

July 16, 2024 (ASPEN, CO): AspenOUT, serving the LGBTQ+ community of the Roaring Fork Valley and beyond since 1996, announces its commitment to giving \$100,000 in college scholarships to Roaring Fork Valley students. Ten students will receive \$10,000 dispersed over four years.

The 10 recipients are participants of AspenOUT's Leadership and Scholarship Program, which was launched in 2023. The program is open to Juniors and Seniors from Aspen High School, Basalt High School, Roaring Fork High School, Colorado Rocky Mountain School and Glenwood High School. They apply online and participate in a round of interviews. Applicants do not have to identify as LGBTQ+ but should identify as an ally and participate in their school's GSA (Gender and Sexuality Alliance).

"I was excited to present these very deserving recipients to our Board of Directors for scholarships," said Kevin McManamon, AspenOUT's Executive Director. "The 10 students have been notified of receiving the scholarship. In 2025, we will increase the number of students receiving scholarships."

In addition, AspenOUT is outsourcing the administration and payment for direct-to-patient mental health services with HeadQuarters (formerly Aspen Strong). AspenOUT is committed to giving \$160,000 in mental health services in 2024.

The organization is also sponsoring events and organizations that support youth and the LGBTQIA+ community in Colorado. Sponsorships include Carbondale Middle School Pride Parade, Aspen Youth Center's Gala, History Colorado Rainbows and Revolutions, Windwalkers, Mountain Pride, Aspen Film, Aspen Film, Aspen Film Youth Education, Glenwood Springs Pride, Queer Asterisk, RFV Inclusive Prom and even gifting audiovisual equipment for Basalt High School & Roaring Fork High School's co-production of "Mean Girls."

In addition, AspenOUT will grant funds to the following national LGBTQ+ organizations: Lambda Legal, Tyler Clementi Foundation, Transgender Legal Defense and Education Fund, The Buddy Program, The Center on Colfax, You Can Play Project and PFLAG-RFV.

Returning for its 48th year in 2025, Aspen Gay Ski Week, AspenOUT's annual fundraiser, generates a majority of these funds to grant organizations that provide support to the LGBTQ community.

Photographer Credit: Luke Beiser



