



Affirmations

195 West Nine Mile, Ferndale, MI 48220

Phone: 248.398.7105 Fax: 248.541.1943

Email: info@GoAffirmations.org

Web: www.GoAffirmations.org

Date: January 23, 2007

Contact: Kathleen LaTosch

Communications Director

248-398-7105 ext. 15

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AFFIRMATIONS ANNOUNCES \$150,000 ENDOWMENT GIFT

FERNDALE, Mich. – On January 23, 2007, Affirmations announced that Allan Gilmour and Eric Jirgens made a new \$150,000 gift to the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community center's endowment fund. Since the gift qualifies for a 50% matching grant from the Community Foundation of Southeast Michigan, the total contribution is worth \$225,000, bringing the total raised towards Affirmations' \$1,000,000 goal to \$725,000.

Gilmour, the former Vice Chairman of Ford Motor Company, and Jirgens, the proprietor of Eric Charles Designs, increased their previous endowment commitment of \$150,000 to \$375,000 as an encouragement to philanthropists and donors across Southeastern Michigan to create a sustainable funding base for Affirmations, which sits among the top ten LGBT community centers in the country and which is predicted to become one of the area's cultural treasures.

"It's been extremely exciting to watch Affirmations' progress," said Jirgens regarding the recent decision. "Yes," agreed Gilmour, "all of us are impressed that Affirmations achieved its campaign goal because it provides Southeastern Michigan with a strong asset as the region competes to attract and retain talent. Endowments are a special need in our area and we're delighted to be able to add to Affirmations' permanent fund."

The endowment fund is an untouchable account, managed by the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, which will provide a continued stream of support toward Affirmations' needs into the future. "The growth of an endowment fund also allows Affirmations to have a safety net in case outside funding levels dip or the economy takes a turn for the worse," said Executive Director Leslie Ann Thompson. "Especially as we complete construction on a beautiful new community center, our fundraising committee wanted to put some extra insurance in place."

Affirmations completed their \$5.3 million Open the Doors Capital and Endowment Campaign early last year. Construction on the new 16,000 square foot facility is on track to be completed February, 2007. If you would like to contribute toward Affirmations' endowment fund, please contact Mike Coleman, Development Director, at 248-398-7105 ext. 17.

Affirmations, based in the Detroit suburb of Ferndale, has been in operation since 1989 and provides a variety of programs, services and social opportunities for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals residing in Southeastern Michigan. Affirmations' mission is to provide a welcoming place to everyday people where they can have fun, learn, socialize, grow, be supported and find acceptance.

###