

2014 - 2015  
**ANNUAL  
REPORT**

& YEARBOOK



# 2014 GSBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS & 2015 STAFF

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## 2015 GSBA STAFF

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 Jessica Wootten, Director, Scholarships

\*For Identification purposes only.

A special thanks to graphic designer, Aaron Rindt, and GSBA's, talented photographers: Dani Weiss Photography, kapchur.us photography, Malcolm Smith Photography, Nate Gowdy Photography, ROM Photog and Team Photogenic.

### SCHOLARSHIP FUND MISSION

To invest in the education of a diverse group of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and allied students who have the capacity and vision to be the next generation of leaders working to create a better world for all.

### About the GSBA SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The GSBA Scholarship Fund awards educational scholarships to Washington State LGBTQ and allied students who exhibit leadership potential, demonstrate strong academic abilities, and who are actively involved in school and community organizations. Our scholars represent a diverse group of students who have dreams of making our community and the world a better place; and each of them possesses the skills, talents, and dedication to make those dreams a reality.

GSBA realizes that today's students are tomorrow's leaders and is committed to supporting our community's future leaders by providing financial resources, role-modeling and hope to outstanding LGBTQ and allied students, many who have no traditional means of support.

In the 25 years of the GSBA Scholarship Fund, we have awarded over \$2 million to over 300 students. In 2015, we supported 48 scholars with \$350,000 in educational scholarships.



## DEAR SCHOLARSHIP FUND CHAMPIONS,

This has been a year of exploration as we celebrate the Scholarship Fund's 25th anniversary. We are humbled and awed by the steadfast support that you and our community give to the GSBA Scholarship Fund. We continue to grow the fund in terms of dollars given out and students supported; and, we know that we are having a huge impact on opening up opportunity for LGBTQ students who otherwise would not be able to go to college. We have scholars sitting on our Board of Directors; launching careers in technology, government and teaching; becoming scholarship donors and interviewers; and joining the Chamber as professionals.

However, given the huge challenges our students have in being able to remain in college, what more can we be doing to support our students? We hear from college advisors that, as important as providing hope and financial support is to our students, many would greatly benefit by having an ongoing relationship with their community. The Fund is already a source of deep pride for our community, donors and scholars; but our students and donors are wanting more: more community, more contact, more continuity between generations and more support "beyond the dollar". The GSBA Scholarship Fund has matured, and with maturity comes an increased responsibility to deepen our commitment to ensure our students are able to attend college and graduate.

Leveraging the skill and talent of our Board of Directors, the GSBA Scholarship Steering Committee, donors and past scholars, we are exploring new programs to support our scholars. We researched conferences that provided leadership training and we are proud to say we were able to send two students to the Creating Change conference in Denver this year. We are partnering with corporate members to create a new Leadership Program which will provide additional tools so that our scholars can succeed to become that next generation of leaders able to solve our increasingly complex world problems. With your continued and passionate support, we know our students will be able to achieve their dreams.

For the future,

Louise Chernin  
 President & CEO

Martha Davis  
 Board Chair

# TWO MILLIONTH DOLLAR

A celebration of the past, present and future—the GSBA Scholarship Fund celebrated its 25th Anniversary. We honored our founders, who in 1990 created the first LGBTQ scholarship fund of its kind, by welcoming them to the stage and capturing their stories on video. Our 48 incredible scholars were awarded \$350,000 in scholarships, and through the tears and cheers we awarded our **two-millionth dollar**.



2015 Scholarship Award Recipients



## 2015 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS DINNER

Scholarship Dinner  
Title Sponsor



Scholarship Dinner  
Presenting Sponsor



Scholarship Dinner  
Sponsors



PHILANTHROPY  
COURAGE  
LEADERSHIP  
25 YEARS OF SCHOLARSHIP  
INVESTMENT  
STRENGTH  
IMPACT

# TASTE OF GSBA

The annual TASTE of GSBA combines incredible food, delectable drinks, a local wine district and lively entertainment, along with live and silent auctions, to raise money for the GSBA Scholarship Fund. Member restaurants, bars and caterers are all highlighted at one of the swankiest events of the year.

Sweet Charity, the 2014 TASTE of GSBA once again broke all records as over 830 guests raised more than \$727,000 (a 24% increase over 2013) for the next generation of LGBTQ and allied leaders.



## Presenting Partner



## Marquee Sponsors



## Premier Sponsors



## 2014 TASTE Supporting Sponsors

AA Party Rentals / Aria Style / Blue Danube Productions  
Choice Linens / Girlie Press / Reliable Movers  
Team Photogenic / West Coast Drapery

## 2014 Silent Auction Sponsors

Alaska Airlines / Kasala / Morgan Stanley

SWEET  
CHARITY



# 2014 FINANCIALS

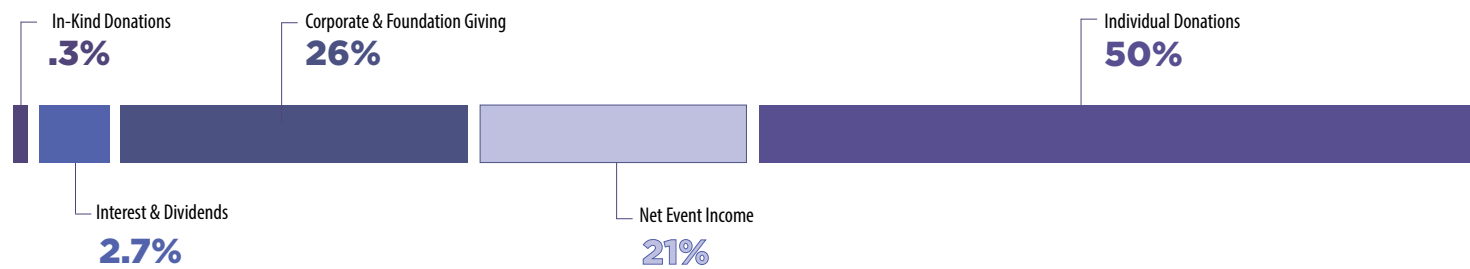
## INCOME STATEMENT

2014 Revenue	<b>\$795,802</b>
2014 Expenses	<b>\$630,593</b>
Scholarships Awarded	<b>\$333,500</b>
Net Revenue	<b>\$165,209</b>

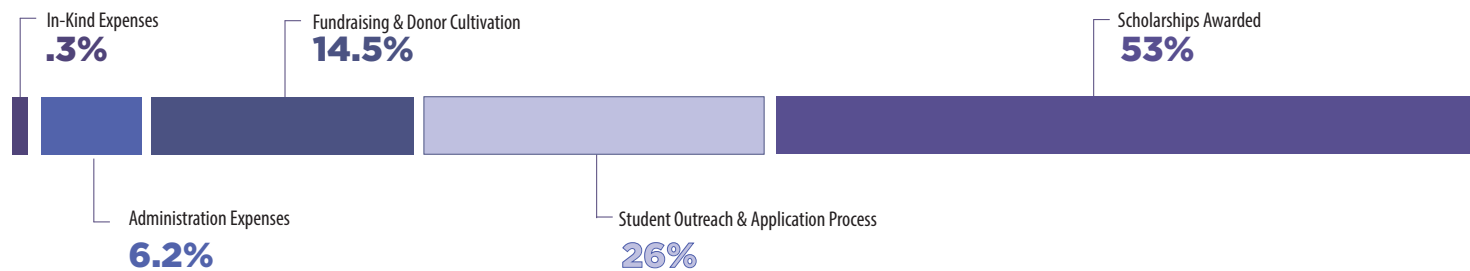
## BALANCE SHEET

12/31/2014	12/31/2013
<b>\$ 2,529,406</b>	<b>\$ 2,254,755</b>

## INCOME



## EXPENSES



## THE JEWELS OF GSBA

These are exclusive sponsorship levels that showcase corporations that make a significant investment both the GSBA Chamber and the GSBA Scholarship Fund equally. These Jewels know equality is good business and believe in investing in both current and future leaders.

Diamond



Emerald



Ruby



## 2014 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Named in the top ten supporters of LGBTQ education/safe schools work by *Funders of LGBTQ Issues*. Their report, which was released in 2014, analyzed 2011 and 2012 giving and found that organizations invested nearly \$14.9 million in LGBTQ education and safe schools work—which amounted to nearly 8% of LGBTQ funding in the US.
- Successfully launched a rebranding of the GSBA Scholarship Fund, alongside the Greater Seattle Business Association. This rebrand allows us to visually show the connectivity between the Fund and the chamber. Created new collateral materials which allow us to convey the importance of the Fund.
- Approved the expansion of a leadership initiative that would provide an additional investment in scholars beyond financial support.
- Held a lively retreat for the Scholarship Steering Committee which focused on sustainability and growth. The outcomes will define our work over the coming years.
- Awarded \$330,000 to 44 scholars ranging from 17 to 49 years old, including 4 graduate scholarships. These incredibly motivated scholars were selected from over 300 applications.

## 2015 GOALS

- Provide renewable scholarships to scholars so they are able to focus on academics and community involvement in order to successfully reach graduation.
- Reconnect and engage with our founders in preparation for the 25th Anniversary.
- Create a Leadership Matching Fund which will encourage stretch gifts at the Scholarship Awards Dinner and TASTE of GSBA.
- Evaluate the scholarship application and review process for effectiveness, consistency and efficiency.
- Outline a plan to define and evaluate program success with the collection of data.
- Continue strengthening relationships with underrepresented populations. Encourage applications from students of color, undocumented students and transgender students. Increase diversity of scholarship interviewers.
- Encourage past scholars to become members and donors, which will keep the GSBA chamber and the Scholarship Fund sustainable.



## INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE: DENA AND RON LEVINE

When Dena and Ron Levine attended their first TASTE of GSBA in 2004, they were experiencing nonprofit burnout and had recently taken a break from attending charitable events. However, it did not take them long to understand the impact they could have on our scholars. "You can really feel and understand the difference GSBA Scholarships make when you go to the events," says Ron. "You meet the individuals and you can see the impact it has on their lives." The Levines have become Emerald Jewel donors and hosted countless tables at the TASTE and the GSBA Scholarship Awards Dinners. Dena serves on the Board of Directors,

volunteers as a scholarship interviewer and brought her company – DML Insurance – on as the sponsor of the annual Ruby Slipper Club Reception.

Beyond their generosity, Dena and Ron are continually humbled by the students they have met over the years. As straight allies, Dena and Ron credit the Scholarship Fund for "opening our eyes to the challenges of the LGBTQ community and is teaching our family the importance of acceptance, appreciation and respect." Their children have also been involved with the Fund and they know that their family's support will not end with them, but will be carried on for years to come.

The Levines are wonderful ambassadors, saying "It's easy to tell others about the Scholarship Fund because it has become so important to us. Listen to the stories, be a part of the community and see what the money does. Education is the best way to change and improve the world. It is the circle of life: we give now so that the scholars will help better our community, our family and the world."

"We came for the fun at the TASTE of GSBA, but the scholars grabbed our hearts and that's what has kept us around," adds Dena.

# 2014 GSBA Scholarship Fund Investors

The GSBA Scholarship Fund continued its success because of **your support**. Thank you for investing your dollars in the next generation of leaders.

## \$10,000+

Carter Subaru  
Stephanie Dallas\* & Krista Mann  
Drew Ness\*  
Ray Fernandez & Meade Thayer  
Kevin Gaspari\* & Kent Thaelke  
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Robert Rhodehamel & Dana Snyder  
RHR Foundation  
Mark Rosén\*  
Richard Sutton & Neil McDevitt\*  
Shay Thaelke  
Tom Yetman\*  
John Wong\* & Greg Combs  
Judith Wood

## \$500-9,999

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Michael Amend  
Steve & Mary Anderson  
Allan Aquila\*  
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Barbara Grant  
Don Barr & George Hein  
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Rebecca Bogard  
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Lonny Bower  
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Eric Brunstrom  
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Sean Foy  
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Steve Gunn  
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& Brian Palmer  
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Andrew Held  
Michele Hillard  
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Greggory & Alison Holcolmb  
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Halle Hutchison  
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Lewis Greenwood Foundation  
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Kirk Wheeler  
Emily Wilcher  
Matthew Wilkins  
Suzanne Williams  
Bill Womack  
Ann Wong Thomason  
Richard & Lois M. Worthington Foundation  
John Zmolek

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A. Alene Anderson  
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Sara Asatiani  
Michael Aylesworth  
John Bailey  
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Shelley & Michael Barker  
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Tom Butts  
Kyle Cable  
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Kellie Carlson  
Sonia Carlson  
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Rebecca Chawgo

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Yasmin Mudah  
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Rachelle Nesta  
Greg Nettleton  
Margaret Neuman  
Roxie Neuman  
Randall Newell  
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Jason & Tiffany Nolte  
Francina Noordhoek  
Alex Oh  
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Justin Wells-Driscoll  
Linda & Henry Werner  
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Charles West  
Amanda Westbrook  
Scott Whipple  
Carole White  
Mark Wilgus  
Craig Williams  
Barb & Sierra  
Carolyn Window  
Leslie Wolford  
John Woo  
Lee Wood  
Bob & Megan Woods  
Larry Woods-Palmer  
Jessica Wootten  
John Wott  
Andy Wright  
Adrienne Wu  
Tom Yaryan  
Jason Yorkmark  
Justice Mary Yu

## RAINBOW CLUB

*Members are welcomed into the Rainbow Club by naming the GSBA Scholarship Fund in their will. The following donors have made arrangements to benefit the Fund in their estate plans.*  
Bill Blades  
Mathew Bockus  
James Braden  
Bill Colter & Brian Silkworth  
Robert Dlugosh\* & Don McKee  
Ed Dorame & Stephen Clifton  
Steve Gunn  
David Owen Hastings  
David Kosar & Kelly DiCicco  
Craig Lindberg  
Neil McDevitt\* & Richard Sutton  
Michael Melancon & Glenn Johnson  
Dominick Minotti  
Robert Petersen  
C Wight Reade Estate  
Robert Rhodehamel & Dana Snyder  
Richard Rolfs Estate  
Andy Lee  
Michael Schemm  
Joseph J. Straus  
Judith Wood

## CORPORATE & FOUNDATION GIVING

1st Security Bank  
Alaska Airlines  
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BECU  
Benevity  
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Paypal Giving Funds  
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Regence BlueShield of Washington  
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US Bank  
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## 2014 SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORTERS

Seattle Academy of Arts & Sciences  
SpringHill Suites Seattle  
Starbucks  
Top Pot Doughnuts  
Whole Foods

## GSBA SCHOLARSHIP STEERING COMMITTEE

Mark Rosén\*, Chair  
Allan Aquila\*  
Louise Chernin  
Stephanie Dallas\*  
Martha Davis\*  
Ryan Digges\*♥  
Sara Elward  
Kevin Gaspari\*  
Steve Gunn  
Neil McDevitt\*  
Michael Melancon  
Bob Rhodehamel  
Meade Thayer  
Kirsten Weiss\*  
Jessica Wootten

## GSBA SCHOLARSHIP ALUMNI COMMITTEE♥

Arianna Allahyar♥  
Ryan Digges\*♥  
Frank Huguenin, Chair\*♥  
Kevin Simson\*♥  
Eddie Um♥  
Jessica Wootten

## GSBA SCHOLARSHIP INTERVIEWERS & VOLUNTEERS

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Vikas Bahirwani  
Maryjane Banks  
Manny Barbosa  
Michael Barnes  
Eric Bennett  
Page Berry  
Amy Blumenfield  
Mathew Bockus  
Gen Bryant  
Duncan Burgess  
Cathy Caldwell  
Kelsey Campbell  
Michela Carpino  
Carrie Carson\*  
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Stephanie Cohu  
Michael Courtois  
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Robert Delisle  
Ryan Digges\*♥  
Ed Dorame  
Ron Dysart  
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Pete Federici  
Ray Fernandez  
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Steve Gunn  
Pam Hart  
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Kathie Hopkins  
Mike Hritzo  
Frank Huguenin\*♥  
Rocket Hulsey  
Karishma Irani  
Freya Johnson\*  
Belinda Kelly  
Joshua Kemper  
Nate Kimball  
Staci King  
Mark Kirsch  
Martha Kollmai  
Aaron Kraemer  
Jason Krech  
Leah Krieger  
Rajamma Krishnamurthy  
Cara Kroenke  
Johnine Larsen  
Brian Lavery  
Andy Lee  
Dena Levine\*  
Rob Macauley  
Meridian Mayer  
Michele Maynard

Joseph Mayo  
Barett McGavock  
Shawn McGuire  
Daniel Menkens  
David Miller  
Nataly Miller  
Richelle Monahan  
Chris Mulready  
Ernie Munoz  
Brian Murphy  
Joyce Nelson  
Drew Ness\*  
Francina Noordhoek  
Alice Opalka  
Kevin Otten  
Michael Payne  
Jorge Peraza  
Elle Peters  
Jay Petterson  
Tobias Pulliam  
Dick Reed  
Lisa Rice♥  
Kathy Sakahara  
Daniel Sakar  
Marc Schwartz  
Sindhu Shastry  
Kevin Simson♥  
Sergey Smirnov♥  
Rita Smith  
Mona Smith\*  
Kenyon Stewart  
Joseph Straus  
ShanShan Tan  
Shay Thaelke  
Jenny Ting  
Nancy Tran  
Eddie Um♥  
Jason Victor  
Paul Villa\*  
Travis Voboril  
Christine Wheeler-Sinclair♥  
Judith Wood  
Kristi Yankacy  
Connie Yaud

\* Past or current GSBA board members  
♥ Past scholarship recipients



LANE KAISER



**Forrest Allison-Brown** (Seattle) Forrest will be pursuing a Bachelor's of European Politics at King's College London. Stemming from an interactive globe he received as a child, his fascination with languages and cultures has driven him to partake in activities like Hands for a Bridge, a local social justice program based on international affairs. Forrest's goal is to work for an NGO such as Amnesty International that puts pressure on governments that allow human rights violations to take place.



**Mick Arieta** (New York City) – Mick is a graduating senior at the Evergreen State College, concentrating in public policy and sustainability. He is pursuing a graduate degree in urban planning. His career interest in advocacy and policy work began with his gender transition and experiences as a New York City activist. Mick is dedicated to promoting sustainable and equitable urban development to improve the lives of LGBTQ communities.



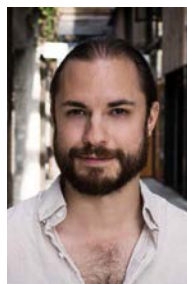
**Heni Barnes** (Coupeville) – Heni is attending the University of Alaska and will earn an undergraduate degree in Geological Engineering. She is working towards a career as a Planetary Geological Engineer for NASA or a private space company. She helped create a GSA in high school and continues to work within the LGBT community at college involved in both the GSA and with PFLAG. She is excited to represent LGBT women of color in the field of Engineering.



**Oscar / Veronica Beltran** (Vancouver) - Oscar/Veronica is completing an Associate's degree and Women's Studies certificate at Clark College, where they have served as President of the Queer Penguins and Multicultural Students Club. They have also worked as a Peer Mentor in the Center of Diversity and Equity. In the fall, they plan to continue studies at WSU with a degree in Communications and Women's Studies in order to continue to work with marginalized students on college campuses.



**Nikki Bennington** (Shelton) - Nikki will be attending Macalester College and will pursue an undergraduate pre-medicine degree with a focus on neurobiology or psychology. They hope to study sexuality and gender in a biological context in order to push change in the cultural perception of these non-conforming identities, and to also work against ingrained prejudices within the medical field about the queer community.



**Alik Brundrett** (Boulder, CO) – Alik is attending the Art Institute of Seattle and is in his final year of the BFA Web/Graphic Design program. He works as a Digital Media Designer for Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest in Seattle, and is on the Board of Advocates for the non-profit group Seattle Subway. Alik uses his design and digital media skills to raise awareness of LGBT healthcare & advocacy groups in the Northwest.



**Anne Bryson Doyle** (Seattle) - Anne has returned to school to pursue a degree in social work. As the mother of 7 foster-to-adopt children, she has become a strong voice for the need for permanence for children like hers, winning the Stella Mae Carmichael Award in 2008 and joining the board of directors for Amara in 2011. Anne's goal is to complete her MSW and work to change the foster care system to achieve permanence for every child.



ZEENA RIVERA



**Krystal Campagna** (San Jose) – Krystal is attending Bastyr University and pursuing an undergraduate degree in Nutrition and Culinary Arts. She is an advocate for homeless youth and LGBTQ rights and, in the future, Krystal hopes to open her own non-profit organization geared toward helping homeless youth in the queer community. According to Krystal, even helping one youth at a time can make all the difference in the world.



**Mike Carrillo** (Tacoma) - Michael is a Latino trans\* male attending the Science and Math Institute. He advocates for LGBTQ rights and immigration laws in his community. One day he wants to become a teacher to inspire students to advocate for their rights. He has interned at different middle schools in Tacoma as well as the Rainbow Center to educate himself about the LGBTQ community and what it takes to become a teacher. *Michael is the recipient of a Rich Thoele Memorial Scholarship.*



**Audrey Chavarria Calderon** (Mexico City) – Audrey studies Computer Science at the University of Washington – Tacoma. Audrey and his family moved to Washington from Alabama because of a rising wave of anti-immigrant laws and hostility against members of the LGBTQ community. He is a leader of the Latino LGBTQ group El Batallón Unido at the Rainbow Center in Tacoma. He also works to motivate Latinos and minorities to attend college and study Computer Science. *Audrey is the recipient of a Microsoft Scholarship.*



**Mitchell Chen** (Sammamish) - Mitchell is currently attending the University of Washington and is pursuing undergraduate degrees in Microbiology and Biochemistry and minoring in Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies. He has found a lifelong passion in serving the LGBTQ community, especially in emphasizing an intersectional approach to advocacy, education, and community building. Mitchell's long-term goals include becoming a family doctor to remove gatekeeping and obstacles to good health in the LGBTQ community.



**Danisha Christian** (Seattle) - Danisha began her career in social justice and activism in 1994. She has had a successful career in community organizing and public policy that has allowed her the opportunity to work on a wide range of issues impacting LGBTQ communities. She has also worked in health care as a Holistic Fertility Specialist, helping women who struggle to conceive in traditional methods. Danisha is currently in school to become a primary care physician for disenfranchised communities.



**Phillip Christian** (Moses Lake) - Phillip is a high school senior on track to simultaneously graduate with his diploma and Associate's Degree through the Running Start program. He is bisexual and wants to show his pride for the LGBTQ community wherever he goes. His goal is to attend the University of Washington to pursue a Master's in Social Work. He plans to become an active member of the GSA on campus.



**Deanna East** (Lacey) – Deanna attends the Evergreen State College and is working toward a Bachelor's in Public Administration. Her passion in life is to make a difference in the lives of young people. She is founder/director for three programs helping homeless/low income youth. Her goal is to continue to help young people overcome the barriers placed in front of them and give them the skills to not only graduate, but to be successful in life as well.



**Melissa Ebben** (Carlton) – After obtaining her Associates Degree in Nursing at Everett Community College, Melissa became the first Forensic Nurse Examiner hired by Providence Intervention Center for Assault and Abuse as a new graduate. Her volunteerism, intelligence and community support made this possible. In September, she will graduate from the University of Washington with a Bachelor's degree in Nursing. She will continue in a Family Nurse Practitioner program to increase her ability to care for vulnerable populations.



**Jake Funkhouser** (South Bend) – Jake attends Central Washington University, double majoring in Primate Behavior and Psychology. Facing rejection after coming out, Jake worked hard to graduate high school as valedictorian and maintains a near-perfect GPA at college. He continues to give back to the community, teaching youth the importance of being true to one's self. Jake plans to pursue graduate school and to make a difference in both the animal and human worlds.



**Aiysha Garcia** (Raymond) - Aiysha is currently attending Raymond High School, where she was elected student body president as an openly gay woman. She comes from a low-income and religious household. She struggled with her sexuality but now she is strong and confident in who she is. She hopes to find a career where she can have a positive impact on the community and make sure that all children and teens feel safe and have someone to reach out to. Aiysha's struggles are all behind her, and now she's ready to make a difference!



**Rigoberto Garcia** (Valle de Banderas, Mexico) – Rigoberto is currently pursuing a degree in accounting at Seattle University and wishes to serve as a positive role model. He volunteers at the Rainbow Center in Tacoma, Washington where he founded El Batallón Unido, an educational group that informs the LGBTQ Latino/a community about available resources. As a first-generation student and a gay male, Rigoberto's passion lies in advocating for the LGBTQ community hoping to empower them to reach their highest potential.



**Dustina Haase-Lanier** (Vancouver) - Dustina is attending Washington State University – Vancouver, pursuing an undergraduate degree in psychology and women's studies, with the ultimate goal of a Master's and doctorate in Social Work. A long time domestic violence and sexual assault advocate, she is an activist, speaking out and organizing to highlight the roots of domestic and sexual violence as forms of oppression and shows that the work to end violence is inextricably linked to the work to end all forms of injustice and oppression.



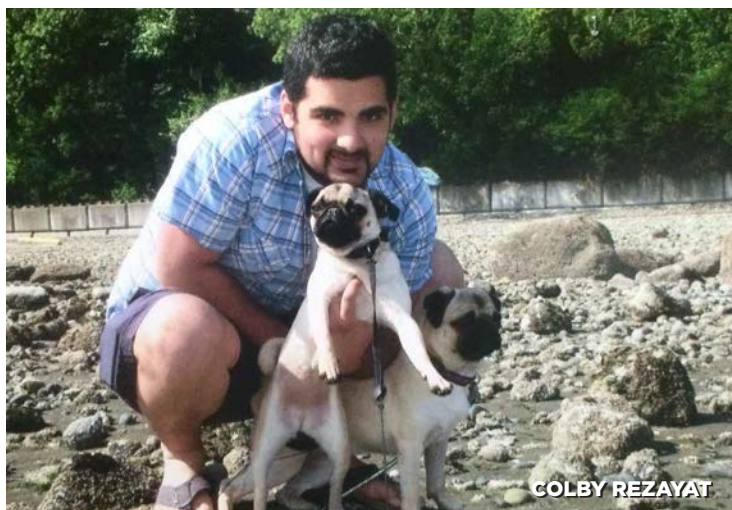
**Kelly Hill** (Seattle) – Kelly attends Antioch University while working toward her Master's degree in clinical mental health counseling. She is an advocate and activist within the HIV, LGBTQ and disability communities. Since 2005 she has been providing peer support to other women living with HIV. She believes in approaching her work through a lens of social justice and she plans on providing mental health services to underserved and marginalized populations. *Kelly is the recipient of the Future Ribbons Scholarship.*



LAURA YANEZ



**Katy Imbrone** (St. Paul, MN) – Katy is a 27-year old returning student and mathematics tutor studying mathematics and education at the Evergreen State College. She is passionate about education and working class reform and empowerment, with the goal of deconstructing the systematic tracking-out of students from technical fields and mathematics. Katy is pursuing a dual BA/BS with a focus in Applied Mathematics and Pedagogy, with plans to become a middle or high school mathematics teacher.



COLBY REZAYAT



**Lane Kaiser** (Bremerton) – Lane is currently working towards his Bachelor's at Portland State University's School of Social Work. As a transgender man from a military town, Lane understands all too well the hardships that LGBT youth experience. Like many trans youth, he has overcome financial hardship, harassment and discrimination. After completing his degree, Lane will work on an accredited level to continue his current work helping marginalized youth access systems and obtain social justice.



**Eric King** (Seattle) – Eric is currently a junior at the University of Washington in the School of Public Health. Throughout the past two years Eric has gained research experience in the Department of Neurological Surgery focusing on glioblastoma. At a young age Eric experienced several health disparities, and though his public health education he plans to advocate for increased health access for marginalized populations in the battle against the health inequality crisis.



**Lindsey Kirkham** (Bonney Lake) - Lindsey Kirkham is a third year student at the University of Washington pursuing a dual degree in public health and sociology. Her social activism focuses on HIV, sexual violence, LGBTQ issues, feminism and intersectionality. She is the founder of the Bi Women Support Network. After graduation, she hopes to join the Peace Corps and pursue a Master's degree in public health.



**Chantelle Korver** (Rancho Cucamonga, CA) – Chantelle is working on a Bachelors/ Masters degree in Acupuncture and East Asian Medicine at Bastyr University. They will follow this with a Doctorate of Naturopathic medicine, and eventually open an integrated clinic with their life partner. They wish to create an open and welcoming environment, where people of any identity can seek healing without prejudice and without judgment. Chantelle is committed to ensuring medical access to homeless youth, forty percent of which are LGBTQ.

**Nick LaBerge** (Tacoma) - Nick is a high school senior at the Charles Wright Academy in Tacoma. He is the senior class president and Cross-Country and Track Captain. He founded the "Everything is Awesome Club" dedicated to the school's LGBTQ students. Nick has committed to Claremont McKenna College in California for his undergraduate education, where he intends to pursue his interests in Science, Ceramic Art and Economics.



**Deanna Mendenhall** (Silverton, OR) - Deanna is currently attending North Seattle Community College pursuing her AA in order to transfer to a four year university. After a five year break in traditional schooling, she is incredibly excited to be back in the world of academia. She has served two years of national service with AmeriCorps and has worked extensively with at-risk youth. She is a passionate advocate for LGBTQ rights. She loves nature and leaving her comfort zone.



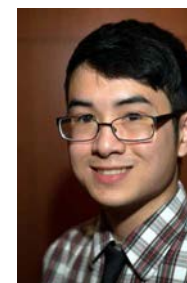
**Hannah Middlestead** (Port Angeles) - Hannah is applying to several top universities, and plans to double major in Chemistry and Botany. She is going to become an ethnopharmacologist after she gets her PhD. In this field, she will be developing medicine from plants to cure diseases that affect everyone, such as HIV. She is especially motivated in this field, having had a close relative who was a member of the LGBT community die of AIDS. *Hannah is the recipient of a Rich Thielke Memorial Scholarship.*



**Ernesto Morfin Montes de Oca** (Federal Way) - Ernesto loves to take the hardest classes in his school. He has been nominated as a presidential scholar and has won or placed in a diverse range of competitive events such as running, pole vault, swimming, diving and speech and debate. As a student government leader and an advocate for the LGBTQ community, students look up to him and ask him for advice or help with their problems. He plans to pursue a degree in Chemistry. *Ernesto is the recipient of the GSBA Founders' Scholarship.*



HENNI BARNES



**Rafael Alejandro Padilla** (Seattle) – Rafael is attending the University of Washington and working toward a degree in Nursing. Through medicine he hopes to expand quality medicinal care to underrepresented minority and LGBTQ communities who would otherwise have financial or other impassable obstacles. By pursuing a career as a Nurse Practitioner he also hopes to open his own clinic which directly addresses the conditions that either exclusively or more commonly affect LGBTQ and other underrepresented communities.



**Landyn Pan** (Bothell) – Landyn attends Chapman University studying Public Relations & Advertising. Landyn is the Development Director and Graphic Designer for Trans Student Educational Resources, an organization that fights for trans justice in education, and creative/campaign committee head at Multicultural Enterprise, a Chapman club that aims to solve diversity issues on campus. His goal is to land a career in the entertainment industry and help bring more accurate minority representations to mainstream media.



**Ashley Peers** (Gold Bar) – Ashley is a sophomore at Western Washington University pursuing a degree in Psychology with a minor in Queer Studies. She has a strong sense of civic duty and hopes to utilize her education and experience to help those who are often ignored, misunderstood and underserved. Ashley hopes to connect medical resources to those who desire them so that people may live authentically and comfortably in their own skin.





## YOUR INVESTMENT AT WORK: former scholar, Arianna Allahyar, shares her successes.

"Receiving a GSBA scholarship means so much more than lessening the financial burden that comes with obtaining an education; it means having an entire community of individuals who believe in me and inspire me to be the best I can be," says Arianna Allahyar, who received GSBA scholarships in 2011 and 2012.

"The best part . . . is that the feeling of emotional investment from the GSBA community never fades. Even now, three years after being awarded my last scholarship, I continue to receive a tremendous wave of support from GSBA, and I carry that feeling with me in everything I do. . . . GSBA has continued to be a backbone of support for me as my involvements shift and expand.

GSBA provides such a diverse range of networking, advocacy and professional development opportunities that I didn't know existed."

With a BS in Urban and Regional Planning from California State Polytechnic University-Pomona and an MS in Civil Engineering from the University of Washington, Arianna is making a name for herself as a transportation planner at the multinational engineering and design firm Parsons Brinckerhoff. In this role, Arianna works with local, regional and statewide agencies on a number of major planning efforts, with particular emphasis on transit and sustainability. Recently, she helped Sound Transit evaluate the cost of sustainable design elements (solar panels, green roofs, etc.) for future Link Light Rail service from Northgate to Lynwood. She is also working with King County Metro to improve the speed and reliability of current bus service, while looking ahead to future capacity needs and constraints. Moreover, she supports Parsons Brinckerhoff's San Francisco office with a number of regional transit planning efforts across the Bay Area.

When Arianna talks about Seattle's boom, she says, "It is an exciting time and place . . . for the work that I do, thinking about both short- and long-term transit investments that better connect our communities."

Now that Arianna is a full-time professional, she makes giving back to the community a priority. Currently she is a member of the Young Professionals Task Force and the Alumni Outreach Committee. She says, "My hope is to continue drawing from my personal experiences as a scholar and as a young professional to help and support current scholars set themselves up for success in their careers, as well as introduce more and more young professionals to the value GSBA has to offer! There is something for everyone at GSBA."



**Jazmine Perez** (Quincy) – Jazmine is studying Physiology and Gender, Women, Sexuality Studies at the University of Washington. As the Program Coordinator for SARVA (Sexual Assault and Relationship Violence Activists), she hopes to create a culture at UW that does not tolerate power-based violence. Her goal is to become a Psychiatrist, focusing on sexual assault trauma and understands there are a disproportionate number of LGBTQ and people of color who experience this type of violence. *Jazmine is the recipient of a Glenn Johnson and Michael Melancon Bright Horizon Scholarship.*



**Althea Poteet** (Bellevue) - Althea is a senior at Interlake High School. She will be graduating in June, and will also be receiving an Associate of Arts and Sciences degree from Bellevue College through the Running Start program. A queer youth leader in her LGBTQ community, Althea hopes to pursue an undergraduate degree in neuroscience in the fall.



**Zane Rapiñan** (Shoreline) – Zane self-identifies as genderqueer, a radical activist and a polymath. They are receiving an AS degree from Seattle Central College, where they serve as president of the Queer Straight Alliance, and plan to transfer to the University of Washington to pursue an undergraduate degree in Electrical Engineering. Zane has shown over a decade of commitment to social justice, and hopes to continue participation in anti-oppression work, grassroots networking and personal development. *Zane is the recipient of a Microsoft Scholarship.*



**Colby Rezayat** (Bainbridge Island) – Colby is seeking his Master's in Social Work at the University of Washington. He has spent the last three years as an advocate for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. He also works as a clinical intern with Compass Health in Mount Vernon. He hopes to combine his passions for mental health, the LGBTQ communities and anti-violence work.



**Zeena Rivera** (Des Moines) – Zeena is a first-year Humanities for Leadership student at Seattle University. She is the founder and editor-in-chief of Be! Magazine and is now on Hall Council. She is involved in Campus Ministry as one of the leaders for Gender and Sexuality Programming where she planned Transgender Day of Remembrance. Academically, she is driven and wants to become a professor to study the psychology of sexuality and gender.



**Juan Serrano** (White Swan) - Juan is a senior in high school. He is in numerous school clubs, and serves as a student government officer. He is also involved in three very different sports: cheer, wrestling and tennis. Being able to be involved in so many clubs, Juan says that he wants to work on increasing the number of teen-friendly LGBTQ events. Inspired by his own guidance counselor in high school, he wants to become a counselor to inspire young teens both inside and outside of their schools.



**Sherry Sternhagen** (Seattle) - Sherry is pursuing an undergraduate degree in Social Work at the University of Washington. Through feminist, anti-racist, queer identified activism, Sherry is dedicated to the struggle to end oppression and promote social justice. Some long term goals include providing sexual education to LGBTQ teens, offering doula birth support to women in low resource communities and teaching media literacy. Sherry plans to pursue an MSW and a PhD in Gender Studies.



## YOUR INVESTMENT AT WORK: former scholar, Whitney Kershner, shares her successes.

Whitney has constantly faced classmates, coworkers and clients who discount her capabilities as a young, openly gay woman. The only out lesbian at Seattle's Chief Sealth High School, she was President of the Gay Straight Alliance and was outspoken in her advocacy for equality. She enrolled at the Evergreen State College and graduated with a BS in Psychology and Economics. She remembers the importance of receiving support from GSBA, saying, "The Scholarship made a huge impact on my life. I was so proud and grateful to be recognized and be given this support. It was a feeling that stuck with me throughout my college years and beyond."

Shortly after graduating, Whitney moved to Tumwater to become a Financial Advisor at Edward Jones Investments. She enjoys getting to know her clients and helping them make their financial dreams come true. A rising business leader in the South Sound, she has been recognized with several awards over the years, including best financial planner in the South Sound by readers of the Olympian, and as one of the 40 Under Forty by the Business Examiner.

When Whitney is not working, she volunteers with SAGE Olympia, an organization promoting the wellness of LGBT elders, and is an active participant in Capital City Pride. Whitney is the model of a successful GSBA Scholar, using the professional skills she developed in school to give back to the community and support those in need. "It is very important our community knows they have a resource in a typically conservative industry like finance. LGBT people often don't seek help with their retirement for fear of being judged. We all need help in reaching our goals and everyone in our community deserves that".

Whitney is thriving professionally but still finds time to spend with her growing family. Whitney and her wife have been married for eight years and are expecting their first child next year.



**Angela Tang** (Seattle) – Angela is a student at Whitman College studying Economics. An advocate for equality for communities of color and LGBTQ communities, she hopes to instigate change through implementing social justice programming at Whitman as Co-President of GLBTQ, Chairperson of the Power & Privilege Symposium and Resident Assistant of the Asian Studies House. Her long term goal is to achieve economic equity through public policy or leadership in corporate business. *Angela is the recipient of a Chester Podlodowski Memorial Scholarship.*



**Harley Tonelli** (Seattle) - Harley is a Seattle native currently studying at Berklee College of Music in Boston. Majoring in Music Business & Management, Harley hopes to use this training as a tool to expand visibility and facilitate the success of LGBTQ+ and other marginalized artists in the music industry. Harley currently serves as a Peer Advisor for incoming students, and is the Communications Director for the Berklee Internet Radio Network. *Harley is the recipient of a David Barzilai Memorial Scholarship.*



**Julia Weaver** (Bremerton) - Julia is a 17-year old completing their last year of high school. As part of the Running Start program, they will be graduating with their diploma and an Associate of Arts degree. They plan on going to college and earning a Master's degree in Environmental Engineering. Julia has been a long time youth leadership council member at their local LGBTQ+ nonprofit youth organization and a volunteer for planned parenthood.



## INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE:

### LORI DUGDALE

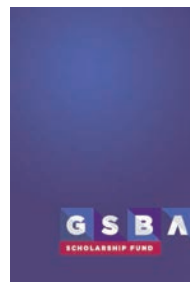
Lori Dugdale knows the power of education and is deeply invested in helping people achieve their educational goals. Now the Director of Communications at the University of Washington Information School, Lori's first introduction to GSBA came while she was working at Antioch University Seattle. She remembers working with then-student and GSBA Scholar, Aidan Key, to promote his Gender Odyssey Conference. Aidan shared his story with Lori and talked about how greatly he benefited from the GSBA Scholarship. She says the encounter with Aidan made it easy to understand the power the Scholarship Fund could have on students and the wider community.

As Lori learned more, she was drawn to the unique combination of a business chamber lifting up the next generation of LGBTQ leaders. She soon joined the Board of Directors and served as the Marketing Chair for GSBA. She is deeply invested in helping people achieve their education goals. "GSBA represented a great opportunity for me to give back, as an individual member, as a program chair and as a board member."

While Lori is no longer on the Board, she never misses the TASTE of GSBA and always looks for ways to introduce people to the Fund. "Higher education is vital but also expensive. As a donor, I believe my contribution is a solid investment that will help people contribute their full talents to our community. Investing in human potential, especially when that potential has been thwarted, is so rewarding. You can shake that scholar's hand and watch their smile light up the room."



**Mick Wiegenstein** (Hansville) – Mick is attending Portland State University and pursuing undergraduate degrees in German and Architecture with the goal of attending a graduate program in historic preservation. His goal is to restore and preserve architectural manifestations of our cultural heritage with the aim of inspiring future generations to do the same.



**Parisa Yekamlari** (Gig Harbor) – Parisa is attending New York University. She is currently undecided, but leaning towards an undergraduate concentration that combines politics and nutrition. In the past, Parisa worked extensively for reproductive justice. She currently works primarily with LGBTQ and low-income communities. Her advocacy has inspired a strong passion toward ending the inaccessibility of healthy foods within marginalized communities. Parisa plans to become a community organizer dedicated to eradicating food deserts.



RAFAEL ALEJANDRO PADILLA



**Ruben Zecena** (San Salvador, El Salvador) – Ruben is a queer activist at Washington State University where they study English Teaching, Women Studies, and Queer Studies. They are a Social Justice Peer Educator for WSU's Equity & Diversity Department. In this position, they create workshops and facilitate discussions about social justice issues with the purpose shifting conservative climates of Eastern Washington. Ruben hopes to become a high school English teacher and incorporate queer methodologies in their pedagogy. *Ruben is the recipient of a Rich Thielke Memorial Scholarship.*



**Laura Yanez** (Federal Way) - Laura came from Colombia to the US six years ago with her family and is currently pursuing an Associate's degree in Human Services at Highline College. She is an advocate for immigrants, Adult Basic Education (ABE) students, English as Second Language (ESL) students, the LGBTQ community and those whose voices are oppressed. Laura wants to become a college Dean for Student Programs and a national keynote speaker to inspire and impact college students' lives.



## YOUR INVESTMENT AT WORK: former scholar, Ian Fies-Bryce, shares his successes.

From Mount Vernon to London, four-time GSBA Scholar Ian Feis-Bryce has been busy accomplishing the goals he set for himself as a freshman at Lewis and Clark College. Graduating with degrees in Psychology and Gender Studies, Ian spent time interning in New York City with Lambda Legal and then in London at the Albert Kennedy Trust.

He is currently working to become a chartered Forensic Psychologist. He recently accepted a position in London at Together for Mental Wellbeing,

an organization that advocates for the rights of people with mental health difficulties. Ian is Together's LGBT specialist forensic mental health practitioner for the national liaison and diversion pilot scheme. He works in the United Kingdom's busiest court and conducts full mental health assessments with people in custody in order to provide recommendations to judges regarding sentencing options. His goal is to divert LGBT people with mental health difficulties away from custodial environments.

Ian and his husband Alex recently purchased a two-bedroom home in London, which they share with their miniature dachshund, Merlin. They enjoy experimenting with fusion cooking and cocktail mixology, taking Merlin on adventures in London (he loves the tube), and searching for the best brunch in the UK.

"My life's trajectory has been permanently altered thanks to the support of the GSBA. It is impossible to think where I would be without that support, but I can confidently say that I wouldn't be living in the UK with my husband, and I wouldn't be studying to be one of a very small number of LGBT Forensic Psychologists. The GSBA has shaped me and given me the confidence, skills and knowledge to challenge systemic oppression of queer people.

"I only hope that I can pay it forward and help the next generation of GSBA scholars find themselves, develop their passions and lead confident, fulfilled lives."

## APPLY. VOLUNTEER. SUPPORT. How to get involved with the GSBA Scholarship Fund

### Apply for a GSBA Scholarship

We are looking for the next generation of LGBTQ and allied leaders making a difference in our community. Are you passionate about social justice and equality? Are you changing the world? Applications are available online in October and scholarships are awarded in May. Applicants must be a Washington State resident pursuing a post-secondary degree. Apply at: [thegsbascholarship.org](http://thegsbascholarship.org).

### Volunteer to Select Our Scholars

Each year teams of volunteers gather to read through 365+ applications and select and interview groups of applicants, eventually deciding on the next class of GSBA Scholars. Interviewers will receive training on diversity and interviewing, as well as form strong bonds with their teammates. You will truly be investing in the next generation of LGBTQ and allied leaders. The scholarship selection process happens between February and May each year. For more information on participating in this life changing experience, please contact Jessica, our Director of Scholarships, at [JessicaW@thegsba.org](mailto:JessicaW@thegsba.org).

### Support Our Scholars

Your investment in our scholars provides funding for our current programs and scholarships. All donations are 100% tax-deductible. Donate online at [thegsba.org](http://thegsba.org) or by mail or phone: GSBA Scholarship Fund, 400 E Pine, Ste 322 Seattle, WA 98122 or 206.363.9188.

For more information on stock transfers or estate planning, contact the office at 206.363.9188.



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## INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE: DR. THOMAS YETMAN

Dr. Tom Yetman, the current CEO for Providence Medical Group Northwest Washington, has been a steadfast supporter of the GSBA Scholarship Fund since moving to Seattle in 2006. He has always been passionate about education and supporting LGBTQ students. His education has been essential to his career success and he feels it is a duty to help other members of our community achieve their maximum potential.

"We have the honor of supporting perhaps the next Maya Angelou, the next Albert Einstein, or the future Barack Obama when we support the GSBA Scholarship Fund. Who knows the wonderful things that we have robbed our society of by not supporting some students in their educational aspirations?"

Shame on us if we allow even one person with potential to wither and wilt for lack of education and opportunity."

Tom, who did not come out until later in life, is continuously amazed and inspired by the young people that have embraced their truth. Moreover, he is encouraged by the transgender community and believes we have so much to learn from our transgender brothers and sisters.

Tom is not only an Emerald Slipper Club member, but he also mentors LGBTQ students interested in medicine. He believes we have a duty to support our young people and says, "It is so important to constantly send messages of love and support to our LGBTQ youth. They need to know that their LGBTQ family has their back and will always be there for them."

