

Samara's 2008 Grants

On May 7, 2008, the board of directors of the **Samara Foundation of Vermont** approved a total of **\$28,500** in grants, based on recommendations from **Samara's** grants committee. Organizations from all around Vermont submitted grant requests totaling well over \$50,000. We are pleased to announce the recipients of our **2008** grant awards:

\$1,000 to **ACORN** of Lebanon, NH, to fund "Project Searchlight," to provide education, information, and referrals regarding HIV and STD's to men cruising websites designed for gay and bisexual men. ACORN, the HIV-care and prevention organization for the Upper Valley, offers case management, support groups, assistance with transportation to medical appointments, and emergency financial help for housing, food, clothing and medical needs, to anyone living in Windsor and Orange Counties of Vermont and Grafton and Sullivan in New Hampshire. ACORN provides case management services to more than 70 persons infected with HIV, and services to more than 300 persons affected by HIV as well as providing education, outreach and prevention services to an estimated 12,000 individuals each year.



\$1,500 to the **AIDS PROJECT OF SOUTHERN VERMONT** in Brattleboro and Bennington, to fund the monthly newsletter Connections, which goes out to more than 500 men in the region. The AIDS Project of Southern Vermont is a regional AIDS service organization that provides direct services to people living with HIV/AIDS, and HIV prevention services to those at most risk in Windham, Bennington, and southern Windsor counties. It provides direct services to those whose lives are affected by HIV/AIDS, education about HIV/AIDS to help prevent its spread, and promotes understanding within the communities served. The newsletter is part of the AIDS Project's comprehensive HIV prevention program for gay and bisexual men.

\$1,000 to **FAERIE CAMP DESTINY** in Windham County for general operating support. Destiny is a forest sanctuary for queer people and their allies "dedicated to permanent, sustainable faerie sanctuary and community, and to sharing what we know of community, civil rights, environmental issues, drama, art and peace." Destiny's 166 acres of reforested farmland, stream and hiking trails serve people from all over Vermont and New England.



\$2,000 to the **FLYNN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS** in Burlington to help fund the appearance at the Flynn of a series presenting new work by gay, lesbian and transgender artists such as S. Bear Bergman and Scott Turner Schofield. Grant money will be used in part to underwrite the series, and in part to fund community "in-residence" activities. The Flynn Center offers a full range of cultural and educational experiences to the community and plays an important role in nurturing the creative development of new work by both national and local performing artists.

\$7,000 to **OUTRIGHT VERMONT** in Burlington to subsidize weekly youth events and to fund a capacity-building membership drive to educate and recruit donors. The mission of Outright Vermont is to build safe, healthy, and supportive environments for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, and



questioning youth; its programs, groups, and services are for young LGBTQ (or queer) people, ages 22 and under. It is one of the longest standing queer organizations in Vermont and the only one that works specifically with young people.



\$2,000 to **PRIDE VERMONT** to fund the twenty-fifth Annual Vermont Pride Festival. One of Burlington's premier summer events, the Pride Festival event includes a parade, a speak-out, and parties.

Some 2,000 people are expected to attend this year.

\$4,000 to the **RU12? COMMUNITY CENTER/SAFESPACE** of Burlington to fund the LGBT Elder Project and SafeSpace, and their contributions to positive social change in Vermont through education, support, and advocacy.



RU12? is now the largest Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) organization in Vermont, and the only LGBTQ Community Center in the state. While located in downtown Burlington, RU12? has many statewide programs and services, and works in close coalition with many other organizations including Outright Vermont, the Vermont Freedom to Marry Task Force, and the Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence.

\$1,000 to the **TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE** to fund the Day of Remembrance in Vermont. The Transgender Day of Remembrance was set aside to memorialize those who were killed due to anti-transgender hatred or prejudice. The event is held in November to honor Rita Hester, whose 1998 murder kicked off the "Remembering Our Dead" web project and a San Francisco candlelight vigil in 1999. Since then, the event has grown to encompass memorials in dozens of cities across the world.



\$1,000 to the **VERMONT ADOPTION CONSORTIUM** at easter seals to fund GLAFF, their support group for gay and lesbian foster and adoptive parents. The Vermont Adoption Consortium is comprised of agencies and groups from around the state who have joined together for a common purpose: to support Vermont's adoptive families. The GLAFF group provides support, education, resources, and

strategies to help maintain and strengthen gay and lesbian foster and adoptive families in Northwestern Vermont.

\$2,000 to **VERMONT CARES** to fund its on-going programming for people living with and at risk of HIV/AIDS in Vermont. Vermont CARES has offices in St. Johnsbury, Rutland and Burlington, as well



as supporting the state's only residential facility for people living with AIDS; it offers HIV+ individuals a variety of services, all offered free of charge, whether it is a question of a one-time meeting with a program specialist or ongoing support and regular meetings to help in finding healthcare, housing, and regular social opportunities.



\$3,000 to the **VERMONT FREEDOM TO MARRY TASK FORCE** to help fund ongoing operations. Vermont Freedom to Marry believes that times have changed dramatically since the difficult debate in 2000 regarding the civil union law. Massachusetts to the south, and Canada to the north, have joined countries around the world in allowing same-sex couples to marry. The conversation about the freedom to marry has reached every state in the country, and VFTMT is committed to making Vermont regain its leadership in this national civil rights struggle.

\$2,000 to the **VERMONT PEOPLE-WITH-AIDS COALITION** split between support of its four-day retreat for people with AIDS and their partners, and scholarships for the VPWAC buyers' co-op for vitamins and supplements. VPWAC's retreat provides participants with up-to-date information about HIV/AIDS, medical and alternative/complimentary treatments, and social services in a safe, supportive, nurturing and social environment. VPWAC sponsors workshops and seminars throughout the year where people with AIDS can come together for support and to receive and exchange educational information; it also provides a statewide hotline for information and help, a buyer's co-operative, and peer counseling and help to Vermont's HIV-positive community.

\$1,000 to **WGDR/WOMAN-STIRRED RADIO** to fund general operations. Woman-Stirred Radio is proud not be "sound byte radio"; it broadcasts the best in GLBTQ culture, its history, current affairs, cultural commentators, policymakers, poets, writers, scholars, musicians, stand-ups, and icons. In recent years, WSR has hosted Joan Armatrading, Alison Bechdel, Dr. Helen Caldicott, Margarethe Cammermeyer, Kate Clinton, Janis Ian, Holly Near among many others.



In addition to its traditional grant-making, **Samara** is fortunate to have an anonymous donor who makes an additional **\$5,000** available for granting throughout the year for emerging needs and opportunities. During the past year, this fund allowed **Samara** to provide manuals for a Transgender Policy and Strategy Workshop; underwrite expenses for a Queer Summit (a gathering of the leaders of the various lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgender-identified organizations from around the state); offer matching funds for an RU12? annual appeal kick-off event; send staff members from Imani (a community-based Burlington organization serving people of color and low income) and Vermont CARES to a workshop on Undoing Racism; sponsor a challenge grant for Outright's annual Fire Truck Pull event; underwrite the expense of a reception at the Flynn Center to benefit Vermont CARES; and provide stipends to support the hiring of part time staff to coordinate the Vermont Pride Festival.

Samara Foundation grants are made possible through the generous support of its individual and corporate contributors and from the generous bequests of its founding benefactors.