



**Acorn** is looking for new members to join our Board of Directors. Scan the QR code to fill out our brief application, visit our website, or contact a board member for more information.

The **Acorn Equality Fund** is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and your contributions are deductible to the extent allowed by law. Receipts for tickets and donations will be mailed or emailed by the end of January.



**ACORN  
EQUALITY  
FUND**

*Providing scholarships for LGBTQ students in downstate Illinois since 1999*

## 2021 Annual Family Breakfast

Saturday, December 4, 2021  
Embassy Suites, East Peoria, Illinois  
On-line Via Zoom

*The Acorn Equality Fund (AEF), established in 1999, is a grassroots organization that provides financial support for the advancement of the education, health, and civil rights of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender persons and their allies in downstate Illinois.*

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

[facebook.com/aef1999](https://facebook.com/aef1999)

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## Upcoming Events

**Down & Derby, Saturday, May 7, 2022**

**2022 Annual Family Breakfast, Saturday, December 3, 2022**

# Acorn Equality Fund

## 2021 Annual Family Breakfast

9:30 AM	<b>Welcome</b> - Gregory Haines, AEF Chair <b>The Reverend Judy Kennedy</b> - Congregational UCC of Pekin <b>Grants Awarded and Special Recognition</b> - Gregory Haines, AEF Chair
9:45 AM	<b>Keynote Remarks</b> - Admiral Rachel L. Levine, M.D.
9:50 AM	<b>Request for Funding</b> - Gregory Haines, AEF Chair
9:55 AM	<b>Scholarship Presentations</b> <b>Acorn</b> - Ryan Reed, AEF Board Member <b>McKeon</b> - Ryan Reed, AEF Board Member <b>Central Illinois Friends of PWA</b> - Andy Corbin, AEF Volunteer <b>Korty Morton</b> - Andy Corbin, AEF Volunteer <b>Luke</b> - Katie Bashary and Lisa Uphoff, AEF Board Members
10:25 AM	<b>Closing</b> - Gregory Haines, AEF Chair

## Volunteers

The Acorn Equality Fund board would like to thank the following people for their invaluable help in making this breakfast and all the work we do possible.

<b>Amira Bashary</b>	<b>Mark Brodl</b>	<b>Vanessa</b>	<b>Lisa Potter</b>
<b>Hani Bashary</b>	<b>John Clay</b>	<b>Henderson</b>	<b>Donald Reid</b>
<b>Leila Bashary</b>	<b>Andy Corbin</b>	<b>Lisa Hinthorn</b>	<b>Jesse Risley</b>
<b>Mai Bashary</b>	<b>Liza Decoteau</b>	<b>Alicia Johnson</b>	<b>Michael Sanders</b>
<b>Shane Bickett</b>	<b>Lauren Ehrett</b>	<b>John McKinley</b>	<b>Sue Wiest</b>
<b>Kevin Brodt</b>	<b>Trent Halpin</b>	<b>Nikki Pickford</b>	<b>Shelley Winkler</b>

In the last 21 years, thanks to the generosity of our donors, the Acorn Equality Fund has been able to award

**74 grants to LGBTQA organizations**  
**totaling \$58,990**

## Donors 2020-2021

Continued

Johnson, Michael Johnson, Pamela & Perry Jones, Sheila Jones, Steven Keil, Richard & Mary Kincaid, Randall E. Kirchgessner, Kris-ten Kirk, Tyler Kobak, Peter Koberstein, Mike & Jan Kolditz, Brett & Gabrielle Lagouros Yates, Meredith & Ellen Lane, Wanda & David Lang, Bruce Lange, Janet & Jeffrey Laux, David Lawrence, Dr. William Lee, Josh Legaspi, Brenda Lenz, Shelly Lowry, Gary & Doug Summers Lucchesi, Cassie Lu, April Luke, Fred Magsig, James Magsig, Pete & Erin Genovese Marchal, Mary Marshall, Jeff Martin, Fay	Maselli, Andrew & Derrick James McAdams, Samantha McConaughay, Kelly & Thomas McKinley, Edward & Laurie McKinley, John McMillan, Brad McSherry, Lisa Mendoza, Margot Miller, Marietta Minton, Michael Mistry-Mujthaba, Arnavaz Mitchell, Kimberly Morris, Jennifer & Chip Joyce Morrissey, Alison Murray, Elliott Myers, Doug & Lana Naidnur, Joseph Neidy, Jon C. Network for Good Noble, Jeffrey Norman, Heather & Matt Nova, Irene O'Shaughnessy, Patrick & Patricia Ober, Joseph Offutt, Hannah Orndorff, Matthew Ortiz, Vanessa Orwig, Amy & Doug Padilla, Diane Parrish, Mariel Pauli, Taylor	Peoria Federation of Support Staff, Local 6099 Persson, Melissa & Emil Peterson, Stacy Phillips, Matthew Piccinelli, David & Nancy Potter, Lisa & Autumn Landivittori Price, Alice & M'Liss Reardanz, Debra & Bruce Reed, Ryan & Michael Sanders Reed, Sarah Reeder, Jean Reichle, Stephanie & Jill Ambroson Risley, Jesse Robel, Wade & Briannah Salesforce.com Inc Santos, Jonnie Shadow, Rex Schiller, Larry Schmeling, Tim Sculuca, Lynnette Setterlund, Catherine Shane, Kellie Shehorn, Margel Shepard, Trent Shulman, Rebecca Skaggs, Jobie Slaughter, Michael Smith, Julie Spellman, Brooke Stedman, Tim	Steenis, Char & Fred Steenis, Paul & Kevin Brodt Stevens, James Street, Carol Swearingen, Valerie Tauscher, Jason Taylor, Roger & Anne Teefey, Sharon Thayer, Linda Tomic, Richard & James Foley Tower, Kyndra Towler, Terri Twillie, Benita UK Online Giving Foundation Uphoff, Kevin Uphoff, Lisa & Sue Wiest Van Oppen, Stephanie Villescas, Vincent Vogt-Norton, Renee Ward, Bobbi Jo Watkins, Craig, Erin & Charles White, Jennifer Winick, Christine Winkler, Shelley Winter, Gayla Wood, Jill Worth, Jennifer Wray, Tom Yates, Ellen Yates, Nick Zammuto, Jennifer
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## Donors 2020-2021

Allensworth, Carley	Brandt, Michael & Gretchen	Dameron, Emily	Gray, David
Allgaier, Carolyn	Briggs, William & Jeffrey Chinski	Davidson, Wendy	Greenberg,
Amazon Smile Foundation	Brodli, Mark & Mark Halx	Decoteau, Jack & Pam	Kathleen & Walter
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Amos, Nancy	Brodli, Richard & Ann	Deissler, Jan	Griffin, Katrina
Amott, Teresa	Bruce J. Heim Foundation	Devine, Bryan	Gunderson, Jacilyn
Anderson, Sam & Kathy	Burge, Jennifer	Dobbles, Bill & Jane	Gunn, Harry & David
Armstrong, Janell	Butler, Stanley	Doubleday, Becky & Gene	Slagle
Armstrong, Kim	CAF America	Drenckpohl, Doug	Hagemann, Ann
Bailey-Smith, Karla	Carlson, Rebecca	Driscoll, Gina	Haines, Gregory & Andy Corbin
Barkley, Brie	Carmichael, Buff	Dubin, Judith	Haley, Kristen
Barkley, Brooke	Caterpillar Foundation	Ehrett, Lauren	Hammel, Jo
Barkley, Connie & Gordon	Central Illinois Friends of PWA, Inc.	Etrick, Mary & Carol Pitcher	Harant, Joyce
Barney, Paige & Scott Cavanah & Family	Chase, Rochelle	Exelon	Harding, Adam
Barr, James	Chaudruc, Chris	Fawcett, Elizabeth	Harwood, Jonathan
Bartman, Ken	Christiansen, James & Mary	Ferreter, Doug	Hathcock, Jennifer
Bashary, Kathryn	Clifford, Jeff	Fleming, Sarah	Haugland, Julie & Robert
Kriegsman	Cockrum, Dennis	Flier, Dale	Hays, Ashley
Blattenberger, P.	Cole, David & Peggy	Fogliano, Marcus	Heenan, Adam
Benefield, Ellen	Connors, Emily	Ford, Claire & Gary	Hermanson, Suzanne & Debbie Wilson
Benevity Fund	CORAL-Coalition of Rainbow Alliances	Fox Anvick, Caroline & Elizabeth	Hopkins, Angela
Bennett, Kayla	Corso, Angela	Frings, Kevin & Deborah Owens	Hunsacker, Stephanie
Bentlin, Dave	Cowley, Nick	Garcia, Luis	Hunsicker, Paula
Bertrand-Essington, Bridget & Cindy	Crain, Mary & Peggy	Gibson, Nikki	Huntington, Dan & Tanya
Bickett, Shane	Crossman, Brett & Jeff Dixon	Gill, Emily	Jackson, April
Black-Waite, Jen & Tamara	Dallinger, Barbara	Gilliland Wright, Mae & Jonathan Wright	Jacobs, Gary
Blackwell, Henry		Gilliland-Small, Vicki	Jensen, Elizabeth & David Wentworth
Blanc, Erik		Gletty, Gary	Jensen, Helen
Blanford, Christina		Gore, Eric & Tom Gunter	Johnson, Alicia & Troy
Blattenberger, Trish		Gray, Brian	Johnson, Josephine
Bock, Bradley			

*Donor listings continued on next page*

Please accept our apologies and let us know if we have omitted or misspelled any names.

## Hooray for our Table Captains

The following people and organizations donated their time and energy to coordinate tables for the breakfast.

<b>Karla Bailey-Smith</b>	<b>Gregory Haines &amp; Andy Corbin (3)</b>
<b>Brie Barkley (3)</b>	<b>Joyce Harant (16)</b>
<b>Paige Barney &amp; Scott Cavanah (15)</b>	<b>Steve Jones (16)</b>
<b>Katie Bashary State Farm Agency (6)</b>	<b>Kris Kirchgessner &amp; Fred Luke</b>
<b>Gretchen &amp; Michael Brandt (5)</b>	<b>Mike Maginn</b>
<b>Central Illinois Friends, Derick Kimler (12)</b>	<b>Hector Martinez &amp; Bob Proctor (14)</b>
<b>Amy Collins</b>	<b>Peoria Proud, Nicole Livsey (8)</b>
<b>CORAL, Lee Korty &amp; Bert Morton (11)</b>	<b>Prairie Pride Coalition, Dave Bentlin (16)</b>
<b>Lisa Decoteau &amp; Alexander Hertich (12)</b>	<b>Paul Steenis &amp; Kevin Brodt (14)</b>
<b>Mary Dunlap</b>	<b>Unity Point Health</b>
<b>Kim Farlin &amp; Denise Durrell (2)</b>	<b>Lisa Uphoff (16)</b>
<b>Jim Foley &amp; Rick Tomic (4)</b>	
<b>Sarah Glover</b>	
<b>David Gray (15)</b>	
<b>Katrina Griffin (5)</b>	

## Thank you!

(#) - Number of years as a table captain



Join us after the Breakfast at **Craft 309 Kitchen + Bar**, located in the Four Points by Sheraton Peoria. Craft 309 will donate 10% of revenue between 11am-3pm to **Acorn Equality Fund**.

Does your company match charitable contributions? Last year Acorn received **\$3,632** from corporate matches. We also received **\$1,141** from Facebook fundraisers.

## Thank you to all of our friends and donors!

### Recognition Gifts 2020-2021

Donations in memory of **Buff Carmichael**

Michael Johnson      Steve Jones      Randall Kincaid      Jon Neidy

Donation in honor of **An Ally** by Angela Corso

Do you use **Amazon**? If so, use **Smile.Amazon.com** and you can designate 1% of your purchase to be donated to Acorn.

# Scholarship and Grant Recipients

## The Luke Scholarship

The Luke Scholarship, named in honor of one of the founders of Acorn Equality Fund, Fred Luke, was established in 2000 and first awarded in 2001. Scholarships are awarded on the basis of academic performance and demonstrated financial need.

**Evalynn Berg**  
**Kyle Friend**  
**Caleb Haste**  
**Abbie Heinemeier**  
**Emerson Krasnican**

**Faith Meister**  
**Emmalyn Mueller**  
**Emeri Pasley**  
**Alexander Sausman**  
**Alyssa Stallman**

## The Korty & Morton Scholarship

The Korty & Morton Scholarship, established in 2018, is awarded on the basis of academic performance, volunteerism, and political activism. It is made possible through a generous donation from Bert Morton and Lee Korty, founding members of Springfield's CORAL (Coalition of Rainbow Alliances). Bert and Lee were also one of sixteen couples who were part of the 2012 lawsuit, represented by Lambda Legal, seeking the freedom to marry in Illinois.

**Micah Blankenship**  
**Estepha Dominguez**

**Mykenna Osborn**

## Organizational Grants

**Central Illinois Friends of PWA**  
**Prairie Pride Coalition**  
**Rainbow Café LGBTQ Center**

**UP Center of Champaign County**  
**Youth Outlook**

In the last 22 years, thanks to the generosity of our donors,  
the Acorn Equality Fund has been able to award

**270 scholarships totaling \$541,000**

Donations may be made online through our website,  
**[www.acornequalityfund.org](http://www.acornequalityfund.org)**,  
or by check mailed to Acorn Equality Fund, PO Box 6286, Peoria, Illinois 61601. You can use this QR code to link to the donation page!



# Scholarship and Grant Recipients

## The McKeon Scholarship

The McKeon Scholarship, established in memory of Larry McKeon in 2009. Larry McKeon served as a member of the Illinois House of Representatives from 1997 to 2007. He was the first openly gay member of the Illinois General Assembly and was also HIV-positive. The scholarship is awarded on the basis of academic performance, volunteerism, and political activism.

**Olly Arnold**

## The Central Illinois Friends Scholarship

The Central Illinois Friends Scholarship, provided by our community partners, Central Illinois Friends, was established in 2019 and first awarded this year. Scholarships are awarded on the basis of academic performance and a commitment to public health. Central Illinois Friends mission is to link people living with and affected by HIV to essential resources to support long-term wellness. They also serve as a community resource for sexual health awareness, counseling, testing, vaccination and referral. All of their services are free and confidential.

**Len Meyer**

**Ash Webb**

## The Acorn Scholarship

The Acorn Scholarship was established in 2000 and was first awarded in 2001. Scholarships are awarded on the basis of academic performance, volunteerism, and advocacy.

**Finn Anderson \***  
**Annan Reed**

**Josi Simmerman**  
**Marissa Unes**

\* A portion of Finn Anderson's Acorn Scholarship was made possible by a generous donation from the Bruce J. Heim Foundation.

## Board of Directors 2021

**Brie Barkley, Dunlap**  
**Katie Bashary, Normal**  
**David Gray, Peoria**  
**Katrina Griffin, La Mesa**

**Gregory Haines, Peoria**  
**Mark Halx, Bloomington**  
**Steve Jones, Galesburg**

**Jon C. Neidy, Peoria**  
**Ryan Reed, Edwards**  
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**Lisa Uphoff, Washington**