

Media Release

Friday April 16th 2009

'Friends of Rainbow Youth' – Fundraising Initiative

As Rainbow Youth receive no government funding they are reliant on the generous support of the greater community for financial assistance.

Over the past year, Rainbow Youth's Executive Board has worked extensively to establish sustainable funding streams to enable the organisation to continue beyond their existing twenty year history.

Part of this sustainable funding plan includes inviting members of the community to become *Friends of Rainbow Youth*. As a friend of Rainbow Youth, your donation will go directly to the ongoing resourcing of the organisation; directly supporting projects that aim to:

- Reduce homophobia in High Schools, through the development of educational resources and creation of gay-straight alliances for young people at school
- Provision of peer-support groups within the greater Auckland region that foster youth participation and leadership
- Support young people, their friends and whanau through operating the drop-in centre on Karangahape Road
- Empower young people to *know who they are and be who they are* through provision of youth training opportunities

"A statement from the 'Youth 2000 National Secondary School Survey' states; 46.6% of *non-heterosexual students have been hit or physically harmed*. A new report will shortly be released which will highlight new findings. Rainbow Youth are still concerned for GLBTTFQI youth and remain committed to the promotion of peer support groups, safer schools and homes, continued education and awareness of diversity in the youth community and general support for GLBTTFQI youth and their needs. Funding streams in the wider community are tightening and Rainbow Youth are asking the GLBTTFQI community to support our youth through our 'Friends of Rainbow Youth' initiative," states Thomas Hamilton, the Executive Director of Rainbow Youth.

Rainbow Youth is a not-for-profit, incorporated society and registered charity (CC24284), there are a variety of donor options including automatic payments and an online credit card facility.

Rainbow Youth are celebrating their 20th year in operation this year; this would not have been possible without the charitable participation of the community.

Rainbow Youth would like to extend their thanks and gratitude to the various individuals and organisations that have leant a helping hand over the years and look forward to a bright future that enables queer youth to be active leaders in their community.

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