



# Community **ONE** Foundation

Established 1980

Formerly the Lesbian & Gay Community Appeal

Summer 2018

## RAINBOW GRANTS

# 38

## YEARS OF GIVING

From the early projects of The Appeal to our current Rainbow Grants program, your donations have helped more than 1,100 initiatives across the GTA for LGBTTIQQ2SA communities



Here's  
how you  
can help

Donate today and help us fund the events, projects and services that keep the LGBTTIQQ2S communities of the Greater Toronto Area vibrant, diverse and thriving - [communityone.ca/donatenow](http://communityone.ca/donatenow)



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Community One Foundation is a registered charity that gives annual grants to LGBTTIQQ2S initiatives, registered charitable number 126482785RR0001.

## LOFT Community Services helps trans residents with BLOOM



Kay Roeslein of LOFT with Community One Co-chair Terrance Greene (r) and RBC's Justin Hughes-Jones (l). Photo: Kyle Burton

*"You have to do something! So we did."*

In 2016, LOFT Community Services saw the number of transgender clients in their transitional housing go from an average of 4 to 14, so they responded with a program designed for their specific needs called BLOOM.

"The initial notion was to provide specialized supportive housing where trans people with mental health and addiction issues and histories of homelessness could safely live while they regained their stability and health," said Jane Corbett, Director of Development at LOFT Community Services, adding that the aim of BLOOM is to help residents "improve their sense of wellbeing and quality of life, in order to re-enter the world as resilient, self-sustaining individuals living as their authentic selves."

BLOOM focuses on the time of highest vulnerability for their clients, the period of medical transition, providing both safe housing in a non-judgemental environment and access to health services from trans-positive providers.

Community One Foundation recognized the critical services being offered to an underserved community when they selected BLOOM for the former RBC Community Grant in 2017. It was the project's first major grant.

"The recognition was just as important in reinforcing our commitment, and confirming the belief that this service is needed and the right thing to do... we will now be able to show evidence of its effectiveness."

The gains resulting from the project are already surfacing - Corbett recently received inspiring news from a BLOOM peer support worker.

"One of the younger BLOOM residents has just been accepted into the social work program at a community college," said Corbett. "We all feel like this is quite amazing that through the challenges of growing up, this young person has been able to maintain their education level well enough to get accepted, and through the transition ahead, they are determined to begin their post-secondary education."

With the current waitlist of 16 likely to keep growing, Corbett and LOFT are working hard to secure additional housing and continue to improve BLOOM.

"We need at least 10 housing units to achieve the economies of scale that will make this project sustainable for us," she said, adding that they are also looking at further research into the specific needs of gender-diverse people such as 2-Spirited and BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Colour) individuals.

Despite the critical need to expand the project, the depth of its current success is evident to staff just in the simple day-to-day interactions amongst residents.

"They are seeing the BLOOM residents sitting and sharing a meal together, without artifice or personae, no makeup or fancy clothing, but feeling safe and secure enough to share and support each other as their most authentic and vulnerable selves."



## Bigger Than We gathers Black LGBTQ+ community to celebrate history, culture



Drag queen Michelle Ross performs for an adoring crowd on its feet at the 2017 event *Bigger Than We*. (YouTube screengrab/vis ria)

On June 18, *Bigger Than We* captivated an audience of people from Toronto's Black queer communities, with stories, an artifact exhibition and performances of music and poetry inspired by those who helped shape the Black queer community spanning generations.

Organized by Toronto Black queer community activists, the Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants (OCASI) and funded in

part by a 2017 Community One Foundation Rainbow Grant, the event aimed to increase historical awareness in the community, while sparking friendship and solidarity.

Organizer Phillip Pike described the event as a celebration of “the radical, transformative work of community building over the years, and acknowledge and honour those involved... including our Black queer ancestors,” and attendees left inspired.

“Learning about the events that took place in the community before I was born helps fulfill a history and inspires me to continue the work of community building and resistance,” said one guest.

Another said, “Oftentimes these stories fade as life takes its natural course. Thankfully, as a queer person myself, I now have stories before my time to pass on to the generations to go along with my own lived experiences. This event has really made me feel visible.”

The gathering was recorded for the documentary *Tell the Children the Truth*, about the activists who shaped Toronto's Black queer community. The film received a 2018 Rainbow Grant to fund post-production work and is slated for release in 2019.

## Hall of Justice poster series spotlights the heroism of LGBTQ+ activists

Artist and community worker John Caffery's Hall of Justice poster series reimagines LGBTQ activists as superheroes fighting for justice, complete with a name from the Justice League comics.

“I was looking at a way to merge art and activism and to teach young people about the successes of the community,” said Caffery. To do this, he assembled a youth advisory committee to plan the posters.

“People have reached out from the Ivory Coast, Cape Town,

Black Lives Matter, HIV/AIDS groups. I have been fighting to keep up with the demand.”

Funded in part by a 2017 General Rainbow Grant, the series was featured at the Rainbow Health Ontario conference, as well as York University, George Brown College and Glad Day Bookshop.

The Community One General Rainbow Grants program was designed to fund small-scale projects such as this, that positively impact the community. Grants are available up to \$1500.

“[The General Rainbow Grant] was extremely helpful to start the campaign, get the first print runs and fund youth and activist honoraria,” said Caffery.

Caffery also signed a deal with marketer SapientRazorfish and the Toronto District School Board to print and distribute 5,500 posters for schools

Caffery is still working to secure funding for more posters and speakers for events. Visit [hallofjusticeposters.com](http://hallofjusticeposters.com) to see the whole poster series.



Monica Forrester is one of 11 activists featured in the poster series.

Want to support projects like these?

Donate conveniently and securely at [communityone.ca/donatenow](https://communityone.ca/donatenow) or ask your employer about their workplace giving programs. For mail-in donations, go to [communityone.ca/donationform](https://communityone.ca/donationform)



## Congratulations to our 2018 Rainbow Grant recipients!

Nuit Rose

Paperhouse Outreach Collective

Tessa Gooden (recording artist)

Gio Iacono (researcher)

Queer Asian Women+ (QAW+)

Pink Pine Project

Cahoots Theatre

Asian Community AIDS Services (ACAS)

Ontario Rainbow Alliance of the Deaf (ORAD)

Phillip Pike (filmmaker)

PFLAG Canada Mississauga

LOFT Community Services

Casey House

Black Lives Matter - Toronto Freedom School

End of Life Planning Canada

Sunshine Centres for Seniors

Durham Community Health Centre

Springtide Resources



### 2018 Rainbow Grants ceremony

***RSVP at [communityone.ca/rsvp](http://communityone.ca/rsvp)***

May 31, 2018 - Attendance is free!

The 519 (519 Church St.), 6 - 9 p.m.

*ASL interpretation provided; accessible space/washroom*

*Cash bar; light refreshments served*