



Advancing social justice
for LGBT communities
in the Upper Midwest

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**Statement from PFund Foundation executive director Susan Raffo on the death of Chrissie
Bates**

Raffo calls for end to violence against transgender people

MINNEAPOLIS (01/13/2010) – The following is a statement from PFund Foundation on the murder of Chrissie Bates on Monday night, Jan. 11. Bates, of Minneapolis, was transgender.

“We were shocked to learn of Chrissie Bates' senseless murder, “ says Susan Raffo, PFund executive director. “Our offices are just blocks from where the crime took place. Chrissie is not a nameless victim, she was a member of our community – a living, breathing human being.

“We know violence directed towards transgender people continues to be disproportionately high. At PFund, we are committed to supporting the organizations in our community that work against the roots of this violence while also empowering those most affected. However, this responsibility cannot lie solely at the feet of community organizations. We implore our policymakers to heighten their efforts in working to end this violence and the environment that lets it grow.”

“Our thoughts and prayers are with Chrissie’s family and friends, says Lupe Castillo, PFund board president. “May Chrissie rest in peace and may we honor her memory by opposing hatred and violence, including when it is directed against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people. ”

OutFront Minnesota is organizing a vigil for Bates to be held at 6 p.m. Friday, Jan. 21, near Minneapolis Community and Technical College. Details, once available, will be posted on PFund’s website, www.pfundonline.org.

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About PFund

PFund envisions a time when LGBT people experience the world as a place of safety and our media, policy makers, families and popular culture reject any form of violence against them; where LGBT people’s human rights and dignity are unquestioned and they are free from discrimination and are celebrated and visible.

PFund Foundation is a community foundation that advances social justice for LGBT communities in the Upper Midwest by providing hands on assistance to organizations, funding systems change work, developing leaders, inspiring giving, and convening & reporting on issues of importance for our communities. Established in 1987 as Philanthrofund Foundation in Minneapolis when four friends pooled \$2,000, PFund is now supported by thousands of

individuals in dozens of states who have created a vibrant and vital community foundation that celebrates and strengthens our communities. PFund is one of only a handful of foundations in the nation created specifically by and for LGBT communities. Today, PFund manages nearly \$1 million in assets, enjoying the support of committed donors and dedicated volunteers from LGBT and allied communities. More at PFundOnline.org.