

Building Equity, Taking Action

*Foundation initiative marks 5th anniversary
with challenge campaign*

More than five years ago, the Foundation joined with community leaders to establish the state's first-ever fund for sexual orientation and gender identity issues.

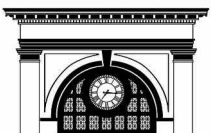
Since 2003, Equity Action, a field of interest fund at the Foundation, has grown to nearly \$500,000, even as it has invested more than \$340,000 in nonprofit organizations serving lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) communities statewide, addressing critical issues identified in the 2004 community scan *Meet the Neighbors*. Thanks to this significant support, LGBTQ Rhode Islanders enjoy **safer schools**, special services targeted to **youth and the elderly**, and expanded access to **health care**.

But the work of Equity Action is far from complete. To ensure the Fund's impact in LGBTQ communities continues **in perpetuity**, the Foundation has issued "the million-dollar challenge." Matching every contribution dollar for dollar up to \$500,000, the challenge offers an opportunity for **all Rhode Islanders** to participate in an historic campaign for justice.

We are honored that Mayor David Cicilline and community champion Sally Lapides have agreed to co-chair the campaign, and that leaders like Lt. Governor Elizabeth Roberts and Trinity Repertory Company Artistic Director Curt Columbus are serving on the campaign committee. Sally put it best when she said, "This is not a gay or lesbian issue. It is everyone's issue. We must work together to promote equity and equality for each one of us, our children, and all those who will come after us."



To learn more about the million-dollar challenge, go to www.rifoundation.org, click on "Specials," and follow the link to Equity Action.



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