



27th September

2022

Floatarama grants \$50,000 to 4 agencies to support vulnerable and disadvantaged LGBTQ+ youth in South Florida.

(Fort Lauderdale) Floatarama is excited to announce that grants from the Floatarama LGBTQ Youth Fund totaling \$50,000 have been awarded to 4 well-deserving agencies serving vulnerable and disadvantaged LGBTQ youth in South Florida.

The awards were presented at Floatarama's Check Distribution Party at Hunters Night Club on 22nd September 2022.

This year's grant recipients were selected from 16 excellent applications, all from worthy local organizations aligned with Floatarama's mission, in response to a Request For Proposals issued by Floatarama's Philanthropy Partner, the Our Fund Foundation.

The grant recipients are:

1. South Florida Pride Wind Ensemble (pridewindensemble.org)

This \$10,000 grant will support the Youth Pride Band program, and create a new Scholarship for the winner of the inaugural Floatarama Youth Pride Band Soloist Competition, who will also perform with the full Pride Wind Ensemble at their concert in May of next year.

2. YES Institute (yesinstitute.org)

The YES Institute has been serving South Florida for 26 years, with a mission to prevent suicide, violence, and discrimination, and ensure the healthy development of all youth through education on gender & orientation.

The \$10,000 grant will facilitate 10 educational sessions, reaching a minimum of 400 professionals, in the Systems of Care in Broward County.

3. Pridelines (pridelines.org)

For 40 years, Pridelines has been providing essential services to support, educate, and empower South Florida's most in-need and at-risk youth and community, in safe and diverse spaces.

This \$15,000 award will fully fund Pridelines' CampOUT initiative: a 3-day youth development camp at Hugh Taylor Birch State Park in Broward County, next spring.

4. SunServe (sunserve.org)

SunServe has provided vital mental health & wellbeing services at no cost to LGBTQ+ youth for 20 years, serving some of the most vulnerable members of our local community.

Rising anti-LGBTQ rhetoric in Florida is directly increasing demand for their services & case management, to the point where they now have a significant waitlist.

This \$15,000 grant will allow SunServe to hire additional staff to address the growing waitlist, and provide safe spaces & open group sessions, triggered by Florida's 'Don't Say Gay' bill.

These 4 well-deserving and impactful agencies will be able to touch and change many lives with these grants, and FLoatarama is proud to be able to support their good work.

FLoatarama-2022, an official Stonewall Pride Event, was generously supported by our amazing Major Sponsors (Hunters Nightclubs, West Marine, and Citrix) and Sponsoring Partners (Water Taxi, Residence Inn Fort Lauderdale Intracoastal, HotSpots/HappeningOut, OutClique, Minuteman Press Wilton Manors, We Insure Wilton Manors, Eagle Wilton Manors, FlockFest, Michael Murphy Photography, Keans Lamera Photography, and Ed Lugo Resort).

FLoatarama would not be possible without the ongoing support and commitment of our awesome Founder's Club members and fantastic Volunteers.

About FLoatarama:

FLoatarama, Inc. is a South Florida 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to raising awareness and funds to support vulnerable and disadvantaged LGBTQ+ youth, on and around the water in the Venice of America.

Our partnership with Our Fund Foundation (our-fund.org), a leader in the LGBTQ+ philanthropic community, ensures the funds we raise achieve the greatest impact in the community. Our Fund is the 3rd largest LGBTQ+ foundation in the country, granting \$1.5M+ annually to worthy non-profit agencies advancing LGBTQ+ causes in South Florida. Funds raised by FLoatarama go to the "FLoatarama LGBTQ Youth Fund", supporting vulnerable and disadvantaged LGBTQ youth, primarily in the areas of Education, Homelessness, and Personal Development. The fund is managed by Our Fund Foundation and directed by FLoatarama. For more information, visit FLoatarama.org or email info@FLoatarama.org.