



Advancing social justice  
for LGBT communities  
in the Upper Midwest

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## Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak speaks out against bullying; joins PFund's "You're Not Alone" campaign

*In candid YouTube message, Rybak reaches out to LGBT youth*

MINNEAPOLIS (01/10/2011) – Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak today joined PFund's Foundation's "You're Not Alone" YouTube campaign with a message of hope and encouragement.

PFund, the only Minnesota foundation dedicated exclusively to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) equality, has launched the campaign in response to the recent increase in reported LGBT and allied student bullying incidents and suicides.

"I was able to be myself growing up, without the challenges many LGBT youth have," Rybak says. "I want every young person to feel comfortable in their own skin and accepted by their family, peers and the overall community."

The 90-second video can be viewed online at PFund's website, [pfundonline.org](http://pfundonline.org), and Facebook page.

According to PFund, verbal bullying is experienced by eight out of 10 LGBT students at high schools in our region and nearly four in 10 reports being physically harassed. In addition, LGBT youth experience homelessness and suicide at a disproportional rate.

Previous videos have featured noted local community members and LGBT teens in the Upper Midwest, including Minnesota State Sen. Scott Dibble, past PFund scholar Anna Min, and active community members Brad Wagner and Kevin Moore.

"We applaud Mayor Rybak for his support," said Susan Cogger, PFund director of development and communications. "At critical times like these, with the health and wellbeing of our youth front and center, we all need to stand up and be counted."

PFund encourages schools and student networks to share the videos widely. A list of statewide resources for LGBT youth is available at <http://www.pfundonline.org/resources.html>.

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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](http://PFundOnline.org).