

# your "seedling" from the samara foundation

volume 2, number 6

December 2008



## We've had a moving experience...



After many happy years at 90 Main Street, Burlington, we are equally happy to announce that the **Samara Foundation of Vermont** has found new digs at 35 King Street, Burlington. Come and see our new space. It's on the second floor of the Gideon King House, built in 1798.

### Giving to Samara?

#### By check:

Make it payable to the **Samara Foundation**,  
and mail it to  
P.O. Box 1263  
Burlington, VT 05402

#### Gift of Stock:

call or e-mail us  
for details

#### Credit card:

For Network for Good credit card processing, click on our address below to visit our website:

[www.samarafoundation.org](http://www.samarafoundation.org)

and click on *donate*.

If you don't like using Network for Good, just e-mail your credit card info to: [joanne@samarafoundation.org](mailto:joanne@samarafoundation.org) and we will process it for you

using our standard bank  
service.



## Help Launch the Vermont Gay Guide!!!

The Vermont Gay Guide ([www.vtgayguide.com](http://www.vtgayguide.com)) Samara's online interactive directory of everything LGBT officially launches next month. Businesses, professional services, non-profit resources, stories, classified ads, even a photo album-the VGG mission is to connect everybody and everything LGBT and LGBT-friendly in the state, creating a virtual LGBT family online.

You can help by visiting the site often and participating in the blogs and other interactive features. Here are some other suggestions:

- \* Have a business or professional service? Contact us about a paid listing. If you sign up before January 10th you can get 15 months for the 12month price. You'll be supporting Samara and promoting yourself to a very loyal bunch customers, nation-wide.
- \* Tell your business owner friends about the Gay Guide and have them email [liz@vtgayguide.com](mailto:liz@vtgayguide.com) for more information.
- \* Put a link to the Gay Guide on your website. Email [liz@vtgayguide.com](mailto:liz@vtgayguide.com) for more information.
- \* Cut and paste this announcement into an e-mail and send to your friends, family, and co-workers. We love viral marketing!

The revenue from the Gay Guide helps the Samara Foundation continue its mission to improve the quality of life of Vermont's LGBT citizens, now and into the future. So please tell everyone you know about the Gay Guide and visit us often. [www.vtgayguide.com](http://www.vtgayguide.com)

## Report Charts Vermont's Safe High Schools

Outright Vermont, one of the most important LGBT organizations supported by Samara, has issued a fascinating and illuminating report. Learn more about this Queer Youth Center and state-wide advocacy organization at [www.outrightvt.org](http://www.outrightvt.org)



# OUTRIGHT VERMONT Safe Schools Report Card 2008

Outright Vermont's 2008 Safe Schools Report Card is a response to the 2007 Joint Departments of Health and Education Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS). This survey reported that 34% of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning (LGBTQQ) students in Vermont (grades 8-12) faced harassment or bullying in the past 30 days. This number was more than double the rate of bullying or harassment (15%) identified by straight students

Outright Vermont reviewed the 61 public high schools across Vermont to measure their support of LGBTQQ youth and acknowledge schools whose initiatives affirmatively address (and seek to reduce) these high rates of harassment and bullying based on real or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

Credit was given to schools which currently have an active Gay/Straight Alliance (GSA), track overall incidents of bullying and harassment, have hosted an LGBTQQ anti-harassment & bullying presentation and whose GSA has met with Outright. These criteria were weighted so that all schools were eligible for an Honorable Mention even if they did not have contact with Outright.

### 3 Key Findings

- Vermont is a leader with more than 1/3 of Vermont public high schools (22) having a GSA;
- Vermont should improve tracking and consistency of bullying & harassment incident reports; and
- Greater outreach to central and southern Vermont is needed to increase the presence of GSAs.

### Vermont's Top Ranked Schools for LGBTQQ Students

High School	Gay/Straight Alliance	Tracks Bullying	Outright GSAs Met & Presentation	Ranking
Burlington	✓	✓	✓	✓+
Champlain Valley Union	✓	✓	✓	✓+
South Burlington	✓	✓	✓	✓+
BFA Fairfax	✓	✓	✓	✓+
BFA St. Albans	✓	✓	✓	✓+
Union 32	✓	✓	✓	✓+
NWU High School	✓	✓	✓	✓+
Montpelier	✓	✓	✓	✓+

### Honorable Mentions (by County)

High School	Gay/Straight Alliance	Tracks Bullying	Outright GSAs Met & Presentation	Ranking
St. Anthony Union (Bennington)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Proctor Junior/Senior (Rutland)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Harwood Union (Washington)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Middlebury Union (Addison)	✓	✓	✓	✓
St. Abraham Union (Addison)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Vergennes Union (Addison)	✓	✓	✓	✓
North Country Union (Orleans)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bellows Falls Union (Windham)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Brattleboro Union (Windham)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hartford (Windsor)	✓	✓	✓	✓

Outright Vermont is Vermont's Queer Youth Center and Statewide Advocacy Organization.  
More information is available at: [www.outrightvt.org](http://www.outrightvt.org)

## Where to Give, LGBT-wise

We hope all of you have made or are planning to make a gift to Samara this year. If not--shoot me an e-mail and tell what I can do to make it happen--want a self-addressed stamped envelope? Want me to come to your house and pick it up? Let me know:

[suzanne@samarafoundation.org](mailto:suzanne@samarafoundation.org).

If you wish to make donations to our grant recipients directly, this year we granted to:



[ACORN \(AIDS Community Resource Network\)](#) of Lebanon, NH. ACORN, the HIV-care and prevention organization for the Upper Valley, offers case management, support groups, assistance with transportation to medical appointments, and emergency financial help for housing, food, clothing and medical needs, to anyone living in Windsor and Orange Counties of Vermont and Grafton and Sullivan in New Hampshire. ACORN provides case management services to more than 70 persons infected with HIV, and services to more than 300 persons affected by HIV as well as providing education, outreach and prevention services to an estimated 12,000 individuals each year.

ACORN  
2 Blacksmith Street  
Lebanon, New Hampshire 03766



[The AIDS Project of Southern Vermont](#) is a regional AIDS service organization that provides direct services to people living with HIV/AIDS, and HIV prevention services to those at most risk in Windham, Bennington, and southern Windsor counties. It provides direct services to those whose lives are affected by HIV/AIDS, education about HIV/AIDS to help prevent its spread, and promotes understanding within the communities served.

AIDS Project of Southern VT  
67 Main Street  
PO Box 1486  
Brattleboro, VT 05302



[FAERIE CAMP DESTINY](#)  
Destiny is a forest sanctuary for queer people and their allies "dedicated to permanent, sustainable faerie sanctuary and community, and to sharing what we know of community, civil rights, environmental issues, drama, art and peace." Destiny's 166 acres of reforested farmland, stream and hiking trails serve people from all over Vermont and New England.

Faerie Camp Destiny  
P.O. Box 531  
Winooski VT 05404-0531



[OUTRIGHT VERMONT](#) in Burlington. The mission of Outright Vermont is to build safe, healthy, and supportive environments for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer,

and questioning youth; its programs, groups, and services are for young LGBTQ (or queer) people, ages 22 and under. It is one of the longest standing queer organizations in Vermont and the only one that works specifically with young people.

Outright Vermont

P.O. Box 5235

Burlington, VT 05402



[RU12? COMMUNITY CENTER/SAFESPACE RU12?](#) is now the largest Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) organization in Vermont, and the only LGBTQ Community Center in the state.

RU12? Community Center

PO Box 5883

Burlington, VT 05402



[VERMONT CARES](#) - Vermont CARES has offices in St. Johnsbury, Rutland and Burlington, as well as supporting the state's only residential facility for people living with AIDS; it offers HIV+ individuals a variety of services, all offered free of charge, whether it is a question of a one-time meeting with a program specialist or ongoing support and regular meetings to help in finding healthcare, housing, and regular social opportunities.

Vermont CARES

PO Box 5248

187 Saint Paul St.

Burlington, VT 05402



[VERMONT FREEDOM TO MARRY](#) Vermont Freedom to Marry believes that times have changed dramatically since the difficult debate in 2000 regarding the civil union law. Massachusetts to the south, and Canada to the north, have joined countries around the world in allowing same-sex couples to marry. The conversation about the freedom to marry has reached every state in the country, and VFTMT is committed to making Vermont regain its leadership in this national civil rights struggle.

Vermont Freedom To Marry

PO Box 879

Burlington, VT 05402

[VERMONT PEOPLE-WITH-AIDS COALITION](#) - VPWAC's retreat provides participants with up-to-date information about HIV/AIDS, medical and alternative/complimentary treatments, and social services in a safe, supportive, nurturing and social environment. VPWAC sponsors workshops and seminars throughout the year where people with AIDS can come together for support and to receive and exchange educational information; it also provides a statewide hotline for information and help, a buyer's co-operative, and peer counseling and help to Vermont's HIV-positive community.

VT People With AIDS Coalition  
P.O. Box 11  
Montpelier, VT 05601-0011

## Where to Give, non-LGBT-wise

Last, but not least, consider making your non-LGBT donations through the Gay and Lesbian Fund of Vermont. The Gay & Lesbian Fund of Vermont exists to raise awareness of the important charitable contributions made by lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Vermonters and their allies. They do this primarily by making monetary donations to other 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations on behalf of donors and by facilitating volunteer support to such organizations.

It's a cool concept. Learn more at: <http://www.glfundvt.org/>

## Samara Foundation of Vermont

Your Community-building LGBT Community Foundation

Suzanne Stofflet, president

802 860 6236

[info@samarafoundation.org](mailto:info@samarafoundation.org)

### [Forward email](#)

 [SafeUnsubscribe®](#)

This email was sent to [suzanne@samarafoundation.org](mailto:suzanne@samarafoundation.org) by

[joanne@samarafoundation.org](mailto:joanne@samarafoundation.org).

[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) |

[Privacy Policy](#).

Samara Foundation | PO Box 1263 | Burlington | VT | 05402

Email Marketing by

