



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 20, 2017

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PHOENIX PRIDE RECEIVES \$5,000 GRANT **FROM THE UPS FOUNDATION**

Grant Recognizes and Supports Phoenix Pride's Volunteer Programs

PHOENIX — **Phoenix Pride** is pleased to announce their grateful receipt of a \$5,000 grant from the **UPS Foundation** in recognition and support of Pride's extensive volunteer programs that engage more than 500 volunteers and nearly 20 volunteer managers on an annual basis in support of the Phoenix Pride Festival & Parade, the Rainbows Festival and the annual Miss and Mister Gay Phoenix Pageant series.

The UPS Foundation grant has been awarded in conjunction with more than 88 hours of volunteer service provided by local UPS employees during 2017.

"We are incredibly honored and grateful to receive this amazing recognition and generous support from UPS, and we are looking forward to continuing to foster and expand our relationship with the wonderful volunteers from UPS who have already played a substantial role in Phoenix Pride's success," President of the Board of Phoenix Pride **Mark Leeper** said.

"Phoenix pride could not do what we do without the tremendous support of our hundreds of annual volunteers, and the kind support of the UPS Foundation will allow us to continue to

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expand, train, develop and enhance our volunteer base in 2018 and in the years beyond,” Phoenix Pride Executive Director **Justin Owen** added. “Without our incredible volunteers, Phoenix Pride could not exist. The scope of our accomplishments in the past year – including the record attendance of more than 37,000 festivalgoers and more than 10,000 parade spectators at the 2017 Phoenix Pride Festival & Parade – would not have been attainable without our ability to rely on the dedication, commitment and hard work of those volunteers to help us create the largest annual LGBTQ community events in the entire state of Arizona.”

“One of the things that drew me to Phoenix Pride is the opportunity to engage with so many outstanding individuals from our community who give so much of themselves to make Phoenix Pride’s annual events and programs happen,” Phoenix Pride’s incoming Interim Executive Director **Mike Fornelli** stated. “I’m looking forward to working with the employees of UPS who have already committed themselves to supporting Pride, and to reaching out to and engaging even more of their co-workers in the coming year, with the gracious support of the UPS Foundation.”

Funding from the UPS Foundation grant will go to support Phoenix Pride’s volunteer program through volunteer management and leadership recruitment, orientation and training, volunteer performance communication, strategic volunteer engagement and volunteer satisfaction and retention.

“The UPS Foundation is honored to support Phoenix Pride’s efforts to further engage community volunteers,” UPS Foundation President and Chief Inclusion Officer for UPS **Eduardo Martinez** said. “Our goal is to fund powerful programs that make a lasting difference to the global community.”

Phoenix Pride will receive the grant award from the UPS Foundation on December 20th.

ABOUT PHOENIX PRIDE

Phoenix Pride is the producer of the two largest annual public LGBTQ community events in Arizona: the Phoenix Pride Festival and Parade held each spring in April, and the Rainbows Festival, held every fall in October. Founded in 1981, the organization engages year-round in its mission to unite, educate and engage people and partners to support and empower the LGBTQ community and its current and future allies. Additional information regarding Phoenix Pride is available online at the agency’s web site, <http://www.PhoenixPride.org>.

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