

Samara Nears \$1 Million for LGBT Community

First Unity Project Grants Announced

At the Samara Foundation's annual celebration of donors and recipients in Montpelier September 12, Director Bill Lippert announced that the foundation was nearing a million dollars in funds it had "leveraged" for Vermont's LGBT community.

In an unexpected development, Lippert also announced that the Unity Project would make a round of "inaugural" unsolicited "Community Builders" grants totaling \$31,000 to ten organizations: the AIDS Project of Southern Vermont, ACORN, GLEARN, Mountain Pride Media/Out in the Mountains, Outright Vermont, Pride Vermont, the R.U. 1.2? Community Center, Safe Space, the Vermont Freedom to Marry Task Force, and Vermont CARES.

The one million dollars includes

Samara's \$500,000 in invested assets, \$150,000 it has awarded in grants and scholarships over the last six years, and an expected \$300,000 in funds raised through the Vermont Unity Project in collaboration with the Vermont Community Foundation.

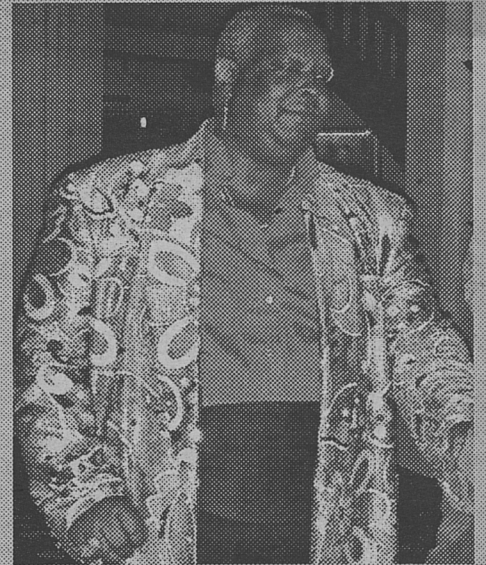
"That's a milestone I think deserves recognition," Lippert said after the event.

Lippert also announced the Unity Project had received a \$15,000 grant from the Ben & Jerry's Foundation and was within \$33,000 of reaching its goal of raising \$200,000 for the \$100,000 match from a consortium of national funders.

The Samara Foundation awarded three scholarships to students who are working for LGBT equality and recognized three more "notable students." The scholarships were award-

ed to Alan Blakely of Colchester, Rachel Morgan of Rutland, and Anna Telensky of Jericho. The notable students were Lauren Coppola of Essex Junction, Ashley Hensel-Browning of Cavendish, and Jacob Crumbine of Norwich, who read his application essay to warm applause.

A dozen organizations received grants from the Samara Foundation, including the AIDS Project of Southern Vermont, Estrogen Fest, Fletcher Free Library, GLEARN, Mountain Pride Media/Out in the Mountains, The New England Network for Child Youth and Family Services, New Victoria Publishers, Outright Vermont, Pride Vermont, the R.U. 1.2? Community Center, Safe Space, Vermont CARES, and the Vermont PWA Coalition. ▼



Resplendent in a psychedelic evening jacket, famed tenor Francois Clemmons receives congratulations on his stunning performance of familiar spirituals in the House Chamber at the Statehouse in Montpelier. Clemmons's performance was part of the Samara Foundation's celebration thanking its donors and congratulating grant recipients.

Graffiti Shows Bias on Campus

According to Dorothea Brauer, the director of LGBTQA Services at the University of Vermont's Diversity Center, last month saw a spate of homophobic and anti-woman graffiti on campus. The incidents, she said, were being treated as serious bias events, some of which might rise to the level of crimes.

On September 7, 2003, two bias incidents were reported to Police Services. In one incident, a naked woman was drawn on a wall in Austin Hall, with "I love pussy" written

nearby. Harris Hall, a dorm in the Redstone campus area, also suffered a graffiti attack, with "numerous lines of graffiti drawn" on the doors of women's rooms. The drawings included male genitalia and words such as "hot bodies" and "balls."

Three days later, a bias incident was reported to Police Services involving homophobic graffiti defacing a poster from Howard Dean's presidential primary campaign. The sign was posted in the circular drive near the Royall Tyler Theatre and Bailey Howe Library and

read, "The Doctor is OUT" "Homo Dean bad for America."

According to the report, the sign was taken down and the matter is under investigation by the on-campus Police Services.

Two more incidents were reported a week later.

Bias incidents reported on campus are tracked by the campus police services and reported through a link on their website (www.uvm.edu/~police). The link leads to the university's Affirmative Action page, but the

link identified as "Details of Anonymous Bias Incidents 2003" actually results in a list of incidents from February through April of 2002.

"While graffiti might seem like no more than a prank," Brauer wrote in an email to the UVM lgbtqa listserve, "it can create an atmosphere of disrespect and it can make a person feel intimidated, fearful and unwelcome. Please know that many of us at UVM take bias incidents seriously. Staff members at LGBTQA Services, the Women's Center and the ALANA Student Center are all prepared to talk to you if you have been affected by an expression of hate or bias. Don't hesitate to call or stop by our offices." ▼

Montreal 06 Gay Games VII Fundraising Begins

By PAUL OLSEN

Mark McFadden doesn't normally practice beach volleyball on Ste. Catherine Street in Montreal. But on Labor Day weekend he did. That's because Montreal's Gay Village hosted sports demonstrations and an ambitious fundraising campaign in preparation for the city's Gay Games VII events in 2006.

Closed between Amherst and Papineau streets, Ste. Catherine Street came alive with a variety of sports events. Lesbians played hockey, gay men wrestled and played badminton, and McFadden and his team played volleyball on a sand-filled court. For non-athletes, an outdoor

tea dance was held in front of the Beaudry Metro Station and visitors were encouraged to try a mechanical bull outside of Stock Bar, a popular male strip club.

Cosponsored by Équipe Montreal, the Village Merchants and Professionals Association, and the Quebec Gay Chamber of Commerce, contributions solicited throughout the weekend benefited the Montreal 2006 Gay Games Organizing Committee.

Dubbed the "bronze" weekend, the event met its fundraising goal of \$100,000 (CAD) when 500 people paid \$200 each to attend a black tie gala earlier in the week. Gay Games organizers plan to hold "silver" and "gold" Labor Day weekend events in 2004 and 2005 respectively.

McFadden, a member of Montreal's Lambda Boys volleyball team, says the bronze weekend marks just the beginning of the city's planning for the 2006 Gay Games. "The first thing that is taking place is the setting up of steering committees for each of the sports that will do the preparation work," he told *OITM*. "The biggest thing is to determine the sites and the facilities to make sure they are all up to expectations."

In addition to planning, McFadden and his teammates need to practice and raise money. "On an individual player level, each player will pay the registration for the Gay Games whether they are from Montreal, Sydney, or from Paris," he said. "So everyone has to make a financial commitment."

According to Louise Roy, the Chief Executive Officer of the Montreal 2006 Gay Games, events like the bronze weekend will be held regularly to educate the public. "This weekend is to prepare the Montrealers and the [gay] Village to work together to make the Gay Games a very big successful event," she told *OITM*. "And it is for fundraising."

Roy anticipates needing approximately \$20 million (CAD) to run the 2006 Gay Games in Montreal. "We prepared three [financial] scenarios - pessimistic, realistic, and optimistic," she said. "But we are still optimistic. We can do a very good Games for between \$16 and \$20 million [CAD]."

On behalf of Montreal's

Gay Games VII Organizing Committee, Louise Roy invited *OITM* readers to Montreal in 2006. "Montreal was working for the Gay Games for eight years," she said. "This was our second candidacy. For North Americans, Montreal is going to be a good destination for gay tourists. The Gay Games will be a premiere tourist and sports event coinciding with Gay Pride [DiversCite]. It will be a very big amazing party in Montreal."

Montreal's Gay Games will be held from July 29 to August 5, 2006 and will feature more than 30 sporting events and exhibitions ▼