

The LGBT Resource Center for the Seven Rivers Region, Inc.
2013 Annual Report

From the President:

I am happy to report that 2013 has been a tremendous year for the Center, and the Center now is positioned to better able fulfill its mission and continue achieving the new goals established in 2012.

Two events occurred in 2013 that secured the Center's future: Jackson Jantzen was hired in April as a part-time executive director, and thanks to those on the grants committee, the Center received a \$20,000 grant from the Otto Bremer Foundation that will assist the Center in moving toward hiring a full-time executive director. Additionally, the Center was awarded a \$5,000 grant from the PFund Foundation.

The influx of money, added to the generous grant provided in 2012 by the La Crosse Community Foundation, has stabilized the Center's finances. Board treasurer Wesley White has done an extraordinary and outstanding job in organizing the Center's financial reporting structure – all of which allows board members to focus on fundraising in 2014 so the Center relies less on grants and more on community contributions.

The board agreed a priority for the Center in 2013 was protecting and advancing the civil rights of LGBT people through education and advocacy, and many activities this year were geared specifically toward that goal. The Center this year has strengthened its relationship with elected public officials and built coalitions with other social justice organizations as evidenced in the List of Accomplishments in this report.

The Center also committed to continuing GALAXY, the youth group, and thanks to board member Blythe Newburg and intern Alesha Schandelmeier, GALAXY has experienced growth during the year and is providing a safe space for our LGBTQ youth.

The Center is celebrating its 10th year in 2014, and thanks to the generosity of Kathy Van Kirk at Vendi Advertising, one of the Center's organizational members, the Center is rebranding itself with a new message and a new logo. Kathy and her creative team including Erik Olson and Bob Lindner have spent numerous hours with Center representatives to develop the Center's new brand. The work is being done pro bono, and I want to extend to them the Center's gratitude for the work they've done for the Center. Bob now is working with the Center to create a new website. So look for the rollout of the new logo and website soon!

Needless to say, 2013 was a momentous year for the LGBT community on several different levels, and the Center gained public visibility as local press members sought comment on several different events. Minnesota legalized same-sex marriage in May, and the community is grateful to Minn. State Rep. Gene Pelowski for his affirmative vote. The Supreme Court, in a landmark case, struck down the Defense of Marriage Act in the Windsor case and dismissed California's appeal over same-sex marriages that led to the resumption of same-sex marriages in

California. Federal court rulings in Utah and Oklahoma overturning bans on same-sex marriage could put more pressure on the Supreme Court to hear the issue in 2014 so both are worth watching.

I am optimistic about the Center's future as I step down from the board and the president position. I want to thank the community for giving me the opportunity to work with the community in its efforts to gain full equality in Wisconsin.

Board:

Membership on the Board of Directors has been stabilized with seven of eight members remaining this past year. Three additional members means the Board has a total of 10 members as 2013 ends. See the board member list below.

Four terms are expiring this year: Cindy Killion, Marti Lybeck, Kelly Teachout and Marianne Zerbe.

With the slate of seven candidates being presented to the membership for election to two-year terms, the Board of Directors will begin 2014 with 13 members. The revised bylaws provide for a maximum of 13 board members so the Board of Directors is beginning 2014 at full capacity

Development Committee:

The Development Committee planned, organized and produced the Annual GALA event in October. It also was charged with creating a signature fundraiser. The committee had a few ideas but they did not garner board approval and implemented the Annual GALA event

Submitted by Kelly Teachout and Travis Pyka, committee members

GALAXY:

It was a great year for GALAXY!! We saw many changes this year. After a brief hiatus during December of 2012 and January of 2013, we resumed GALAXY meetings in February 2013. In addition to Blythe Newburg, we were privileged to have Alesha Schandelmeier join us as a co-facilitator early on in the year. Alesha and Blythe facilitated two hour-long meetings for GALAXY youth twice per week on Wednesday evenings and Saturday afternoons.

Attendance increased greatly as the year went on, due in large part to Alesha's efforts to make all local schools aware of the GALAXY program. She spoke with educators and guidance counselors in the entire 7 Rivers Region and hung posters at schools and in local hot-spots to make everyone aware of the benefits of the GALAXY program. GALAXY has a private discussion group on Facebook where students can stay in touch with GALAXY facilitators and the executive director about program announcements and other topics. Our Facebook group saw increased membership as well.

Sylvia Vandenburg, a veteran GALAXY member, recently joined the LGBT Centers Board of Directors as a youth member.

A few GALAXY youth volunteered at the Kickapoo Country Fair this last summer. They, along with other Center volunteers, worked as “the green team” at the fair, helping with trash and recycling cleanup.

Currently, GALAXY members are developing plans to fundraise for upcoming events in 2014. Several of the youth have expressed interested in attending a number of conferences in the state of Wisconsin so they’ll be fundraising so they can attend.

2014 will be a year of growth for the GALAXY program. We will be expanding our leadership opportunities and increasing involvement in the community. There are GALAXY members who have joined the Center’s Development Committee, which is in the process of planning the 2014 Pride Along the Mississippi.

Submitted by Blythe Newburg, GALAXY facilitator

Grants Committee:

The Grants Committee had two active grant writers this year, Sandi Krajewski and Marti Lybeck. Alice Benson and Wesley White provided assistance.

We lacked the time and personnel to expand our grant activity so we focused our efforts on four grant applications. Our Letter Of Intent was not selected for further grant submission in one case. We were successful in obtaining the full amount requested for the other three for a total of \$26,000.

Funds were directed toward GALAXY, religious outreach, supporting our expansion into the surrounding area and continuing the care facility training offered by The Elder Network.

Grant funds will help support operating expenses and the Executive Director’s salary with the goal of expanding the executive director’s position to full-time.

The current grant committee members would like to take a break, and Jackson has secured three new volunteers with skills and energy for the Grants Committee in 2014.

Submitted by Marti Lybeck, committee chair.

Outreach Committee:

The Outreach Committee works on two levels: Blythe Newburg handles media and social networking sites, and the remainder of the committee oversees community events, partnerships and projects.

Among the partnerships we established in 2013 was with Kari Reyburn in Viterbo’s Campus Activities to create a 25-hour service-learning project for two students. The committee also began a partnership with the La Crosse Library’s Scott Brouwer of FilmFreaks to show LGBT-themed movies each year and facilitate a discussion following the film showing. The committee purchased a trifold and worked with CBS Graphics to create the design and layout for the new display panels that have been displayed at vending gigs including Globe University, UW-L, Pride and the Winona concert.

The Committee connected with Brian Juchems, director of the Gay-Straight Alliance for Safe Schools, to get information and have a conversation about how to start Ally Training for the Center. We explored possibilities including attendance at training workshops but costs were prohibitive for the Center so the committee currently is creating a format to do Ally Training upon request. The committee also met with Crystal Sobotta, guidance counselor at Houston High School, in an effort to expand the Center's offerings to neighboring communities .

The committee watched the film *Because the Bible Tells Me So* and had a lengthy discussion afterward. The committee is creating a plan to show the video to churches and schools using talking points and historical perspectives to alleviate pejorative presentation of homosexuals in the Bible.

An all-occasion Speakers Bureau, a Photo Board for the Center and a PowerPoint presentation are among the projects underway. Most board members and volunteers are available for speaking engagements so the committee is creating an organizational listing of names, contacts and subjects for those seeking a speaker from the Center. The board approved compensation for speakers. The Photo Board is going to have information on each board member and will be displayed at the Center so Center members and visitors can know the board members. Graham M. Fleischman, now in Chicago, helped create the PowerPoint presentation that is a standard presentation anyone from the Center can use with any group. It is cultural competency 101 with terminology and examples of how labeling affects the LGBTQ community. The presentation is accompanied by a list of suggested reading and videos.

The committee mailed 18 letters to area therapists and counselors offering the Center as a resource should the organization need information about the LGBTQ community in the course of the organization's work. The committee also created a list of businesses and created a script to introduce the Center when calling in an effort to offer information, assistance and encourage each business to participate in the LGBT directory of gay-friendly businesses that will be launched in 2014.

Submitted by Marianne Zerbe, committee chair

Accomplishments:

- Began working with Vendi to rebrand the center for our 10-year anniversary.
- Received a \$20,000 grant from the Bremer Foundation.
- Received a \$5000 grant from PFund.
- Hosted two information sessions with the EEOC regarding their focus ensure more equal employment opportunities for LGBT people.
- Jackson was invited to the White House in September to participate in a rollout presentation regarding Affordable Care act and the LGBT community. We worked to connect community members with information about changes and offerings.

- Jackson and a member of our community joined President Obama and the First Lady at the White House in December for an afternoon Holiday Reception.
- The LGBT Elder Network hosted a day-long cultural competency training for 60 area caregivers from 15 regional institutions.
- Annual Progressive Dinner
- Hosted a concert in Winona featuring Namoli Brennet .
- Opened a branch in Winona in the fall in partnership with the Women's Resource Center.
- Speaking engagements with the Greater La Crosse Diversity Council, a variety of classes at the university, and 3 separate Wal-Mart manager's diversity trainings.
- A special Soiree was held by members of the community to support the center. They broke their fundraising record!
- Began process to establish a Share the Care station.
- We hosted 2 annual Silent Rally events in both La Crosse and Winona.
- Hosted a Transgender Day of Remembrance in Winona and supported the UW-L TDOR in La Crosse.
- The facilitators continued to develop GALAXY attendance and a focused program for the 2014 year.
- Revived the Trans Group and began a Men's Support Group.
- Partnered with the La Crosse Library to participate in its film series.
- Reached out to every Boy Scout Council in the area after the national decision to allow gay scouts in troops. We made sure each council is aware of the Center and our desire to be a support mechanism if needed.
- Our space was refreshed thanks to a contribution of furniture and painting conducted by volunteers.
- We continue to be recognized by local media for input on current LGBT issues. Among those featured in local media: Jackson Jantzen, Dan Lintin, Mikel Hampel, Cindy Killion and Beth Cherne.
- Hosted the 2013 Annual Gala at the Waterfront.
- In December, we met with a board member and representative of the local Salvation Army to discuss partnering to conduct cultural competency sessions for staff and faculty.
- A collection of **30 people** came together over 2013 and donated **1407 hours** of their time for the sole purpose of keeping the doors open to the community.
 - An immeasurable number of hours have been donated by many more to insure we are developing, growing, advocating and responding to the needs of the community and health of our organization.
- The Pride committee worked in 2013 to revamp the Pride event. Our development committee will work in 2014 to further develop those efforts.

From the Executive Director:

2013 was a year of rebuilding and has led to a year of tremendous growth and restoration. An organization like ours should never have only one face associated with it. It takes a great many people to keep this working moving forward. To that end, we've been privileged to have a large number of committed, energetic and focused people working behind the scenes to help us get back on track and move forward.

A number of very committed volunteers have worked to help us with projects and keeping the doors open more consistently from one semester to the next. I'm also very grateful for the 2013 board. They did a tremendous amount of work prior to my joining the team. The existence of the center was touch and go for a good part of 2013 and if it hadn't been for their work, we'd not be here today.

A very special thanks to the board members leaving us Cindy Killion, Marti Lybeck, Kelly Teachout and Marianne Zerbe. Each one of these members as brought their own special gifts to our team and made this a wonderfully productive experience. Equal thanks to the board members who have committed to stay on and help our new members transition to the board, William Ziegelmeier, Blythe Newburg, Jim Parker and Wesley White. They are a fantastic foundation to support the new members joining our board in 2014.

2014 is a year I'm really excited to enter as part of this organization. We're partnering with even more dedicated, passionate people who have amazing gifts and visions for our organization.

Here's a few of the things we'll work to tackle the coming year:

- Introduce a new website for the center
- Create a LGBTQ Allied Business Member Directory for the 7 Rivers Region to provide our community the ability to support LGBTQ friendly businesses
- Create a Health and Human Services Directory to highlight care providers committed to creating a safe and welcoming space for the LGBTQ community
- Our Development Committee is already working to overhaul our events calendar for 2014
 - They are working to continue the work of the 2013 Pride Committee
 - Create a large signature event to serve as our major fundraiser
 - Develop a variety of fun, social and/or networking opportunities
 - Developing family outing opportunities
- We continue to seek committed members of our community to help with this development, planning and outreach for 2014.

LGBT Resource Center for the Seven Rivers Region, Inc.
2012 Annual Meeting
Nell's City Grill
Jan. 26, 2013

President Cindy Killion called the meeting to order at 10:40 a.m.

Recognition of Special Guests:

Rev. Bill and Laura Hoglund from the First Congregational Church and parishioners Randy and Diane Breezer. First Congregational is an open and affirming church.

Rev. Ellen Rasmussen from Wesleyan United Methodist Church, which is working on becoming open and affirming.

State representative Steve Doyle

State representative Jill Billings

Mayoral candidate Tim Kabat

Recognition of Founding Mothers and Fathers:

Ann Kramer, Kelly Teachout, Dan Lintin, Susan Erlanson, Beth Cherne and Joy Holthaus. The Center will be celebrate its 10th year anniversary in 2014.

Minutes of the 2011 Annual Meeting:

Motion to approve: Beth Cherne, seconded by Julia Johnson.

Approved.

President's Remarks:

Cindy Killion highlighted the accomplishments provided in the annual report, and discussed some of the goals for 2013 including working with fairwisconsin and the new La Crosse mayor to offer domestic partner benefits to city employees, working with the United Way in its new model for funding in which organizations will be brought to the table to establish community goals, and working with the city and county to establish a countywide Human Rights Commission.

Killion reported that board members attended two retreats with the goals being the creation of an effective infrastructure, efficient policy making and full board participation. The retreats emphasized understanding the importance of advocacy and active volunteers for civil rights.

Killion also indicated that the Center is financially solid after having made some difficult decisions in 2012 that included the dismissal of the Executive Director. The financial situation now lends itself to hiring a part-time Executive Director, which will be done in 2012. A survey taken in November indicated the community at-large supports the Center and Center activities, and board members are seeking ways to engage more volunteers and interns to have the Center fully staffed each day.

Killion also reported that a new initiative, The Elder Network, is working with the La Crosse County Aging Unit to provide cultural competency training for caregivers so they can better serve LGBT persons.

Killion concluded by stating that Galaxy will resume with new board member Blythe Newburg, and Adult Drop in will continue.

She thanked Mary O'Sullivan and Wesley White for working together to establish a PayPal account for the website.

Committee Reports:

Treasurer Wesley White provided members with the financial report that indicates financial stability. He indicated that member increased by 48%.

Outreach Committee Chair Marianne Zerbe spoke about projects undertaken by the committee.

Grants Committee Chair Marti Lybeck reported that the committee was busy exploring and applying for grants. The committee will be seeking larger sustaining grants in 2013.

Pride Committee Chair Mikel Hamel reported on a successful Pride event. The committee is looking at changing the way Pride is done in 2013 and is looking for more members with creative ideas.

Development Committee member Kathryn Hietbrink discussed the success of the Sustainer Circle.

Slate of board members

The slate of new board members was presented to members. The candidates are Blythe Newburg, Westley White, William Ziegelmeier and Travis Pyka.

Motion to approve: Dan Lintin, seconded by Kathryn Heitbrink.

Approved.

Volunteer of the Year Award

The Center started an annual tradition of recognizing an outstanding volunteer with a Volunteer of the Year Award. The first recipient is Travis Pyka, who organized the 2012 Gala and brought in \$4,000 in in-kind gifts for the event. He also secured a magnificent ice sculpture of the Cass Street Bridge for the Gala.

Member comments

Dan Lintin asked for access to a garage to hold a major garage sale to benefit the Center. The Campus Ministry coffee house is featuring artwork of board member Kim Hammer. Wesley White asked if anyone wanted to become a member or increase a contribution as he has the ability to do so at the meeting. Marti Lybeck provided a heads-up about the March 23 Progressive Dinner, and allies were thank for their continuing support.

Announcements

Feb. 27 is the first-ever Remedy Event to raise funds for the AIDS Resource Center.

Three volunteers are attending the Wisconsin LGBT Leadership Conference in Milwaukee.

March 23 is the annual Progressive Dinner

May 16 is The Elder Network's cultural competency training.

Oct. 12 is the annual Gala.

Board members, interns, volunteers:

Board of Directors and Officers

Cindy Killion, President
Marti Lybeck, Vice President
Marianne Zerbe, Secretary
Wesley White, Treasurer

Devin La Roche
Blythe Newburg
Jim Parker
Kelly Teachout
Sylvia Vandenberg-Daves
William Ziegelmeyer

Interns

Nicole Beyer, Viterbo University
Emilee Burkhalter, Winona branch, Winona State University sociology intern
Kendall Kroner, Western Technical College
Torie Leque, Western Technical College
Chloe Loomis, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse
Alesha Schandelmeier, Viterbo University
Sherri Swan, University of Wisconsin – La Crosse
Karen Teschner, Viterbo University
Sarah Wilcox, Communications Studies, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse

Volunteers

Thanks to all those listed and who donated time to the center this year!
Hope we didn't miss anyone.

Grants Committee

Alice Benson
Sandi Krajewski

Outreach Committee

Nancy Eklund (staffing also)
Sarah Gossett (GALAXY also)
Scotty Grosskopf
Patty Martin

GALAXY

Jared Boon
Sarah Gossett
Blythe Newburg
Alesha Schandelmeier

UW-L Project

Zak Wallenfang

WSU Project

Kris Brown
Keiko Heitman
Erica Jones

Staffing

Jaimie Basina
Abbey Becker
Derek Benz
Alic Bitney
Camille Degaz
Juliet Germanotta
Sawyer Johnson
Cindy Killion
Jon Lindell
Taylor Lindstrom
Dale McCumber
Alex Roppe
Kabyria Shethebat
Bethany Wedvick
Wesley White
Lucky Worden
William Ziegelmeyer

2013 Members

LEADERSHIP CIRCLE: Doug Howard

Sustainer's Circle

Sarah Frey and Leslie Scheld
Michael Ross

Laurie Logan & Alice Bachop
Dan & GeriAnne Wettstein

Advocate Organization

First Congregational Church

Activist Organization:

Vendi Advertising

Supporting Members

Mary O'Sullivan and Francie Ball
Sheri Scott and Leigh Wolper

Advocate Members

Donna Buckbee
Mary Faherty

Activist Members

Michael Brown & Kathryn Howells
Deborah Buffton & Stephen Minnema
Sara Burton & Jenny King
Ardu & John Cleveland
Deb Hoskins
Tara Johnson & Tim Padesky
Cindy Killion & Beth Cherne
June Kjome
Sandi Krajewski & Kelly Teachout
Ann Kramer & Judy Schultz

Mary Linville & Ellen Verwiebe
Edward Luker
Jane Manning
Kathleen Mullen
Doug Nopar & Joann Thomas
Robert & Connie Scharlau
Sara Sullivan
Wesley & Brenda White
Deb Wyatt & Alice Benson

Family Members

Tamara Berg & Jim Kofler
Greg & Beth Bonney
Susan Erlandson & Julie Mack
Gail Evenson
Jon & Kathy Hageseth
Mikel Hampel & Dan Lintin
Rev. Bill & Laura Hogle

Julia Johnson & Jackson Jantzen
Doug & Sue Mormann
Chris Olson & Michelle Coen
Rev. Ellen Rasmussen
Will VanRoosenbeek & Tara Delong
Christine Violet & Hilda Richey
Steve Zieke & Beth Dolder-Zieke

General Members

Larry Bastian
Jill Billings
Linda Erikson
Jeanne Fischer
Maureen & Robert Freedland
Robert Gamoke

John Magerus
Everett McKinney
Blythe Newburg
Travis Pyka
Carlene & Cameron Roberts
Dr. Charles & Lenore Rodman

Kathryn Hietbrink
John Horman & Richard Kotovich Jr.
Colette Hyman
Brenda Lutz-Hanson
Marti Lybeck

Dee Skogstad
Laurie Stenseth
Kris Wyatt
Marianne Zerbe & John Jacob
Hank Zumach

2013 Donors

James Auler
Laurie Bachop
Von Bacon
Francie Ball
Allan Beatty
Alice Benson
Jill Billings
Joseph Birchsell
Kraig Brownell
Marianne Brownell
Donna Buckbee
Deborah Buffton
Sharon Burch
Sara Burton
Nancy Bumgarner
Jan Case
Beth Cherne
Ardus and John Cleveland
Mike Conlin
Diane Crane
Anne Drecktrah
Susan Erlandson
First Congregational Church
Jeanne Fischer
Susan Fossen
Rita and Jim Gilcrest
Cheryl Gill
Kathleen Graham
Rachel and Cameron Gundersen
Mikel Hampel
Brenda Lutz Hanson
Kathleen and Tom Hench
April Herndon
Kathryn Hietbrink
Rev. Bill and Laura Hoglund
King Holley III
Deb Hoskins
Doug Howard
Elizabeth Hutcheson
Jackson Jantzen

Dan Lintin
Laurie Logan
Edward Luker
Marti Lybeck
Julie Mack
Ron Malzer
Margaret Dihlmann-Malzer
Jane Manning
Greg Martin
Patty Martin
Paul Martin
Stephen Minnema
Heidi Morrison
Marie Moeller
Paula Murphy
Carol Neill
George Neill
Blythe Newburg
Danh Nguyen
Mary O'Sullivan
Chris Olson and Michelle Coen
Maryellen Paudler
Chad Pederson
Michael Peterson
Travis Pyka
Rev. Ellen Rasmussen
Michael Ross
Robert and Connie Scharlau
Judy Schultz
Dee Skogstad
Liz Spangler
Amanda Strosahl
Kelly Teachout
Brady Thrun
Rob Tisthammer
John Udell
Unitarian Universalist
Julie Weiskopf
John West
Wesley White

June Kjome
Julia Johnson
Cindy Killion
Jenny King
Jane Klekamp
Ann Kramer
Sandi Krajewski
Gretel Stock-Kupperman

Lynn Wolter
Deb Wyatt
Kris Wyatt
Mark and Deb Zellmer
Marianne Zerbe
William Ziegelmeier

The Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Slate of Board Candidates

Two-year Terms

Annual Meeting, Jan. 25, 2014

The Nominating Committee for the LGBT Resource Center for the Seven Rivers Region, Inc. – composed of Cindy Killion, Blythe Newburg and Jackson Jackson, -- respectfully submit for approval by the Center's general membership this slate of candidates during the annual meeting on Saturday, Jan. 25, 2014:

Michael Brown

Michael is a founding member and former president of AMOS, an interfaith, ecumenical coalition of congregations working to build more compassionate communities in Southwest Wisconsin. He also is a founding member of the Jubilee Center (justice advocacy), the Hillview Urban Agriculture Center and the Wisconsin Ecumenical Rural Justice Committee. He also is a former chair of the New Horizons board, the Catholic Charities board and the Jail Ministry board. Michael brings with him organizing a variety of skills including organizing, writing, policy development and grant writing.

Allan Beatty

Allan is an assistant state public defender for the State of Wisconsin. He has had several positions on a variety of boards including United Church Camps, rainbow Families Wisconsin, Preservation Action, Monroe County Board of Supervisors, City of Madison committees, Three Rivers School and Beaver Creek Food Co-op. He brings experience with fundraising and leadership as well as legal skills.

Genevieve Draskoci-Johnson

Genevieve Draskoci-Johnson is a non-traditional student currently completing an online degree through University of Wisconsin-Stout in B.S. Human Resource Management. She has thirteen years of combined experience in Customer Service and Administrative Support working in a variety of fields including health, wellness, health care, distribution, human resources, and arts administration. Genevieve's background in dance instruction has allowed for extensive experience in communication, public speaking, self-promotion, child advocacy, creative initiatives and volunteerism. Passionate about supporting her community, Genevieve was a regular volunteer at the Winona Area Humane Society for three years and is also member of Bluff Country Co-Op. After spending some time in Los Angeles continuing her dance training, she returned to Winona in 2010 in order to immerse herself in the rich arts culture in the area. Most recently, Genevieve co-created Winona's first professional dance company, Two Lakes Dance Project. She is so excited about SEED's mission to create art through the influence of Winona's unique special community.

Chelsea Ophime

Chelsea's current job focus is at the University of Wisconsin La Crosse: she is a supervisor at the office of Multicultural Student Services, is a team leader for a research group in Campus Climate, and helps advise diverse student groups. She previously worked with the Red Cross for four years. Additionally, Chelsea chaired the UWL Rainbow Unity for two years, was a program director at a summer camp and served as vice president for an animal rights group. She brings a variety of skills to the board that includes management, public relations, event planning and grant writing.

Jay Palmer

Jay teaches in the social work program at Winona State University. He is an associate professor and field coordinator for the program. During his seven years of social work practice, Jay worked as a case manager, therapist, and program director serving persons with developmental disabilities, people impacted by HIV/AIDS, and people experiencing homelessness. Prior to becoming a social worker, Jay worked as a psychiatric nurse and with gang involved Latino youth. Jay has experience in developing program policies and procedures; managing and reporting on grant funds; and supervising staff. He is beginning his fourth year as a board member for the Women's Resource Center in Winona. Jay has worked with a variety of non-profits during his social work career and has experience as a board member.

Alesha Schandelmeier

Alesha has been working closely with board member Blythe Newburg to facilitate GALAXY this past year. She has brought with her enthusiasm, warmth and love for those attending GALAXY. She currently is studying psychology, AODA counseling and Women's Studies at Viterbo University. She has worked with Hamilton Grade School's literacy program, has planned fundraisers with the Gay-Straight Alliance and collected donations for several local shelters. She also brings with her a vast amount of professional experience. She was the Senior Event Coordinator for Organic Valley for over six years in charge of coordinating the Kickapoo Country Fair. Before moving to Wisconsin in 2004, she worked in a variety of industries including hotel management. Alesha also is an artist and photographer. She brings to the board a skill set that includes project management, event planning and coordination. Alesha is the mother of three children.

Will Van Roosenbeek

Willem (Will) Van Roosenbeek is the Director of LGBTQ Program & Services at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, He has worked in this position for 13 years. In this time he has helped establish the campuses Hate Response protocol and team. He is an educator and a presenter on diversity topics. He advises Rainbow Unity and Co-Advices Awareness Through Performance and the Diversity Organization Coalition. Will is currently on the Fair Wisconsin Board. Will was the founder of the Trans* group at the Center. He has been together with his partner Tara DeLong for 23 years. They live in La Crosse with their dog Lily