



*For Immediate Release*

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## **The Amida Care Fund at Stonewall Community Foundation Awards Inaugural Grants for HIV/AIDS Initiatives at NYC Community Organizations**

New York, NY (June 18, 2015) - The Amida Care Fund at Stonewall Community Foundation has awarded its inaugural round of grants to BOOM!Health, HEAT, Pride for Youth, and Translatina Network. These grant recipients were selected because of 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 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 most at risk for HIV infection—including 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.

“At Amida Care, we pride ourselves on delivering health services that go above and beyond for our members. By supporting community-based organizations that are working to break down systemic barriers connected to poverty, racism, HIV stigma, homophobia, and transphobia, this grant program allows us to have an even greater impact on the health and social disparities that contribute to the HIV/AIDS epidemic in New York,” said Doug Wirth, President and CEO of Amida Care. “We are grateful to Stonewall Community Foundation for working in partnership with us on this project that will help members of the LGBTQ community live a better life and that will advance the Governor's goal of ending AIDS in New York.”

“Lifting up the New York City-based organizations that are working with under-resourced and often marginalized communities is a fundamental part of our mission,” said Jarrett Lucas, Executive Director of Stonewall Community Foundation. “We are honored to join with Amida Care to provide a new stream of funding to work toward ending HIV and AIDS, and thrilled with the addition of these four grantee partners.”

The 2015 grant awards support a range of HIV-related programs and services:

**BOOM!Health** provides health, wellness, and prevention services to more than 12,000 of the hardest-to-reach individuals in the Bronx, working to remove barriers to accessing medical care, with particular emphasis on HIV and viral hepatitis services. The \$2,000 grant award from the Fund will go toward its

outreach program to improve access to PrEP (Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis), an intervention treatment that has been shown to reduce the rate of HIV infection.

**HEAT** (Health and Education Alternatives for Teens) is the only program of its kind in Brooklyn that provides comprehensive medical and mental health care, supportive services, and access to clinical research for HIV-positive and at-risk youth. Its YMSM/T Health Project works to eliminate the spread of HIV among low-income black and Latino young men who have sex with men and transgender youth. The Fund's \$3,000 grant award to HEAT will support the YMSM/T Health Project's House Calls program, a community-based HIV and sexually transmitted infection (STI) screening initiative.

**Pride for Youth** seeks to enhance the health, wellness, and cultural competency of LGBTQ young people through supportive services, education, and youth development. Serving Long Island and Queens, the organization is receiving a \$2,000 grant from the Fund to bring its PrEP (Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis) and PEP (Post-Exposure Prophylaxis) outreach programs to more at-risk youth in Queens, with a particular focus on reaching young MSM of color (trans-inclusive) and individuals who might not have ready access to traditional health care.

**Translatina Network**, a program housed within the LGBT Community Center in Manhattan, is a network of transgender Latinas whose aim is to promote the healthy development of transgender people through outreach, education, and capacity building, allowing the creation of a safe, productive, and equitable environment. The \$2,000 grant award will support the program's HIV education and community outreach activities targeting transgender women of color, who are disproportionately impacted by the HIV epidemic.

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.

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***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](http://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](http://www.stonewallfoundation.org).*

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