trip to the Birmingham Public Library Archives. The goal of “*It’s Lit!*” is to help participants find their voice through storytelling, expressing themselves authentically and embracing identities at the intersections of gender, sexuality, race, religion and status. The program will serve over 130 youth.

Girls Rock! Birmingham – \$1,000 to support the 2019 summer program for female campers, ages 9-16, in a safe space where campers are comfortable expressing and being themselves for who they are. Access to instruments, music lessons and performance opportunities seek to amplify their voices. Scholarships are available to low income campers.

Steel City Men’s Chorus – \$3,300 to fund music licensing fees for Tony-nominated composer and lyricist Andrew Lipa’s new groundbreaking work “*Unbreakable*”. “*Unbreakable*” is a musical chronology of the LGBTQ experience in America that begins in 1900 and brings its audience, decade-by decade, up to the present day. The work seeks to illuminate decades of setbacks and progress in this country, and urges the audience forward. The Steel City Men’s Chorus will perform the southeastern premier of “*Unbreakable*” in April, 2019.

Transgender Advocate Knowledgeable Empowering (TAKE) – \$6,800 to sponsor the 2nd Annual Alabama Trans Women of Color Caucus to build leadership among youth and young adults from both the inner city and rural Alabama. The grant will also provide increased funding for the Trans Crisis Fund to help Trans women of color with emergency needs.

YWCA Central Alabama – \$4500 to fund 10 scholarships for Anytown, a summer leadership camp for youth within the Fund’s 5 county service area. Grant funding is focused on recruitment of LGBTQ students in St. Clair, Blount, and Walker Counties.

For more information about the LGBTQ Fund or to make a gift, visit www.cfbham.org/lgbtqfund. The grant cycle for 2019 grants from the LGBTQ Fund will open for applications in the 2nd quarter of 2019. For more information about grants contact Kim Rogers at 205.327.3804 or krogers@cfbham.org.

###

About The Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham:

The Community Foundation unites the power of philanthropy with innovative strategies and connects people from all walks of life to understand community issues and create opportunities for positive, lasting change and improve the life of our region. The Foundation has served as permanent, charitable endowment for Jefferson, Blount, Shelby, St. Clair and Walker counties since 1959. We awards grants to nonprofits throughout the area from donor-advised funds as well as through a biannual competitive grant process. Through grant making, convening and leading, the Community Foundation empowers donors to pursue their own personal passions and to collaborate with us in transforming the Greater Birmingham area. For more information, visit www.cfbham.org or call 205-327-3806.