

The GLSEN WA Bulletin

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GLSEN WA To Hold Day of Silence Workshops

By David A. Hildebrand
Public Relations Director

What are you going to do to end the silence? That is a question that is often asked in the LGBT community, and come April 25, 2008, GLSEN, the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education network will be spearheading the 12th Annual "Day of Silence" across the country. In 2007, students from over 5,000 schools across

the United States registered on the Day of Silence website (www.dayofsilence.org) to show their support of this student-led event to protest the oppression LGBT youth face while trying to receive the education all youth, regardless of their sexual orientation and/or gender identity, rightly deserve.

To help students in Washington State achieve a larger number of participants supporting their cause, GLSEN Washington State will again be offering several "Day of Silence Workshops" led by the chapter's youth empowerment committee, consisting of former and current National Jump Start Leaders and members of GSA clubs.

Last year's workshops were very successful and well attended, and we are going to expand further this year.

If anyone is interested in having the group come out for these workshops, please contact our Education and Training Director Joe Bento at joe@glsenwa.org.

Message From Our Executive Director

Greetings one and all! All of us here at GLSEN Washington State hope that your holiday season went well and you had an opportunity to enjoy quality time with loved ones.

The end of the year is here. The work that we do here at GLSEN Washington State provides services to the community at little or no cost. Donations from people such as yourselves help support all the work that we do to help put an end to the bullying and harassment of our youth in schools, regardless of their sexual orientation and/or gender identity. If you are interested in sending your tax-deductible donation, you can now do it online at <http://www.glsenwa.org>. Or send in your donations to us via mail at 1605 12th Ave, Ste 35, Seattle, WA 98122.

Gifts for the 2007 year can be taken up to January 15th and remember you can donate up to 100% of your taxable income!

Does your or your parents' employer participate in gift matching? GLSEN Washington State is listed in the Washington Combined Fund Drive as an accredited nonprofit organization. Check with your Human Resources representative to see if your company offers gift matching as a form of payroll deduction. For more information about the Washington Combined Fund Drive go to <http://www.cfd.wa.gov/>.

The United Way gift giving also offers employees of school districts a chance to donate to GLSEN Washington State through the Pride Foundation! Check with your United Way Gift Drive Representative in your district for more information.

Warmest regards,

Robert Raketty
Executive Director, GLSEN WA

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College Scholarships Available

Pride Foundation and their program partner, the Greater Seattle Business Association (GSBA), have over \$350,000 in scholarships available for LGBT and Straight-Ally students for the 2008-09 school-year. They have over forty different types of scholarships with awards of up to \$10,000, but only one application to complete. Applications are due January 25, 2008.

Students who have been stigmatized, isolated or closeted because of sexual identity issues often lack critical family, financial and community support. Encouraging them to continue their education can be very challenging. Too often individuals of great promise give up because they don't think anyone believes in them or cares what they have to contribute. Scholarships that clearly say, "this is for you" can make a huge difference.

Pride Foundation also recognizes students who may not be gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender, but who have contributed to the LGBT community. These may be the children of LGBT parents, or just friends of our community whose leadership skills we want to foster.

Pride Foundation's LGBT and allied scholarship program is one of the largest of its kind in the country. Together Pride Foundation and GSBA have awarded more than \$1.8 million to over 650 recipients since 1991.

Inside This Issue...

Page 1

Day of Silence Trainings Available
Events Calendar for 2008
Message From Our Executive Director

Page 2

MLK Organizing Week
No Name Calling Week
Letter from Jump Start Leader

Page 3

Wanted: Volunteer in Pierce County
Summer WA GSA Leadership Summit
The New WA GSA Handbook!

Page 4

Pride Foundation Scholarships

Contact Us!

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GLSEN WA Events Calendar

Be sure to mark these dates on your calendars, as we still have a lot of fun and exciting activities in 2008! The events are open for all of you to have fun, engage in dialogue with your peers and help further the cause of GLSEN by ending the bullying and harassment of all youth, regardless of their sexual orientation and/or sexual identity in Washington State.

January

01.11-14: Dr. MLK Organizing Weekend
01.21-25: No Name-Calling Week

February

WA GSA Regional Summits, Dates/Locations TBA
-Day of Silence Trainings
02.06-02.12: Creating Change Conference
02.22-02.23: Skagit County Rainbow Festival

March

WA GSA Regional Summits, Dates/Locations TBA
-Day of Silence Trainings

April

WA GSA Regional Summits, Dates/Locations TBA
-Day of Silence Trainings
04.25: Day of Silence & Night of Noise

May

05.23: 4th Annual WA GSA Network Awards Banquet

June-July

Statewide Pride Events
July 2007: 1st Annual WA GSA Leadership Summit

Cullyn: How To "Jump-Start" Your GSA

by Cullyn Foxlee
GSA President, Port Angeles High School
GLSEN National Jump-Start Leader

Happy New Year to all the high school GSAs! Both culture and commercialism have promoted the Winter as the season of good tidings, resolutions, and most of all giving. Perhaps other clubs on your school's campus (e.g. National Honors Society, Key Club, DECA, etc.) are bestowing the fruits of their fundraising on the needy and elderly in the form of gifts or volunteer services. The focus of my letter to you anent this season of benevolence is what your GSA, GLOW, etc. can do this holiday season to bring cheer and acceptance to your school and community.

Raising the funds: If your GSA is not already financially stable, during a meeting your club may want to brainstorm ways to fundraise.

Port Angeles High School's GSA has successfully fundraised by doing the following: face painting at festivals (holiday concerts and department stores are other locations where this strategy could be utilized), bake sales (for a twist add a theme to the bake sale: gingerbread houses, for ex-

Time to Organize for MLK

GLSEN is hosting the fourth annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Organizing Weekend. This is an action that recognizes the importance of collaborating with other groups, understanding the roots of organizing in social justice, and working outside of our schools. This action will be a powerful weekend, bringing the experiences and work of young people in the safer schools movement together with other social justice movements. Here are some ideas for you:

Volunteer: At the local MLK day march/parade or at a local community organization dedicated to social justice or for another school group that may be having an event

Host: A Civil Rights movie night or a poetry or open mic event or A cultural pot luck dinner, giving people time to discuss their club/organization's mission

Create: A Civil Rights display board or a series of posters of leaders from various movements or A video on leaders from various movements

Organize: A panel discussion of various student and adult leaders or a workshop on coalition building or a speaker who can talk about the intersections of LGBT and other civil rights movements

For more information visit www.dayofsilence.org/mlk.

ample), and, with permission from stores, setting up donation boxes. Finally, don't neglect to advertise your events, sales, and or services, so that the community knows you're doing a fundraiser. Libraries often offer free advertising spaces on their bulletin boards.

Spread the word and the frosting: If attendance or membership is wanting in your GSA, perhaps promoting your GSA in your school will be your focus this holiday season. To increase your club's attendance and gain new members try sustenance. If your GSA isn't enthused about bringing treats in for other students, why not offer hot cocoa. Send invitations to other clubs and announce a "hot cocoa lunch hosted by GSA" over the school intercom. Also, you can add a holiday twist by watching a Winter Holiday themed movie during a meeting. Remember the marshmallows!

The season for a summit: Key Club donated a Thanksgiving Turkey to an impoverished family, Honors Society volunteered at an elder hostel, and now it's GSA's turn to show their generosity. One way your GSA can assist the community is by holding a teacher training or a summit for other GSAs in your area. The GLSEN websites have excellent ideas for summits and teacher training's. I will also share some of the events I have used in summits. If you have a PFLAG or the equivalent in your area, you could ask the members if they would like to be guest speakers at your summit. Another, activity you could try is an ice breaker where everyone has to say their name, PGPs, and what color they feel like that day. (PGPs are Preferred gender pronouns, meaning he, his, him, her hers, or gender neutral xie and hir. As an example I might say the following: "Good Morning, I'm Cullyn, my PGPs are: her, hers, xie, and hir, and I feel very happy this morning so my color is yellow.")

Of course, these are only a fraction of the plethora of possibilities to choose from this Winter.

Paid Volunteer Opportunity In Tacoma/Pierce County

We are currently looking for a person to fill a temporary position for one year in the Tacoma/Pierce County region. The hours are negotiable and the job will include a \$1000 stipend that can be negotiated over time through a grant from the Pride Foundation.

Qualified applicants must have great communication skills, work well with youth and community groups, and must undergo a federal background check. For more information about the position, please visit our website at www.glsenwa.org.

No Name Calling Week: January 21-25

No Name-Calling Week is an annual week of educational activities aimed at ending name-calling of all kinds and providing schools with the tools and inspiration to launch an on-going dialogue about ways to eliminate bullying in their communities.

No Name-Calling Week was inspired by a young adult novel entitled "The Misfits" by popular author, James Howe. The book tells the story of four best friends trying to survive the seventh grade in the face of all too frequent taunts based on their weight, height, intelligence, and sexual orientation/gender_expression_. Motivated by the inequities they see around them, the "Gang of Five" (as they are known) creates a new political party during student council elections and run on a platform aimed at wiping out name-calling of all kinds. Though they lose the election, they win the support of the school's principal for their cause and their idea for a "No Name-Calling Day" at school.

Motivated by this simple, yet powerful, idea, the No Name-Calling Week Coalition, created by GLSEN and Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, and consisting of over 40 national partner organizations, organized an actual No Name-Calling Week in schools across the nation during the week of March 1-5, 2004. This year No Name-Calling Week will begin the week of January 21-25. The project seeks to focus national attention on the problem of name-calling in schools, and to provide students and educators with the tools and inspiration to launch an on-going dialogue about ways to eliminate name-calling in their communities.

The project is targeted at grades five through eight—years when the problem of name-calling is particularly acute but the concept can be easily adapted by

Help Us With Our Handbook!

We are almost finished with our brand-new GSA Handbook. Once completed, we need volunteers to look over and comment on the material outlined in the handbook.

As a "thank you" for helping, we'll even include your name in the publication, if you wish! We are looking for both youth and adults to assist us. If interested, please email joe@glsenwa.org for more information and we'll email you the attachment. Our goal is to get it out to schools in time for Day of Silence.

students and educators at other grade levels. The project includes a resource guide which includes an overview of the campaign, instructions for organizing and publicizing No Name-Calling Week in individual schools, lesson plans and other curricular material, and further resources for those interested in extending the experience. The project also includes a 27-minute video about name-calling targeting grades 5-8. The video is accompanied by a Teacher Resource Book that includes teaching ideas and fact sheets. In addition to the resource materials and video, stickers and posters are available to support the program.

For more information visit please visit their website at www.nonamecallingweek.org.

WA GSA to Hold First

Summer Leadership Summit

GLSEN Washington State and the Washington State GSA Network have received a grant to do a summer leadership training. The goal is to get GSA leaders from across the state to talk and discuss what they need in their areas, discuss how they can create safer schools for LGBT people and plan a common activity calendar to distribute to all GSA groups.

The GSA leaders attending the GSA Network Team Leadership Training will be selected from a pool of candidates, making sure that two students and one advisor from all 10 (GSA Network) regions of our state are included.

Through the Washington State GSA Network Leadership Team Training we hope to train new leaders who will apply their skills not only in their schools, but in their communities.

So we want your input! We want to do this over the summer. We want this to be an over night 2 day training in a centralized location for all to attend. We have a general idea of what we want to present, but we want to know what you want to see! We'd love to see youth and adults from all across the state be a part of this.

There is a one year commitment and a small stipend for mileage and other reimbursable expenses. We will have an application process that will be released in a separate email and newsletter.

For more information or for questions and comments email joe@glsenwa.org.