



For Immediate Release

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The Amida Care Fund at Stonewall Community Foundation Announces New Grant Awards for HIV/AIDS Initiatives at Two NYC Community Organizations

New York, NY (December 1, 2015) - The Amida Care Fund at Stonewall Community Foundation announced today that it has awarded grants for innovative HIV prevention and services to the Audre Lorde Project and the Sylvia Rivera Law Project. In June 2015, the Fund awarded its inaugural round of grants to BOOM!Health, HEAT, Pride for Youth, and Translatina Network. Grant recipients are selected based on their outstanding work to address HIV/AIDS in LGBTQ communities throughout New York City.

Amida Care, the largest special-needs health plan in New York State, specializes in serving people with HIV/AIDS and other chronic health conditions. The Amida Care Fund at Stonewall Community Foundation was established as part of Amida Care's privately funded Live Your Life Wellness Program and is focused on supporting Governor Andrew Cuomo's groundbreaking Blueprint to end the AIDS epidemic in New York State by 2020. The Fund seeks to support HIV education, prevention, intervention, and treatment programs that engage New Yorkers who are at greater risk of HIV infection—such as young men of color who have sex with men (MSM) and transgender women—and those who are HIV-positive but not virally suppressed or receiving necessary access to care.

“As we mark World AIDS Day, Amida Care is proud to announce continued support for community-based organizations that are having an impact on health and social disparities that contribute to the HIV/AIDS epidemic in New York, such as lack of access to quality health care, poverty, racism, HIV stigma, homophobia, and transphobia,” said Doug Wirth, President and CEO of Amida Care. “This grant program, administered in partnership with the Stonewall Community Foundation, is an important part of our ongoing efforts to help members of the LGBTQ community live a better, healthier life and to advance the Governor's goal of ending HIV/AIDS in New York.”

Grant awards support a range of HIV-related programs and services:

The Audre Lorde Project (ALP) is a community organizing center for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Two-Spirit, Trans and Gender Non-Conforming (LGBTSTGNC) People of Color (POC) communities, focusing on the New York City area. Through mobilization, education, and capacity building, ALP works for community wellness and progressive social and economic justice and provides ongoing advocacy and support for its 8,000-plus members. Many of ALP's Trans Women of Color members are living with HIV or AIDS and are often not able to receive culturally competent services, holistic approaches to wellness, or affordable care. The \$2,000 grant from the Fund will go toward ALP's 3rd Space Support Program, which provides HIV/AIDS prevention and wellness resources for people living

with HIV/AIDS, culturally competent referrals, peer-to-peer support, and community education, training, and advocacy programs, among other services. For more information, please visit www.alp.org.

The Sylvia Rivera Law Project works to guarantee that all people are free to self-determine gender identity and expression, regardless of income or race, and without facing harassment, discrimination or violence. The project's Transgender Healthcare Initiative is an HIV prevention and care program that provides direct legal services to transgender and gender-nonconforming clients to address the challenges that lead to disproportionate HIV infection in these communities. The Fund's \$2,000 grant will help to support the goals of the initiative, which include increasing access to gender-affirming identity documents and safe, affordable health care; addressing the underlying causes of the infection; providing legal services and referrals, including assistance with matters related to accessing care; and training service providers on creating trans-inclusive and affirming services.

The Fund's grant selection committee is composed of Amida Care executives and senior managers who have many years of experience working directly with HIV-affected populations in New York and an in-depth understanding of the communities served by the grant recipients. Amida Care's goal is to continue to raise more money to increase the Fund and expand financial support for this critical work.

***Amida Care Inc.** is a not-for-profit health care organization that specializes in providing comprehensive health coverage; medical, behavioral, and wellness services; and coordinated care to New Yorkers with chronic conditions. Through our wide network of top health care providers in the five boroughs of New York City, we deliver a special-needs health plan (SNP) to Medicaid recipients who are living with HIV/AIDS or who are homeless (regardless of HIV status), as well as Medicare recipients with HIV/AIDS and/or chronic conditions. For more information, visit www.amidacareny.org.*

***Stonewall Community Foundation** is the only public foundation focused on the needs of New York City's lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) community. Since 1990, the Foundation has invested more than \$16 million in over 500 organizations via our donor advised funds, annual grant making, and leadership building programs. The Foundation inspires meaningful change through strategic initiatives designed to engage the community, empower our leaders, and invest in grassroots LGBTQ organizations across the five boroughs. For more information, visit www.stonewallfoundation.org.*

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