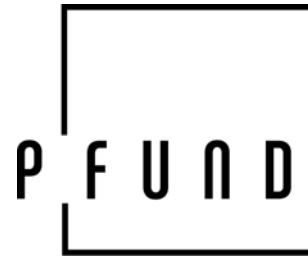


# NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **PFUND AWARDS MAX GRIES THE 2010 “POWER OF ONE” AWARD** *~ Pioneering Twin Cities transgender activist to be celebrated at annual PFund Cabaret on May 8 ~*

MINNEAPOLIS (Feb. 2, 2010) – PFund, the Minnesota foundation dedicated exclusively to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) equality, today announced its 2010 Power of One Award will be given to Max Gries, a pioneering Twin Cities transgender activist and leader. Gries will receive the award on Saturday, May 8, at the annual PFund Cabaret at Guthrie Theatre in downtown Minneapolis.

“PFund is thrilled to honor Max with this award,” says Gregory Grinley, PFund executive director. “Max does so much for LGBT communities – advancing equality, ensuring fairness and inspiring others in many volunteer roles over 15 years. Max is a role model for all of us, particularly the transgender community, and young people who want to become more involved in their community.”

Gries, of Minneapolis, is a private piano teacher and a house manager at the University of Minnesota's Ted Mann Concert Hall. As a genderqueer person, Gries is especially dedicated to reaching underserved people within LGBT and queer communities.

Gries is co-coordinator of the fourth annual Minnesota Trans Health and Wellness Conference in May 2010, which draws health care providers, transgender people and stakeholders, from across the Upper Midwest and other areas of the country. Gries is currently on the creative team for the All Gender Health Online intervention study, and served for several years on the Transgender Advisory Board for the University of Minnesota's Center for Sexual Health. Gries was board co-chair of the Minnesota Transgender Health Coalition from 2006 to 2009. In 2002, Max was a founder of genderBLUR, a community organization working for trans rights through the arts.

Gries also co-founded the TransVoices Chorus in 2004, which remains one of the only trans choruses in the country. As a founding co-chair of the Transgender Commission at the University of Minnesota, Gries' efforts have focused on creating institutional partnerships with a range of key departments and communities while drawing national attention to campus gender diversity and equity work.

In July 2009, the University of Minnesota amended its Equal Opportunity Statement to include gender identity and gender expression, due in part to Gries' years of efforts to change policy and climate within the university system.

The recipient of the PFund Power of One Award receives a \$1,000 grant to be directed to a nonprofit organization of the recipient's choice. Gries plans to share the grant equally with the Trans Youth Support Network and the Minnesota Transgender Health Coalition, as challenge grants.

Established in 1995, the Power of One Award winner is determined by a committee composed of PFund board of directors, staff, leaders from the LGBT and allied communities and the previous recipient. For past award recipients, see <http://www.pfundonline.org/past-win.html>.

Tickets for the PFund Cabaret are available at **[PFundOnline.org/events](http://www.PFundOnline.org/events)**.

### **About PFund Foundation**

Established in 1987 as Philanthrofund Foundation in Minneapolis when four friends pooled \$2,000, PFund is now supported by thousands of individuals in dozens of states who have created a vibrant and vital community foundation that is a catalyst for equality. PFund is one of only a handful of foundations in the nation created specifically by and for LGBT communities. It does this by providing hands-on assistance to LGBT organizations and programs, funding systems change work, developing leaders, inspiring giving, and convening & reporting on issues of importance for our communities. Today PFund manages more than \$1 million in assets, enjoying the support of committed donors and dedicated volunteers from LGBT and allied communities.  
<http://www.PFundOnline.org>.

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