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Locally Produced Film Highlighting LGBTQ Youth Wins Awards

YES' LGBTQ Group collaborated on the film which is now used to educate others on challenges

BELLEVUE, Wash. (October 26, 2010)— PUT THIS ON THE {MAP}, a project of the Seattle-based Revelry Media & Methods in collaboration with Youth Eastside Services' (YES) B-GLAD Program received two awards in this weekend's Seattle Lesbian & Gay Film Festival—Audience vote of Best Local Film and the Jury vote of Honorable Mention for Short Film. The film screened October 23rd at Pacific Place.

PUT THIS ON THE {MAP} features 26 lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or queer (LGBTQ) young people fed up with the lack of queer visibility in Seattle's Eastside suburbs. "From getting beat-up in a schoolyard to being picked-up as a runaway, queer youth in the suburbs exercise courage daily," said Megan Kennedy, supervisor of outreach counseling for YES and co-director of the film.

In the film, queer youth provide an honest evaluation of their schools and families and challenges they face in their community. "It addresses their challenge not to have their existence swept under the rug and it has been instructive for improving schools' and communities' perceptions of queer/transgender young people," said Kennedy. She notes that YES uses the film frequently in education and bully-prevention activities.

"The queer youth in this region are doing some amazing community organizing," said Kennedy. "They are acting as leaders within their schools and doing outreach in the community." Several of the youth have helped show the film at area schools and businesses to raise awareness, combat stereotypes and stymie bullying of LGBTQ youth.

Many of the young people in the film are part of YES' B-GLAD support group, a drop in program for LGBTQ youth that helps them overcome emotional distress and build confidence, in turn preventing substance abuse, suicide and other unhealthy behaviors, which LGBTQ youth are at higher risk for. It's a safe place for youth to share and talk with others and meets at the Redmond Firehouse Teen Center on Thursdays at 6 p.m.

PUT THIS ON THE {MAP} was directed and produced by Kennedy and Sid Jordan Peterson. For more information visit www.PutThisOnTheMap.org.

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Photo attached of Megan Kennedy and Awards

About Youth Eastside Services: YES is a non-profit organization and a leading provider of youth counseling and substance abuse services in the region. Since 1968, YES has been a lifeline for kids and families, offering treatment, education and prevention services to help youth become healthy, confident and self-reliant and families to become strong, supportive and loving. While YES accepts Medicaid, insurance and offers a sliding scale, no one is turned away for inability to pay. For more information, visit www.YouthEastsideServices.org.