

# THE GLEANER



VOLUME 16 • NO. 1      NEW HARVEST FOUNDATION      SPRING 2004

## Rainbow Families Grows with New Harvest Grant

by Scott Messner (NHF)  
and Patti Thompson (RFW)



Rainbow Families Wisconsin (RFW) is an organization dedicated to building a strong community for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) parents and our children.

As a volunteer-run organization of busy parents, RFW deeply appreciates the funding and the support of the New Harvest Foundation. As our primary funder, NHF has ensured RFW the opportunity to grow from a handful of parents to a member list of families in the hundreds. As a young organization this critical support, allowed us to create our newsletter, host our Annual Conference, as well as help with developing and organizing the Board of Directors. The 2003 Annual conference held in Milwaukee doubled its previous size in both the workshops offered and the number of attendees. The board has expanded to include members of GLBT groups,

including Action Wisconsin, GLSEN, Outreach, and the Milwaukee GLBT Community Center.

RFW is a state-wide, volunteer-run organization of predominantly parents or prospective parents. We also seek and encourage people to join who have a stake in supporting diverse families, including educators, social workers, health care providers, advocates and extended family members. RFW also provides a range of information and activities to assist in the transformation of the institutions that affect our lives, through advocacy and public education.

In 2004, as public debate swirls about the legal rights of gay and lesbian families, Rainbow Families Wisconsin has planned events where both parents and children can gather for support, education, advocacy and fun.

*(continued back page)*

## Grant Recipients Announced

by Scott Messner

NHF conducts two grant cycles each year. As usual, this cycle New Harvest Foundation was not able to fully fund all qualifying grant requests due to budgetary limitations. However, it is hoped that our 20th Anniversary year will provide a turning point, with increased donations and fund-raising activities. In January 2004, the following organizations received grant awards:

**Proud Theater** for their "Evening with Proud Theater: The 2003 – 2004 Culminating Performances". Proud Theater is an organization designed to foster self-expression and self-empowerment for Madison area LGBTQ youth through the creation and performance of queer youth issues. Their annual "Culminating Performances" has grown from one night to two sold-out performances at the UW Play Circle.

**Madison Area Transgender Association** to organize Transgender Awareness Week on the UW campus. This new organization has attracted speakers from around the country to address

*(continued on page 3)*

### Mission Statement

To empower gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender communities by providing money for projects which nurture our communities' strengths, pride, diversity and positive character for all to see.

## Advertising in The Gleaner

New Harvest Foundation is offering the opportunity to advertise in the Gleaner. We have a circulation of approximately 1,200 people and organizations. Here's your chance to send your message to LGBT communities in South Central Wisconsin.

Advertising Costs per issue:

Full Page	(7-1/2 x 9-5/8)	\$135
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Business Card	(3-1/2 x 2)	\$20

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New Harvest Foundation (note Gleaner ad). If applicable, include your email address. For more information, call Mike Mitchell at 846-2860.

*The Gleaner* is published three times a year by New Harvest Foundation, Inc. NHF, founded in 1984, is a non-profit, charitable and educational organization whose mission is to raise and distribute funds to benefit LGBT causes in Dane County, Wisconsin.

New Harvest Foundation  
P.O. Box 1786 • Madison, WI 53701  
(608) 256-4204

### Board Members

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# New Harvest Foundation Takes A Great Leap Forward

by Jaime Zimmerman, Co-Chair

In November, we continued our extensive planning sessions with facilitator Elizabeth Fadell. After a Friday evening of pre-session brainstorming at the home of board member Bill Miller, we met for a full day on Saturday, at the Frederick Center on the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus. The objective was to make some tough decisions regarding the scope of our future activities. Great things developed that day, including some new directions, an updated graphic image and a renewed dedication to actualizing the New Harvest Foundation mission statement.

One very pressing issue for us has been the geographical boundaries of our service area. Traditionally, we've concentrated our giving to groups within Dane County. Realistically, we are willing and capable of serving a broader area of our state. Therefore, we will now officially serve South Central Wisconsin. This isn't a big stretch for us, but it's an important step towards filling the need that exists beyond our present borders.

We have also had discussions throughout the past couple of years about our name. No, we are not the food bank! Yes, we have a wonderfully positive name and image for those who know we're not the food bank. So we decided to keep the name NEW HARVEST FOUNDATION and recognize that it is three distinct words, each with an important meaning. In addition, we've added a tag line. It's thoughtful and to the point: FUNDING LGBT COMMUNITIES SINCE 1984. That should help clear things up.

As a result, of some bold and creative thinking everyone left at the end of the day excited and re-energized.

On another front, we've completed our fundraising campaign for 2003. Numbers are still being crunched, but it appears we had a "good" year. In general, we had fewer donations but those who gave were very generous. The year was budgeted to be a flat year and that it was. 2004 should be a big year with a lot of groundwork having now been laid. It's important to keep growing and funding those who need our help. We continue to get requests that we can only partially fund. That said, we are very thankful to everyone who supports New Harvest Foundation, and we look forward to a wonderful and rewarding year of grant making.

Yes, it's Madison in 2004! **The Funders for Gay and Lesbian Issues** held their 2003 annual conference in Tucson, Arizona, from October 8th through October 11th. Linda Vanden Plas and I, joined approximately 25 other representatives from various foundations across the country for the event. After some very effective lobbying, Madison has been chosen as the site for the Funders' 2004 LGBT Community Foundations Conference to be held October 21st through the 24th. This is a wonderful honor and gives New Harvest Foundation the chance to showcase our diverse LGBT community, tourist attractions, scenic beauty and the welcoming spirit of Madison and Wisconsin.

Keep your eyes on us! ▼

## Grants (continued from front page)

issues such as "Help for Transgender Youth," "Family Issues of Transgender People," Transgender Awareness Business Employer Forum," and more.

**Stage Q** to help offset security costs associated with staging performances of "Corpus Christi." This thought-provoking play has garnered both positive and negative reactions in this community and beyond. It is expected that protesters for outside our community will attempt to disrupt these performances.

**GLSEN** for their initiative "Creating Safe Middle Schools in Dane County." GLSEN, a proven force in organizing, educating and advocating for safe schools for LGBT youth, will undertake this initiative to support middle schools in assessing, developing and implementing plans for decreasing harassment and discrimination in our schools.

The next opportunity to apply for a New Harvest Foundation grant will commence on April 15, 2004. To access more information, email us at nhf@chorus.net or call (608)256-4204. ▼

## Honoring Someone Special

The following people have made recent generous donations to New Harvest Foundation in tribute to special people or purposes:

Fredericka Shilling and Bonita Sitter  
*In honor of Zoë Hansen-DiBello and Franny Hansen-DiBello*

Judy Siegfried  
*In honor of those who work against prejudice and hate, and work for acceptance and inclusion.*

John Tortorice  
*In honor of James Steakley*

Paul Wertsch and Kay Heggstad  
*In honor of PFLAG*

Amy E. Hague  
*In honor of Cynthia Higgins*



## Calling All Artists!

New Harvest would like to talk to you about donations for our "La Dolce Vita" art auction, planned for September 10, 2004.

Please contact Jaime Zimmerman for more details.

Home: (608) 258-9445

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Save the Date for our 20th Anniversary Celebration which will be on February 28th, 2004 at Monona Terrace where your evening will begin with cocktails and the musical magic of pianist, Terry Waters. Dinner will follow with universally acclaimed and incredibly talented humorist Jodi Cohen. Finally dance the night away to the fantastic and amazing big band sound of "Ladies Must Swing"



th Anniversary Celebration

Save The Date

Please join the New Harvest Foundation Board of Directors as we:  
Honor our Founders  
Celebrate the Past  
Toast the Future



# Save the Date! New Harvest Celebrates 20 Years of Service

Save the Date for our 20th Anniversary Celebration dinner dance celebration, which will be on February 28th, 2004 in the Grand Ballroom at the Monona Terrace. Your evening will begin with cocktails and the musical magic of pianist, Terry Waters.

Dinner will follow with universally acclaimed and incredibly talented humorist Jodi Cohen.

Finally dance the night away to the fantastic and amazing big band sound of "Ladies Must Swing"

We still need table captains, if you are interested, please call 256-4204 or email us at nhf@chorus.net. ♡

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## Celebrate the Past and Help Build the Future

by Linda Vanden Plas, Co-Chair

April 29, 1984, was an important date in the history of Madison's LGBT communities. On that day, a dedicated group of people came together to form one of the first LGBT philanthropic organization in the United States, our own New Harvest Foundation.

Twenty years have passed since that first small group gathered to form the New Harvest Foundation. In that time, 232 grants totaling more than \$288,000 have been made to a wide spectrum of Dane County LGBT programs and supportive organizations, while growing its endowment base to over \$50,000. Amazingly, all this has been done without any paid staff. Indeed, the historic success of New Harvest Foundation has come, not only from the generosity of our donors, but from the dedication of those who have served as Directors, plus the hundreds of volunteers who support the New Harvest Foundation in our numerous fundraising endeavors.

On February 28, 2004, the Board of Directors of New Harvest Foundation invites you to join us in a 20th Anniversary Celebration as we honor our founders, recognize our accomplishments to date, and toast the future. The event, which will be held in the Madison Room of Monona Terrace, will include dinner and dancing, featuring an array of talent ranging from pianist Terry Waters, to Madison writer and performer Jodi Cohen, to the "big band sound" of *Ladies Must Swing*. Cost is \$50 per person.

We still have room for a few more Table Captains, so please note the insert in this issue of the newsletter. Also, if you are interested in being a supporting Sponsor of this historic

event, please refer to 20th Anniversary Sponsorship Levels below.

Even though snow is still falling and temperatures are plummeting, New Harvest Board members' thoughts are ablaze with excitement over the planning of our Second Bi-annual Art Auction. This year's Auction will again be held at Olbrich Gardens, so mark your calendars for September 10. You don't want to miss out on this wonderful evening of food, socializing and fun, plus the opportunity to purchase the work of some of the most exciting artists in Wisconsin and the nation. ♡

### 20th Anniversary Sponsorship Levels

#### \$500 PATRON

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HALF PAGE AD IN PROGRAM  
(3.25 X 4.5 IN.)  
SIGNAGE AT EVENT

#### \$250 SUPPORTER

2 TICKETS  
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SIGNAGE AT EVENT

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SIGNAGE AT EVENT  
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## Rainbow Families *(continued from page 1)*

The 2004 Annual Spring Conference from April 2-4 is growing from a one- to a three-day event. The week-end program includes speakers and workshops on topics such as becoming families, family law and advocacy, raising children and adolescents in LGBT families, and relationships with schools. A mini-film festival will include LGBT family-focused films and discussions. Speakers include from Representative Tammy Baldwin, the Executive Director of California's Family Pride Coalition, and a Vermont family involved in

the lawsuit that resulted in Civil Unions.

For more information on the Rainbow Families Wisconsin conference, contact Patti Thompson at (608) 244-5258 in Madison, [pattithompson@charter.net](mailto:pattithompson@charter.net) For more information on Rainbow Families Wisconsin and to access online registration visit: [www.geocities.com/rainbowfamilieswisconsin](http://www.geocities.com/rainbowfamilieswisconsin).

Thank you, New Harvest Foundation for your continued support to our organization. ▼

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