

Haas Fund grants \$1.2 million for LGBT faith based work

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by PageOneQ

Recognizing the growth of faith based civil rights work in the LGBT community, the faith and religion program at the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Foundation and five partner groups have received a combined \$1.2 million grant from the San Francisco based Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund. The gift will support capacity building for the organizations.

In announcing the grant, Randall Miller, a program officer with the Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund, said "We are excited that this grant will help the [Task Force's] Institute for Welcoming Resources realize its vision to significantly increase the number of local congregations and parishes committed to the full inclusion of LGBT people."

In a statement acknowledging the unprecedented gift, Task Force executive director Rea Carey said "The more than 2.5 million individuals in the 3,100 congregations supported by the Institute for Welcoming Resources and these partner organizations are some of our movement's most valuable advocates in promoting understanding, reclaiming what unfortunately has become a narrow view of 'moral values' espoused by those who seek to divide, and advancing LGBT equality.

"We thank the Haas, Jr. Fund for not only recognizing this, but for providing the critical resources to advance these pro-LGBT faith organizing efforts."

Matt Foreman, Carey's predecessor, now runs the Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund.