

PRESS RELEASE



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DeFrank Center Celebrates 25 Years of Providing Leadership for a Just and Compassionate Silicon Valley

25 years of relating many faces into one community

(San Jose, CA – March 1, 2006) The Billy DeFrank LGBT Community Center proudly announces that Wednesday, March 1, 2006, marks the 25th anniversary of serving Silicon Valley's LGBT community and their allies, and providing leadership for a just and compassionate Silicon Valley.

When Santa Clara County residents voted to repeal ordinances extending housing and employment protections to lesbians and gay men in 1980, the DeFrank Center opened its doors on March 1, 1981. The mission of the DeFrank Center both then and now is to strengthen communities by developing diverse resources that empower lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and their allies. Since its inception, the DeFrank Center has provided a broad range of wellness, social and recreational activities as well as emotional and mental health services to the LGBT community and their allies.

“Organizations do not last 25 years without the support of dedicated volunteers, donors, and staff,” said Aejaie Sellers, the DeFrank Center’s executive director. “We at the DeFrank Center are extremely grateful for the community’s generosity and support for our mission throughout the past 24 years and look forward to growing and extending those relationships in the future.”

“During this banner year, we look forward to celebrating the efforts and accomplishments of the DeFrank Center and the LGBT community at large,” Ms. Sellers added.

On Saturday, April 29, 2006, a gala to honor the DeFrank Center’s silver anniversary is slated at the Fairmont Hotel in San Jose. The evening will feature a commemorative presentation, special entertainment by comedian Scott Capurro, silent and live auctions, and dinner. Individual tickets, tables, and sponsorship opportunities are available and can be purchased online at <http://www.defrank.org/gala>.

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For more information about the DeFrank Center and its history, visit www.defrank.org.

About The Billy DeFrank LGBT Community Center:

Founded in 1981, the Billy DeFrank LGBT Community Center addresses the needs and rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender people of all ages and backgrounds in Silicon Valley. The DeFrank Center provides a broad range of wellness, social and recreational activities, and emotional support services to approximately 400 visitors each week. The DeFrank Center is a 501(c)3, federally registered, tax-exempt organization, and receives over 21,000 contacts and requests for service a year (either in-person, via phone or on-line). To learn more, visit www.defrank.org.

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