



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Amida Care Fund at Stonewall Community Foundation Announces 2023 Grant Awards for HIV/AIDS Initiatives at NYC Community Organizations

New York, NY (December 13, 2023) - The Amida Care Fund at Stonewall Community Foundation announced today that it has awarded a total of \$22,500 in grant funding for innovative HIV prevention and services to several community-based organizations to help them continue their important work for populations most impacted by the HIV epidemic. The 2023 grantees are Caribbean Equality Project, Colectivo Intercultural Transgrediendo (CITG), New Pride Agenda, Out My Closet, Translatinx Network, and Trinity Place Shelter. Grantees will receive grants ranging from \$2,500-4,000 each and were selected based on their outstanding work to address HIV in LGBTQ+ communities throughout New York City.

Amida Care is a not-for-profit health plan specializing in providing comprehensive health coverage and coordinated care to people affected by HIV. As the HIV and gender-affirming care experts and the largest Medicaid Special Needs Health Plan in New York, Amida Care currently serves 9,000 New Yorkers, including nearly 3,000 members who identify as transgender, gender nonconforming, and non-binary (TGNCNB). 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 work that advances the goal of Ending the HIV/AIDS Epidemic in New York State.

The Fund supports HIV education, prevention, intervention, and treatment programs that engage New Yorkers who are disproportionately impacted by HIV—such as young gay and bisexual men of color and people of transgender experience—as well as those who are HIV-positive but not receiving necessary access to care to become virally suppressed.

“Since its founding, Amida Care has advocated to ensure that LGBTQ+ communities and communities of color most impacted by HIV have access to care and that the providers serving these communities have the necessary resources to deliver that care. Although we have made progress in ending the HIV epidemic, progress has been unequal, and health disparities continue to persist,” said Doug Wirth, President and CEO of Amida Care. “Amida Care is proud to work in partnership with Stonewall Community Foundation to support organizations providing essential community-based services that are crucial to breaking down barriers to accessing quality health care and ending the HIV epidemic in New York.”

“Our grantee partners are leading the charge to end the HIV epidemic in the LGBTQ+ community. These grassroots community organizations serve the communities most heavily impacted by HIV, and are led by leaders from the same communities,” said Jarrett Lucas, Executive Director of Stonewall Community Foundation. “We are proud to partner with Amida Care to support these dedicated organizations in delivering critical essential services and support.”

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

Caribbean Equality Project is a community-based organization that advocates for Caribbean LGBTQ+ voices in New York City through education, community organizing, civic engagement, storytelling, and cultural and social programming. Caribbean Equality Project conducts street outreach, hosts workshops, and more to provide authentic, intergenerational, and safe spaces for shared experiences by building support networks through various programs and services.

Colectivo Intercultural Transgrediendo (CITG) is an organization that works to promote and defend human rights and access to comprehensive health care for TransGNB, QBIPOC and Sex Workers, by strengthening the social and cultural expression of diverse gender and gender expansive, and intersex communities in New York City, we seek to guarantee our well-being and the right to a life free from all types of violence.

The NEW Pride Agenda (NPA) is a advocacy and education, community based organization that provides culturally competent and community relevant programing by establishing safe, creative, and empowering spaces for queer and trans people of color who live at the margins within New York State. NPA intends to increase the number of BIPOC LGBTQ advocates across the state to build statewide power and combat anti-LGBTQ+ hate.

Out My Closet (OMC) supports and educates poor and distressed LGBTQ youth by donating clothes, providing counseling services, and conducting workshops. OMC diminishes the stigma of seeking help by drawing in young people with free “shopping” experiences at a mobile pop-up clothing shop that goes where displaced LGBTQ youth are likely to be. Volunteers at the mobile facilities offer free HIV testing and other resources. Out My Closet will use funding from Amida Care support these operations.

Translatinx Network has both a local and national focus, with a mission to promote the healthy development of trans people through the delivery of a wide range of information and services. Through promotion, outreach in education, and capacity-building, we encourage and strengthen the creation of safe and productive environments for TGNC+ community members.

Trinity Place Shelter supports homeless LGBTQ youth and young adults in New York City to safely transition out of the shelter system and grow into independent, positive, and productive adults. The Fund’s grant award will help to support the 10-bed shelter that provides LGBTQ homeless youth with a safe place to sleep and eat, and connects them to transportation, counseling, HIV prevention, and health services.

The Fund’s grant selection committee is composed of Amida Care executives, senior staff, and members of the health plan. Committee members 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 private funds to increase the Fund and expand financial support for this critical work. To donate, please visit <http://www.amidacareny.org/about-us/support-our-work/>

Amida Care Inc. is a not-for-profit health plan that specializes in providing comprehensive health coverage and coordinated care to New Yorkers with complex conditions, including HIV and behavioral health disorders, and people who are of transgender experience or who are homeless (regardless of HIV status). Amida Care has a wide network of health care providers throughout New York City and is the largest Medicaid Special Needs Health Plan (SNP) in New York State. For more information, visit www.amidacareny.org.

Stonewall Community Foundation strengthens the LGBTQ movement by making smart, values-driven investments in dynamic organizations, projects, and leaders. We have a proud history of doing this both in NYC and around the nation. We believe in centering people who experience the greatest vulnerability in our communities and prioritizing issues causing the most harm in the lives of LGBTQ people. With that, we are explicitly committed to: lifting up all communities of color and transgender, gender non-conforming, and non-binary people; working to end racism and anti-Blackness; and supporting organizations that serve undocumented immigrants and people involved in survival economies. Learn more at stonewallfoundation.org.

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