

Horizons Foundation's

Cornerstone Circle



**Building a Sustainable Future
for the LGBT Community**

June 2008

We are the ones we have been waiting for.

June Jordan

Stop for a second and think about how far the LGBT movement has come. It's breathtaking, isn't it? Born out of courage in the face of intolerance and homophobia, we've triumphed in ways we could scarcely have imagined even a generation ago. We take great joy and immense pride in what we've accomplished...yet we still long for true equality.

Now stop and imagine the time when we have our full equality and dignity, rooted in a strong, compassionate community that endures for generations. The truth is that right now, today, we're in an extraordinary position to do more than imagine a better future. We have the experience, the wisdom, and the vision to make it happen. We are the ones we have been waiting for.

Who We Are: The Cornerstone Circle

We are members of Horizons Foundation's Cornerstone Circle, a group of supporters dedicated to ensuring a sustainable, lasting LGBT community. Each of us commits to raising \$10,000 a year for Horizons Foundation from major gifts of \$1,000 or more, by asking our friends and colleagues to contribute major gifts or through our personal gifts.

Our passion for being part of the Cornerstone Circle is built on the years of experience and level of commitment we bring to the table. Our success comes from the people we know and our willingness to reach out to them. Our goal is to expand Horizons' capacity to serve, advocate, and lead, today and far into the future.

As visionaries, we understand that this Circle is a powerful launching point for the next stage in the development of the Bay Area LGBT community. As pragmatists, we put our money where our values are and inspire others to do the same. This juncture of vision and action is the cornerstone of our work. It is the foundation of Horizons Foundation.

Join Us

The LGBT community we envision—safe, strong, and proud—requires forward thinking, thoughtful planning, and significant funding.

This means more of our community must give more. Right now, even though LGBT people are as generous as anyone else, only 5% of us direct that generosity towards LGBT causes. This is where we need your help. By bringing in even one new major donor each year, you'll play a major role in building Horizons Foundation, a vitally important LGBT institution uniquely positioned to provide for our community's long-term strength.

Horizons invites you to become a member of the Cornerstone Circle—a group of people deeply dedicated to the LGBT movement who have the desire, ability, and vision to secure its future.

Vision animates, inspires, transforms purpose into action.

Warren Bennis

Great Progress, Great Need

In the years since Horizons' founding in 1980, the LGBT community has come a long way, especially considering the determined opposition we have faced and the horrors of the HIV epidemic. Our progress can be measured in legal protections, public visibility, and the hundreds of organizations and programs created to protect and promote the well-being of LGBT people.

Yet a chronic lack of funding severely blunts the effectiveness of our movement, leaving our progress incomplete. Our nonprofits scramble to react to changing events and serve today's needs, with little left over to build for the long term. A weak economy only heightens the challenge of moving the LGBT community from continuing scarcity toward greater sustainability.

Meeting this challenge requires a strategy that sacrifices neither inspiration nor common sense. Horizons Foundation has laid out such a plan—and we as Cornerstone Circle members are committed to making it real.

A Vision for the Long Term

Our potential strength lies in the commitment of thousands of our own supporting our own—individual giving far outstrips that of foundations, corporations, and other sources. While non-LGBT people and institutions can (and should) support our community more strongly, we can't rely on them to fight our fight for us. Ultimately, our own community's generosity is what will power the LGBT movement.

But Horizons Foundation's vision—which inspires our work as Cornerstone Circle members—isn't focused solely on securing funds for today, or the next grant cycle, or even next year. The vision takes our movement to the next level, where we *always* have the resources we need.

Our community has an unprecedented opportunity over the next 15–20 years: baby boomers are making their estate plans, many of the first LGBT “post-Stonewall” generation are embarking on their own paths of charitable giving, and three out of four of us have no children. Bequests and other planned gifts dedicated specifically to LGBT causes could have an enormous impact on the long-term strength of our whole community.

In 2005, Horizons Foundation launched the LGBT Community Endowment Fund to make the most of this window of opportunity. The Endowment Fund strengthens our community's capacity to respond to challenges none of us can predict. Nobody anticipated HIV. Few foresaw that same-sex marriage would so rapidly become a critical fight. The challenges will inevitably change over time, but meeting them will always require strength and flexibility—as well as considerable financial resources.

The LGBT movement's early pioneers left us a legacy that makes this vision even possible. As Cornerstone Circle members, we're proud to be part of Horizons' work building the LGBT Community Endowment Fund into a legacy for generations to follow.



Everything is too difficult for one. But nothing is impossible for the community.

Széchenyi István

Your LGBT Community, Your LGBT Foundation

As the region's sole philanthropic institution dedicated to the LGBT community, Horizons focuses on finding ways to sustain the LGBT organizations that propel our movement forward. The foundation's reputation for intelligent, cutting-edge grantmaking and careful financial stewardship have earned the respect of our community.

Horizons itself has multiplied in size, scope, and capacity over the years. In 1980, the foundation made two grants of \$500 each. In 2007, that had risen to 517 grants totaling over \$2.8 million. Organizations funded a generation ago are well-established community leaders today.

Together, thousands of volunteers, board members, donors, and activists have built something that the world had never seen before Horizons came along: an LGBT community foundation. In 2005, a group of committed donors—the “Silver Anniversary Visionaries”—provided initial funding for Horizons to build toward the larger vision epitomized by the Endowment Fund.

Now, *your* dedication as part of the Cornerstone Circle will take that vision to the next level, expanding LGBT giving and helping the LGBT community seize the reins of our own future.

Supporting Your Efforts

Horizons' plans for the future are bold, ambitious, and full of potential. With the help of the Cornerstone Circle, we have no doubt that Horizons will realize those goals.

We know that raising funds, even from those closest to you and most loyal to the cause, can be daunting. But you'll have the support and camaraderie of other Cornerstone members to help you, assisted by Horizons Foundation staff every step of the way. Through both groups, you'll have access to resources and personalized attention you can draw on to be successful.

We Are the Ones We've Been Waiting For

When you join the Cornerstone Circle, you'll find yourself in good company. We're part of the Circle because we know we can't wait for someone else to do the work. We see a hopeful future ahead—if all of us continue to step up and bring others to do the same. Through person-to-person fundraising, “coming out” as a donor, and inspiring others to join you, you'll help Horizons meet the needs of today and fulfill a vision for the future—building the bridge between what is and what will be.

For over 28 years, Horizons Foundation's story has been a quiet but insistent accumulation of caring people making thoughtful decisions that lead to extraordinary results. We hope you'll become part of that story as a member of the Cornerstone Circle.

Cornerstone Circle

(as of 5/12/08)

John Bare
George Duran & Joe Pon
Jeff Lewy & Ed Eishen
Gary Roof & Douglas Light
Beverly A. Scott
Wendy Storch
Léonie Walker & Dr. Kate O'Hanlan