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Spirit Mountain Community Fund Awards \$25,000 to New Avenues for Youth

Investment supports services for LGBTQ youth in foster care

PORTLAND, OREGON: 12.22.2016 – Spirit Mountain Community Fund has awarded a \$25,000 grant to Portland nonprofit New Avenues for Youth in support of services for LGBTQ youth in foster care as they prepare to exit the system into adulthood.

For the past two years, Spirit Mountain Community Fund has been a generous supporter of New Avenues' PDX-Connect program—a comprehensive suite of services that help youth in care transition into healthy adult lives. As New Avenues increases service in East Multnomah County—where most youth accessing PDX-Connect live—the organization is especially focused on reaching the most marginalized groups, including rurally isolated LGBTQ youth who lack culturally specific supports, have acute mental-health needs, and are at risk of homelessness. The grant from Spirit Mountain Community Fund will expand capacity within PDX-Connect to provide culturally responsive LGBTQ youth supports.

“The Confederated Tribe of Grand Ronde fulfill their native tradition of potlatch, a ceremony at which good fortune is distributed, through the Spirit Mountain Community Fund,” says Louis King, the Fund’s Program Coordinator. “Spirit Mountain Community Fund’s focus is to improve the quality of life in Northwest Oregon through community investments that provide lasting benefits consistent with the Tribe’s culture and values.”

In acknowledging Spirit Mountain Community Fund’s gift, New Avenues’ Executive Director Sean Suib said, “The negative outcomes and inequities related to education, health, and income that youth in foster care experience are well documented. LGBTQ youth in care face the additional challenges of harassment, discrimination, and other forms of victimization. With the generous investment of Spirit Mountain Community Fund, New Avenues for Youth is positioned to deliver more supports and opportunities for these especially vulnerable transition-age youth.”

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About New Avenues for Youth

Since 1997, New Avenues for Youth has impacted the lives of more than 20,000 foster, at-risk, and homeless youth through a range of services that address basic needs and safety, provide opportunities for education and career, and help youth achieve self-sufficiency. For more information about New Avenues for Youth, visit www.newavenues.org.

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