

FRIENDS OF PROJECT 10

Spring UPDATE 2012

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Petty Officer 2nd Class Marissa Gaeta, left, kisses her girlfriend, Petty Officer 3rd Class Citlalic Snell, in the Navy's traditional "first kiss."

Photo by Brian Clark, Associated Press

THE TIMES THEY ARE A'CHANGIN

The past year was a year to celebrate the progress our community has made. Among the significant achievements were the repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell and the legalization of same-sex marriage in New York State and Washington. Countless other legal victories plus the President's refusal to defend DOMA point to a continuing march forward in the struggle for GLBT equality.

But this progress has been tempered by the continuing tragedy of anti-gay violence and teen suicide. One month after making the "It Gets Better" Eric James Borgos committed suicide. The strength he gained could not offset the years of bullying he endured. This followed the suicide of Jamie Rodemeyer, one of the students interviewed for the video. Again the bullying was so severe that both teenagers felt that living provided them with no hope. These and the memories of Lawrence King, Tyler Clementi and the many others remind us that despite the progress that has been made, there is still much work to do to make this a better place for LGBT youth.

HELP SUPPORT OUR EFFORTS

Quarterly *Updates* are produced by **FRIENDS OF PROJECT 10 INC.**, a tax-exempt educational organization established in 1986 to assist schools and school districts in setting up counseling programs modeled after the Project 10 program in the Los Angeles School District. **FRIENDS OF PROJECT 10 INC.** works with parents, community members, teachers, school administrators, elected officials, and other professionals. *Update* Editors, Dr. Virginia Uribe and Gail Rolf. Tax id.#95-4080446

MODELS OF EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION



The 2011 Models of Excellence scholarship recipients with scholarship sponsors.

Friends of Project 10 Inc. proudly announces the 2012 Models of Excellence (MOE) scholarship competition. The MOE scholarship program began in 1994 as a single award named in memory of Peter Kaufman, the son of Alvin and Irene Kaufman. As time passed, more commemorations were made, and the name was changed to the Models of Excellence Scholarship competition.

Friends of Project 10 Inc. will be awarding \$1,000, \$2,000 and \$3,000 scholarships to senior high school students from southern California public, private and parochial schools who have advanced the civil rights of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) population. Graduating students must be going onto higher education.

Eligibility: Applicants are limited to graduating senior high school students residing in Southern California counties.

Deadline: Applications and materials must be received no later than Saturday, May 12, 2012
(No Exceptions).

Winners must be present to receive the award for the scholarship ceremony on Saturday, June 30, 2012.

We are currently seeking sponsors from individuals and organizations. For more information visit our web site

HELP SUPPORT OUR EFFORTS

WE MOURN THE LOSS OF ANTHONY COLÍN

Anthony Colín, born February 24, 1984, passed away at the age of 27 on November 22, 2011. We remember him for his courageous efforts to establish the Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) at El Modena High School (Orange Unified School District), and to promote respect for all students. In 1999, school officials refused to let the club form, and in response, Anthony and his friends filed a Federal lawsuit, citing the provisions of the Equal Access Act that resulted in the first court order ever issued anywhere in the country requiring a public school to permit a GSA to meet on campus. This lawsuit set an historic precedent, which subsequently allowed the proliferation of GSAs throughout the country. This case provided inspiration and encouragement to other students to fight back when schools said "no" to them in their efforts to promote equality for LGBT students.

In remembering Anthony, we are reminded that in 2000 we co-produced the Make It Real conference at Cal State LA for LGBT youth and their allies. This conference featured both Anthony and "out" gay actor, Wilson Cruz.

We mourn the loss of such a fine leader.