

7 gay groups: Don't produce events that compete with community fundraisers

October 28, 2008

This open letter comes in response to a recent controversy in which an events producer scheduled a competing dance party during White Party Week in November:

Community events sponsored and produced in Miami are just that - community events. These events, White Party, **Winter Party Festival**, and Aqua Girl Week, exist for the direct benefit of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community, and those living with and affected by HIV and AIDS.

Each event was founded by dedicated volunteers and activists to raise money for community organizations in South Florida, and to serve as places to bring people together to celebrate our lives and our liberty. These are more than just parties or idle revelry, they foster an atmosphere of empowerment and acceptance and create spaces to take joy in who we are as LGBT people. They have become a testament to the power of bringing ourselves together to do good and have fun too.

The net proceeds of each event go to helping those in need by directly supporting dozens of organizations serving the LGBT community in Miami-Dade, and to support the work of building LGBT political power through the work of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. As nonprofit organizations who either produce, or in some ways partner with, and support these large fundraising events in our community, we do them for one purpose only, to help promote and benefit the community.

We urge the DJs, producers and promoters who are a part of our community to not program or produce events that directly compete with these important and long standing community events. This only serves to dilute the impact we can have in building and sustaining a healthy and vibrant Miami where everyone is accepted and welcome, and has access to vital services. We will not be able to support those who directly program against us.

We encourage LGBT people and our allies to support efforts which directly benefit our community like the White Party, **Winter Party Festival** and Aqua Girl Week and their associated official and sanctioned events. Many have developed over several years and much has been invested into nurturing their growth and success over time.

For more information about White Party, which benefits Care Resource and those living with HIV and AIDS please visit www.careresource.org

For more information about Winter Party Festival, which benefits the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and the GLBT Community Projects Fund of the Dade Community Foundation, please visit www.winterparty.com

For more information about Aqua Girl Week, which benefits the Aqua Foundation for Women please visit www.aquagirl.org

See you on the dance floor!

Aqua Girl Foundation

Care Resource

Gay and Lesbian Community Center of South Florida

Miami Dade Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce

National Gay and Lesbian Task Force

Pridelines

Save Dade