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For Immediate Release



## **LGCA Grants \$63,000 to 41 Projects Benefiting Queer Community**

TORONTO – A social support group for gay men in the South Asian community, helping a high school student gay-straight alliance develop programs, and promoting dialogue on the issues aging gays and lesbians face are just some of the projects receiving funding from the Lesbian and Gay Community Appeal (LGCA) Foundation of Toronto this year.

“Once again, thanks to the generosity of donors and our community partners, the LGCA is able to fund more than 40 projects that will make a positive impact on the city’s gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered communities,” said LGCA co-chair David Brownstone.

“We are proud to continue our tradition of supporting many worthwhile projects that often find it hard to access traditional sources of funding. With a very successful fundraising campaign last fall, we’re able to increase the number of grants by 25 per cent this year,” said LGCA co-chair Beth Jordan.

This year, the LGCA is again funding a wide range of projects in the community, with grants totaling \$63,000. The initiatives include:

- A support group for queer South Asian men who speak mostly Hindi and Urdu. The Dosti project is sponsored by the Alliance for South Asian AIDS Prevention.
- Helping a gay-straight alliance student group at Lakeshore Collegiate to promote its activities and help develop programs for students to participate in.
- Funding a day-long workshop for community service providers to raise awareness gay and lesbian seniors face through the Senior Pride Network at the 519 Church Street Community Centre.
- Promote greater understanding between queer youth and older community activities who shaped Canada’s gay and lesbian history through a presentation at Buddies in Bad Times Theatre.
- Create a special community paper targeting youth to address homophobia in the Toronto Chinese community through the Chinese Canadian National Council’s Toronto Chapter.

As well, the LGCA announced a generous matching challenge gift of \$75,000 over three years from long-time donors Brian Gibson and Terry MacPhee.

The grants announcement and fundraising gift were made at a reception attended by more than 150 guests including Toronto City Councillor Kyle Rae and community activist Glen Murray. Each year, the LGCA raises and disburses funds to support initiatives that strengthen the city’s LGBT communities.

The grant review process is overseen by 16 volunteers and the Board of Directors of the LGCA. Individuals, as well as charitable and non-charitable groups, proposing initiatives that have a demonstrable impact on the broader community are eligible for funding.

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Last year, the LGCA granted \$51,500 to fund 32 projects in the community. The only foundation of its kind in Canada, the LGCA has provided more than \$1.5 million since 1980 for worthwhile community projects, all raised from individuals in the community.

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