# TROY PERRY AWARDS 2021



**OUR PRIDE**: LGBTQIA+ Initiative

2021 HONOREES

**EDAFE OKPORO** 

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SAN DIEGO PRIDE

SOCIAL ACTIVISM MEDIA ACTIVISM COMMUNITY



#### welcome

Rev. Troy Perry

1 Troy Perry Awards

Edafe Okporo
Social Activism

August Bernadaciou
Media Activism

San Diego Pride
Community Action

09 OUR PRIDE

Charter for Compassion
LGBTQA+ Initiative

Partners & Sponsors

Announcements

& Press Releases





# Rev. Troy Perry

VISIONARY LEADER OF THE GLOBAL LGBTQIA+ COMPASSION MOVEMENT



LGBTQ+ Rights Activist & Founder, Metropolitan Community Churches

PAGE 3 | TROY PERRY AWARDS 2021





The Troy Perry
Awards honor fearless
LGBTQIA+ young
people, community
leaders and
organizations making
an impact through
compassionate social
& spiritual activism.







## ACTIVIST & WRITER





# Edafe Okporo

Edafe Okporo is a human rights activist from Nigeria, displaced in 2016 due to persecution he faced in his home country based on his sexual orientation and work as an activist. After being granted asylum in the USA, he took a full-time job at Eat Off Beat, a social venture in New York employing refugees, while volunteering with other not-for-profit organizations.

Now living in Manhattan, he is a writer and activist, and considers himself a bridge, teaching leaders and organizations how to inspire people in growing a meaningful and compassionate community.

housing, while developing RDJ as a sustainable and independent 501(c)3 nonprofit through fundraising, communications, grassroots, and policy advocacy. He is now the Mobilization Director (USA) Talent Beyond Boundaries, matching skilled refugees with companies in need of their skills.

Edafe is among the inaugural winners of the David Prize 2020, a celebration of

In 2018, Edafe became Director of RDJ

Refugee Shelter, New York City's only shelter for refugees, overseeing refugee

Edafe is among the inaugural winners of the David Prize 2020, a celebration of individuals and ideas creating a better, brighter New York City. He is pursuing a master's degree at New York University. His life's work is building a compassionate, inclusive society, both in and out of the workplace, focusing on the inclusion of LGBTQ people, refugees, and marginalized people as a path to building an inclusive workplace.

Edafe is the author of the forthcoming book *ASYLUM, a Memoir & Manifesto* by Simon and Schuster, Summer 2022.

#### SOCIAL ACTIVISM

## ARCHIVIST / HISTORIAN AUTHOR / PODCASTER



"One day you will wake up, and your youth will be behind you even though you are still young at heart. When you are young, do not let anyone try to change you; often, they are wrong.

Follow your inner light even when your nearest sight is dark."

### August Bernadicou

August Bernadicou, President of the nonprofit LGBTQ History Project Inc, is a 28-year-old interviewer and archivist for unknown and untold stories about LGBTQ liberation and civil rights.

In 2008, when August was 14 years old, he started recording interviews with LGBTQ activists from the 1950s through the AIDS Crisis.

In 2019, at 24 years old, he founded the LGBTQ History Project, which celebrates my archival interviews about unknown and untold LGBTQ liberation and civil rights histories. Prepandemic, I hosted "Intergeneration Dialogues," which were "Gay Elders" in conversations with me, and in 2020, launched a podcast called The QueerCore Podcast.

Always remember the West African saying, "If elders are lost, adults will be lost. If adults are lost, youth will be lost."

#### MEDIA ACTIVISM

PAGE 7 | TROY PERRY AWARDS 2021





## San Diego Pride

San Diego Pride is a model Compassionate Community in Action.

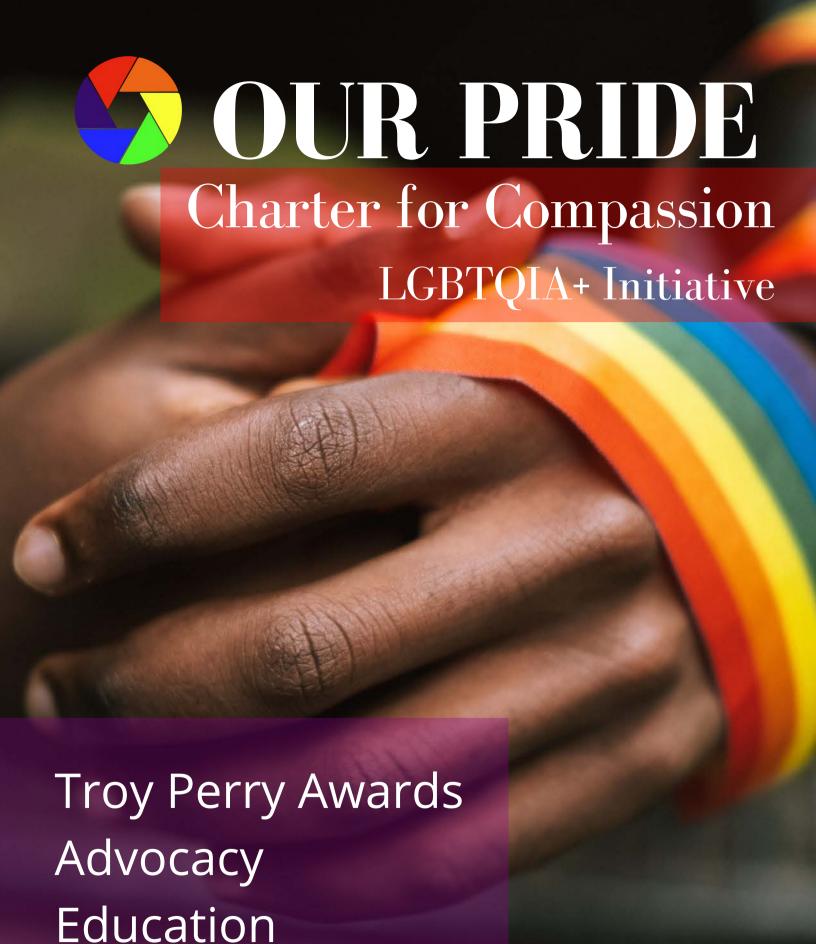
Founded in 1974, San Diego Pride has developed a model organization which both supports events and programs, as well as invests back into the local LGBTQ community, making it the most philanthropic Pride in the world, having given over \$3 million to LGBTQ-serving organizations locally, nationally, and globally. In 2019 we gave out \$340,000 to 60 organizations.

When the pandemic hit in 2020, San Diego Pride needed to reimagine how to sustain year-round programs, events, and philanthropy. Having made substantial investments in previous years, financial reserves kept the staff, volunteers, and board working tirelessly.

Over the last 18 months, our philanthropy has included providing masks for seniors, food and clothing drives, scholarships for transgender students, and providing grocery gifts cards to bar and restaurant workers at LGBTQ-owned small businesses. They've provided they were even able to provide micro-grants to ensure LGBTQ-serving organizations could provide ASL interpretation for their in-person or virtual events and meetings.

While this year's Pride looked very different, they were still able to bring together over 100,000 people virtually and online to celebrate and find community and are now able to relaunch the Pride Community Grants.

#### **COMMUNITY ACTION**





From its inception,
the blossoming of the
global LGBTQIA+ community
has been a
Movement of Compassion.

# Charter for Compassion

#### LGBTQIA+ Initiative

OUR PRIDE is the LGBTQIA+ Initiative of the Charter for Compassion, in partnership with Los Angeles-based Rainbow Advocacy and other organizations, featuring programs including the Troy Perry Awards and other advocacy and educational projects.

OUR PRIDE was launched in 2017 as an education-focused program with the San Diego-based Global SchoolNet Foundation.

In June 2021, OUR PRIDE partnered with Boys and Girls Clubs of America to provide compassion-based programs for their LGBTQ+ Initiative through their online MyFuture platform, which provides kids and teens with activities to create, connect, and fine the courage to express their voices.

Through Charter partners Rainbow Advocacy, Global SchoolNet and others, OUR PRIDE will continue to provide content to the BGCA's more than 4,700 Clubs serving 4.6 million youth nationwide and on U.S. military installations across the globe.



# Partners & Sponsors



Thank you to our partners & sponsors for honoring compassionate action and transforming lives.

- Rev. Troy Perry

# OUR PRIDE FOUNDING PARTNERS

Rainbow Advocacy

**Metropolitan Community Churches Boys & Girls Clubs of America Global SchoolNet** The LGBTQ History Project

MEMBER

**Empowering Pride Organizations Worldwide** 

#### MEDIA SPONSOR **pride**media

