

*The Gay and Lesbian Center of Greater Long Beach
to be Beneficiary of Bess Hodges Foundation Funds..*



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Center Long Beach to be Beneficiary of Bess Hodges Foundation Funds

Long Beach, California, May 16, 2008 - The Center Long Beach will be receiving a \$5000 check from the Bess Hodges Foundation at the Pink Party at Smooth's Restaurant on May 16, 2008. These funds are being presented to The Center by Councilmember Tonia Reyes-Uranga who advocated on behalf of The Center's MYTE youth program with the local Foundation. "We are thrilled to have such a great advocate in Tonia," stated Executive Director Kimberlee Woods. The Pink Party, which is intended to be an annual fundraiser, is produced by local Center advocates in order to support The Center's MYTE (Mentoring Youth Through Empowerment) program. The MYTE program serves youth ages 13 to 18, Monday through Friday, through a variety of workshops, support groups, counseling services and referrals. Councilmember Reyes-Uranga made a commitment to The Center late last year to help raise \$5,000 for the organization. "For a councilmember to take the time to consider our focus and need, and then to bring us together with potential funders, has been of great help and support," claimed Woods. Reyes-Uranga has currently helped raise \$6,000 for The Center and is working on one more potential funder. Donations of auction items for the party were also made by Jet Blue and Kerry Hotels. Woods affirms, "It is only through the generosity of community members and organizations such as these that non-profits can continue to function and thrive." Various national, state and local political representatives will be attending the night's event which begins at 6:30pm on the rooftop of the Pine Street restaurant located at 144 Pine Avenue. The entrance fee is \$20 at the door.

About The Center Long Beach

The Gay and Lesbian Center of Long Beach is located at 2017 E. Fourth Street in Long Beach. The Center was officially incorporated in 1980 as One in Long Beach, Inc. and has been providing a variety of health, social, advocacy, legal, and service programs to the LGBT community in the Long Beach area for three decades. The Center serves approximately 21,000 lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender clients and constituents annually through 23 different programs and services.

Contact: Kimberlee Woods, Executive Director
The Center Long Beach
Tel: 562-434-4455 ext. 233
Fax: 562-433-6428
E-Mail: kimw@centerlb.org
www.centerlb.org