

NEW HARVEST FOUNDATION

NEWSLETTER



VOL 26 (2) FUNDING SOUTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN'S LGBTQ COMMUNITIES SINCE 1984 SPRING 2011

“Making it Better” for Youth in Wisconsin by Michael Shoultz

Well-deserved attention has been given to the work of Dan Savage and others in developing the “It Gets Better” project. Conceived in response to the suicides of gay youth across the country who experienced bullying in their communities, video messages have been created by more than 10,000 individuals and/or groups in order to provide positive, encouraging messages to youth across the country to let them know that life does get better. Here in the Madison area, two recent events were developed to address the issue of bullying in our own backyard. TAPIT/new works, “Bullying: The Musical” and the University of Wisconsin LGBT Campus Center’s “Break the Silence” were huge successes. New Harvest is proud to have been able to provide funding for these events:

- *Bullying: The Musical* was a two-part project. The first part involved conducting “stop bullying” workshops with 1,500 students from elementary and middle schools in Madison and Sun Prairie. The words and stories of these 1,500 students were then utilized to develop the play *Bullying: The Musical*, featuring eight young people, ranging in ages from 14-20. School audiences that attended the play were huge – nearly 1,500. The evening performance for the general population also was well-attended. The strength of this project is its timely and timeless message for people of any age. “Once you decide to help the bully inside you, you’ve got a direction. You can make new connections. You don’t have to doubt there is a way out and through – straight to the real you.” (lyric by Danielle Dresden). TAPIT/new works plans to produce a video of the production for distribution. They also plan to market their workshops and provide additional performances of the play to interested groups. For more information about *Bullying: The Musical*, go to www.tapitnewworks.org.
- The UW Foundation, in partnership with the University of Wisconsin’s LGBT Campus Center, organized an event that sought to end bullying, stop the silence, and address the need for LGBTQ equality now. Although Mother Nature didn’t prove to be an ally on April 15th, over 600 people came out to take a stand against bullying, harassment, homophobia and transphobia in our schools and community. “Break the Silence”, Wisconsin was a huge success and to see so many people gathering in the freezing rain and whipping winds was a clear indicator that there is a commitment in the state of Wisconsin to stop the silence that perpetuates violence and hatred. “Break the Silence” brought students together from across the state, not only for the day, but as part of a larger movement to address safety and climate issues in our schools. To view video clips and press coverage of this event, go to <http://lgbt.wisc.edu/stophesilence>.

Turn to page seven to see pictures and further details about these events. The New Harvest Foundation wishes to express our sincere thanks to TAPIT/new works and the UW Foundation and LGBT Campus Center for their work in “making it better” for LGBTQ students across the state!

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.

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New Harvest Foundation offers the opportunity to advertise in the NHF Newsletter. We have a circulation of approximately 2,200 people and organizations.

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Next Newsletter Deadline:

Fall Issue August 15, 2011

Please send your check, payable to New Harvest Foundation (note newsletter ad). Please include your email address and telephone number.

The New Harvest Foundation Newsletter

is published three times a year. Founded in 1984, NHF is a non-profit, charitable and educational organization whose mission is to empower lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender communities by providing money for projects which nurture our communities' strengths, pride, diversity and positive character for all to see.

New Harvest Foundation
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Letter From the Co-Chairs

The New Harvest Foundation continues to grow and evolve in the five years that I have had the privilege to serve on the board. I've seen our board membership change as commitments shift, jobs change and people move in and out of South Central Wisconsin. Our board members are spirited, diverse, intelligent and very engaged in the work we do in the community, focusing on board development, community awareness, and fundraising.

We are constantly addressing issues as to how New Harvest is perceived and understood. We have developed an appealing and informative annual report which, through the help of Our Lives, was included in the March/April issue; it's also available for your review on our website. We will continue to offer a comprehensive report so you can track the progress and goals of your community organization. We are in the process of revamping our website and have a very active presence on Facebook. We are always looking for ways to tell our story.

Fundraising remains central to New Harvest's reason for existing and we have been able to develop an evolving bequests program so that your dreams and ours can live beyond our lifetime. We are always looking for new ways to raise funds to increase our impact on the lives of LGBTQ individuals. You will always be a great part of our organization as your gifts are central to our giving. And please always let others know that we are here for you. If you are an organization in need of funding, we would love to have you apply for a grant with us through our website.

Our hope is to find ways to involve more of the community in our work so we can further our mission of empowering our LGBTQ population through funding projects that nurture us all. Remember, we are here for you!

Tret Fure
 Co-Chair

We are actively recruiting individuals from the community to serve on our board of directors and/or join one of our many committees. Please contact us if you are interested in helping support the LGBTQ communities of South Central Wisconsin.

Thank you!!!

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Meet Our Newest Board Member - Steve Wilcox



Steve Wilcox moved to Madison for a second time in February 2010 to live with his partner, Jake Christian. Steve and Jake met in July 2008, a month before Steve moved to Boston, MA to work at the corporate headquarters for Avid Technology. He now works in Avid's Madison office as a product trainer and curriculum developer. Steve worked in television news for 26 years as a videographer, producer and news director before joining Avid. Steve used his videography talents and story-telling skills recently for a short film he and Jake produced about the University of Wisconsin-Madison Carillon Bell Tower. "The Bells of Bascom Hill" was shown during the 2011 Wisconsin Film Festival. Steve hopes to use his video and photography to help the New Harvest Foundation share stories about the people and communities being helped with NHF grants.

Longer Than a Lifetime

by Woody Carey

Our influence lives on beyond us. Will our influence continue to impact efforts for justice and equality for LGBT people? If so, your impact will influence the whole society because when one prospers, all prosper.


One way you can continue to express your concern for long lasting justice and equality is to arrange for a portion of your resources to be donated to organizations which will do that for you. The New Harvest Foundation is such an organization.

We are grateful for three benefactors who designated New Harvest in their wills. The first was Henry Dudek, who was one of the founders of New Harvest. The second was Bill Miller, who had served on the Board and offered his excellent photographic skills to the organization. The third was a bequest received from the estate of Dr. Mark A. Hansen, who died on December 18, 2010. All of us are indebted to these persons who gave of themselves and whose commitment to justice will continue.

New Harvest would be willing to discuss with you arrangements for preparing a will that reflects your wishes to have your influence continue beyond your lifetime. Please contact us to help define your legacy of support for the LGBT community now ... and for future generations.

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NHF Awards \$12,000 in Grants during Fall Cycle by Lisa Hart

This past year, the New Harvest Foundation Board of Directors decided to make funding initiatives that specifically address the needs of youth and elderly members of the LGBTQ community our priority. We felt that these segments of the population are often under-served. During the last grant cycle, the New Harvest Foundation funded four initiatives that focused on these priorities. These initiatives included:

- **TAPIT/new works Ensemble Theater's "Bullying: The Musical" (\$3,500):** This musical was performed by area middle and high school youth, as well as some college students. The performances took place at the Barrymore Theater on March 11, 2011. (see front page for more details about this project).
- **GSAFE's Make It Known (\$3,500):** This initiative focuses on raising awareness and knowledge of laws and policies, both federal and state, that protect lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender public school students and that promote inclusive and comprehensive sex education. This includes educating youth, parents and school professionals, and is part of the on-going effort to curb anti-gay bullying in schools and prevent high risk behavior among sexual minority youth.
- **UW Foundation, in partnership with the UW LGBT Center, Break the Silence Wisconsin (\$3,500):** The statewide-gathering in Madison, on April 15th, brought together middle and high school youth, as well as students from colleges and universities across the state (see front page for more details about this project).

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- **OutReach's LGBT Senior-Specific Sensitivity Training for Health Care (\$1,500):** This proposal is to fund four quarterly lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender senior-specific sensitivity training conferences during 2011. These conferences, for health care professionals in South Central Wisconsin who work with LGBT older adults in aging services (such as housing, medical and social services), will raise awareness and address the need for LGBT friendly and culturally competent care.

As we move into this next grant cycle, New Harvest Foundation looks forward to continuing to fund projects and initiatives that support and empower our LGBT communities, especially the youth and the elderly.

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This Year's Dinner Dance "Masquerade" – Lively and Successful!

by Kem Kemmerer

This year's dinner dance was relocated to the Edgewater Hotel and the theme - "Come to the Masquerade" - was well received. Dinner was great, the dance band was fantastic and everyone had a mask to fit the theme. While the crowd wasn't huge, it was enthusiastic and quite a flurry of bidding and socializing occurred during the silent auction that occurred prior to dinner and the program.

One of the features of this year's dinner was the premier of the new NHF video "What We Do", produced by Kem Kemmerer and edited by Victoria Vlisides. Interviews of past grant recipients were conducted and filmed, and their compelling stories regarding the impact of funding from New Harvest were told. If you were unable to attend this year's dinner dance, you may view the video which is posted on our website.

Both Mark Pocan and Tammy Baldwin attended this year's event and addressed the audience; both politicians provided a timely view of current LGBT issues on the local and national scenes. During cocktails and dinner, guests were treated to Terry Watters' lively piano renditions and after dinner, Lynette Margulies and Five Chairs No Waiting had the Edgewater dining room rocking!



Pictures courtesy of Eric Baillies (www.ericbaillies.com)

Kem Kemmerer (top left)

WI Representative Mark Pocan (top middle)

Michael Mitchell and Ross Johnson (top right)

Asia Voight and Mary Lelle (bottom left)

US Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin (bottom middle)

Donna Winter and Liz Dannenbaum (bottom right)

There are so many people whose help as volunteers and vendors made the evening both successful and fun. Table center pieces came from Rose Cottage; Allie Matthies and Aiden Caes contributed much valued and appreciated time and support, despite busy schedules at the UW. The whole board pitched in to help with decorations and the staff at the Edgewater were most helpful. We were fortunate to have the financial support of many businesses and individuals who either purchased advertising in the dinner dance program and/or contributed items to the silent auction (see back page for list). Thank you to everyone who had a hand in making this year's dinner dance the success it was!

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New Harvest Foundation Joins Bach Dancing & Dynamite Society with a Spectacular Event and Concert

by Mark Porter & Kelly Chambers

New Harvest Foundation is excited to announce a new fundraising event. As an adjunct to our annual dinner dance, biennial Art Auction and Garden Tour, we wanted to add other events that appeal to, and broaden our audience. When the Bach Dancing and Dynamite Society (BDDS) approached us with an offer to use one of their concerts as a fund raising event, we jumped at the opportunity. We're excited because we're partnering with an organization with a long history in the art, and one that also features an innovative, humorous approach that appeals to a wide audience. The Bach Dancing & Dynamite Society is in its 20th season of bringing chamber music "with a bang". Flutist Stephanie Jutt and pianist Jeffrey Sykes have been inviting other world-class musicians to join them in a three week summer festival that puts "play" back into chamber music. Their concerts are renowned for being both serious and fun at the same time. If you think chamber music is staid and boring...well, come out and see how much fun it can be!

New Harvest, at the suggestion and gracious hosting of our former board member, John Beutel, will be hosting a pre-concert garden party with hors d'oeuvres and beverages to prepare attendees for the BDDS Friday evening concert at the spectacular Stoughton Opera House. Tickets for this event, on Friday, June 10th are \$50 which includes the garden party at John's home and the BDDS concert, as well as cake following the concert at the Opera House.

There are a limited number of tickets available for this fantastic event, check out the New Harvest website for ticket availability and purchase. New Harvest is also pleased to sell tickets solely for the BDDS concert, also on our website; tickets for the concert alone are \$35 and also help support New Harvest. Your support of this event helps New Harvest fulfill its mission of supporting LGBT projects, initiatives and organizations in Wisconsin. We are especially pleased to partner with the Bach Dancing & Dynamite Society to reach out to a new audience!



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LGBT Representatives to Meet for a Vision Sharing

New Harvest Foundation is hosting a meeting for representatives of LGBT organizations serving the greater Madison area. Executive Directors, where there is such, plus another representative, will gather on June 9th. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss shared hopes for advancing the goals and desires of our LGBT communities and to explore ways of supporting one another. Stay tuned for outcomes from this gathering.

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TAPIT/new works and the UW Foundation and LGBT Campus Center organized and delivered successful events that address LGBTQ bullying – making it better for us all in Wisconsin!



Bullying the Musical (artistic directors Donna Peckett and Danielle Dresden) was performed by area middle and high school youth, as well as some college students - picture courtesy of Glenn Trudel.

Students from across Wisconsin marched down State Street calling for the end of bullying, seeking to end the silence, and promoting LGTBQ equality – picture courtesy of Zhao Lim.



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Photo provided by Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) for Safe Schools

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