



STONEWALL COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Stonewall Community Foundation Launches The Stonewall Professional Alliance

New York, NY (Friday, September 23, 2011) Yesterday, a gathering was held at the home of Stonewall Board President, Matthew Ryan, to officially launch the Stonewall Professional Alliance. Conceived in 2010, the Alliance, also known as SPA, is a Stonewall initiative dedicated to inspiring and empowering LGBTQ professionals and their allies (35 and over) to *give more* and *do more* for the LGBTQ community in New York City.

Functioning as a giving circle, SPA members make monthly gifts of \$50 or more, 75% of which directly supports the work of the Stonewall Community Foundation. The remaining 25% of contributions is pooled on an annual basis and distributed to LGBTQ organizations through a democratic grantmaking process, which is led by SPA members under the guidance of Stonewall staff. Likewise, SPA members also commit to volunteering to help local LGBTQ organizations seeking pro bono technical assistance services. In doing so, members are able to leverage their “knowledge capital” to help nonprofits in need. And in turn, community nonprofits gain access to an incredible body of skills resources that might otherwise be extremely expensive or unattainable. As Mai Nguyen, a member of the SPA leadership council puts it, “Everyone needs a SPA treatment once in a while!”

One particular benefit of giving circles is their ability to bring people together who share common interests in promoting a singular cause. Since SPA members are encouraged to network while sharing their talent and time, they are able to make meaningful connections with larger segments of the public that share their interests and values.

For more information on SPA or to join, please contact the Foundation at 212-367-1155 or visit www.stonewallfoundation.org.

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About Stonewall Community Foundation:

Stonewall Community Foundation is the public charity for New York City's lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) community.

Since 1990, the Foundation has invested more than \$15 million in over 450 organizations via our donor advised funds and annual grant making. The Foundation inspires social change through strategic initiatives designed to engage the community, empower our leaders and invest in grassroots LGBTQ organizations across the five boroughs.

New York City Based Organization:

Stonewall Community Foundation
446 West 33rd Street
New York, NY 10001

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