

## WELCOME HOME—THE FOYER NEWSLETTER

### NOTE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Dear Supporters of the Foyer of Philadelphia,

The Foyer of Philadelphia has been working hard, synthesizing all of the information and research over the past 2 1/2 years since the organization was incorporated. This process has been intense and thoughtful. What has emerged is a three-year plan to obtain and maintain a house providing transitional housing services for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered, Questioning and Queer youth who are homeless or aging out of foster care. (continued on page 2)

### THE PHILADELPHIA COLLABORATIVE ARTS PROGRAM

The Philadelphia Collaborative Arts Program (PCAP) is a collaboration with The Foyer of Philadelphia, Broad Street Ministry's Counseling Services and its representative, Edd Conboy, and with Zane Booker, founder and artistic director of The Smoke, Lilies, and Jade Arts Initiative.

The twelve-week program, which began in March 2010, created a supportive, 'safe space' for 8-10 LGBTQ homeless and enabled the youth to acquire arts-based coping skills, thus buffering the effects of rejection, trauma, and abuse. Exercises in journaling, narrative-writing, and spoken word poetry guided youth in the process of externalizing their histories. (continued on page 3)

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Board President Leigh Braden, Student Mia Rosa, and Board Member Noel Ramirez at May 6th campaign event. Photo by Sam Martino.

### FOYER FEATURED IN OUT-IN-JERSEY

The Foyer of Philadelphia's Be the Base Campaign Event was featured in the May 28, 2010 issue of the online publication, [www.outinjersey.net](http://www.outinjersey.net). To check out the article and our three-year plan, [click here](#).

### FOYER OF PHILADELPHIA WELCOMES RAISHA PRICE TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



New Board Member  
Raisha Price

*Raisha Price* is a 2009 graduate of the Intercultural Leadership Program from the University of Pennsylvania's Office of International Programs. Once a foster child herself, Raisha began working in youth-development programs for at-risk and foster children while completing her B.A. in Romance Languages (French and Italian) at Dartmouth College. Raisha is currently a full-time University of Pennsylvania employee and a part-time Master of Liberal Arts student within Penn's College of Liberal and Professional Studies.

To view our full Board of Directors and Board meeting dates, please see page 4.

### FOYER OF PHILADELPHIA - MISSION STATEMENT

Foyer of Philadelphia formed in December 2007 in order to facilitate the transition of LGBTQ young adults, between the ages of 18 to 24, from foster care and/or homelessness to self-sufficiency and independence. The agency provides LGBTQ young adults with educational opportunities, employment resources, and housing stability. The comprehensive services available through Foyer and its partners benefit participants by enriching their skills and self-awareness as they mature into adulthood.

To remove your name from our mailing list, please email [info@foyerofphiladelphia.org](mailto:info@foyerofphiladelphia.org) with the subject "Remove".

Questions or comments? E-mail us at [info@foyerofphiladelphia.org](mailto:info@foyerofphiladelphia.org)



**NOTE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT (CONT. FROM PAGE 1)**

On May 6, 2010, the Foyer of Philadelphia hosted a “Be the Base” information session for community leaders at the University of Pennsylvania to outline its three-year plan.

The Foyer of Philadelphia aims to raise \$200,000 in the next three years. We anticipate that in-kind donations will account for 6% of the budget, grants will make up 33% of the budget, and 60% will be fundraised. Although this is ambitious, we do not feel it is impossible.

The Foyer of Philadelphia has formed a new relationship with Project H.O.M.E, the largest housing nonprofit organization in the city of Philadelphia which serves 3, 200 individuals through outreach and 500 residents each year. During this past winter, I, along with the Treasurer and the Housing Chair, had the opportunity to meet with Sister Mary Scullion and Joan McConnon to discuss our project and ask for guidance. Their support has been wonderful and we are deeply touched by their commitment to our mission.

In addition to progress made in housing, we have continued to outreach and work with the population we aim to serve. This spring, the Foyer of Philadelphia worked in collaboration with The Smoke Lilies/ Jade Arts Initiative and Broad Street Ministries on a multimedia arts project, “The Philadelphia Collaborative Arts Program” in order to raise public awareness of the issues facing homeless LGBTQ youth in the city. The end result of this 12-week class was a documentary called “Love Park.” The youth produced and edited the film themselves. We hope to present this documentary in Fall 2010.

***Each night in the city of Philadelphia there are at a minimum an estimated 650 LGBTQ youth on the street with no place to call “home”. We can change this...You can change this...by getting involved becoming a volunteer or making a charitable donation to the Foyer of Philadelphia.***

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Leigh Braden, MSW  
Board President  
Foyer of Philadelphia



**THE PHILADELPHIA COLLABORATIVE ARTS PROGRAM (CONT. FROM PAGE 1)**

Translating experience to movement enabled participants—many of whom suffer from negative self-image due to physical, sexual, and emotional abuse—to establish a new and healthy relationship with their bodies. Through project activities, youth built skills in leadership and collaboration, developed accountability and initiative, and improved self-esteem. The final product—a documentary created, directed, produced, and marketed by the participants.



#### **THE FOYER OF PHILADELPHIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- Leigh Braden—*Founder of Foyer of Philadelphia and President of the Board*
- Noel Ramirez—*Vice President of the Board*
- Sophie Forge—*Treasurer of the Board*
- Gillian Pears—*Secretary of the Board*
- Richard Moreau—*Board Member*
- Raisha Price—*Board Member*

*\*Note: Foyer of Philadelphia welcomes new additions to its Board of Directors! For more information on joining the Board, please contact Leigh Braden, Board President, at [leigh.braden@foyerofphiladelphia.org](mailto:leigh.braden@foyerofphiladelphia.org).*

#### **THE FOYER OF PHILADELPHIA BOARD MEETING DATES**

- Sunday, September 12, 2010 at 5pm  
*The William Way Community Center \**
- Sunday, October 10, 2010 at 5pm
- Sunday, November, 14, 2010 at 5pm
- Sunday, December 12, 2010 at 5pm

*\* All subsequent Board meetings will be held at The William Way Community Center. The Center is located at 1315 Spruce Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107; 215.732.2220; [info@waygay.org](mailto:info@waygay.org)*