

## **PRESS RELEASE**



### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **DeFrank Center to Serve as the Organization Grand Marshal for the 2006 San Francisco LGBT Pride Parade and Celebration**

*Silicon Valley-based LGBT community center to be honored throughout SF Pride*

(San Jose, CA – April 7, 2006) After a month long election, the Billy DeFrank LGBT Community Center won the honor of serving as the organizational grand marshal for the 2006 San Francisco LGBT Pride Parade and Celebration. Grand marshals for San Francisco LGBT Pride are people or organizations within the LGBT community who have strived to create change and tend to be local heroes who have fought for LGBT rights over the years. There are two categories of Grand Marshals including Community Grand Marshals, who are local heroes who have continuously fought on behalf of LGBT rights, and Organization Grand Marshals, which are non-profit organizations that have had outstanding service to the LGBT Community.

“When I received the information that the DeFrank Center was named the Organization Grand Marshal for the 2006 San Francisco LGBT Pride Parade and Celebration, I felt like a Miss America candidate, sort of stunned as they placed the crown on my head,” said Aejaie Sellers, the DeFrank Center's executive director. “This is a huge honor for the DeFrank Center and everyone associated with us and our work. It's just great to feel that we get that level of support from not only the South Bay but from the whole Bay Area community.”

Lindsey Jones, executive director of the San Francisco LGBT Pride Parade and Celebration states, “We are thrilled that Billy DeFrank has been named the Organization Grand Marshal for the upcoming 2006 SF Pride Parade. The good work of all of our LGBT Centers in the region is so vitally important to the support, activism and civil and human rights of our communities. We thank Billy DeFrank for their commitment to our communities in the San Jose area and we look forward to showcasing them for the world at SF Pride.”

2006 marks the 36th anniversary of San Francisco Pride two-day Celebration and Parade. This year's event theme is “Commemorate, Educate, Liberate — Celebrate!” and will be held over the June 24/25 weekend. The Celebration begins Noon on Saturday, June 24, in Civic Center Plaza, and runs until 6 PM. On Sunday, June 25, it begins at Noon and runs until 7 PM. The Parade is on Sunday, June 25 and begins at 10:30 AM, traveling west along Market Street from Beale to Eighth Street. For more information on SF Pride 2006, visit [www.sfpride.org](http://www.sfpride.org).

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**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](http://www.defrank.org).

**About the San Francisco LGBT Pride Celebration:**

The Mission of the San Francisco Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Pride Celebration Committee is to educate the World, commemorate our heritage, celebrate our culture, and liberate our people. For more information, visit [www.sfpride.org](http://www.sfpride.org).

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