



April 27, 2009

Dear Friend:

Kentucky Fairness Alliance (KFA) Foundation believes that **education is the key to strong social progress**. Discrimination has no place in the community of higher education. With that being said, an ever-increasing component of the collegiate experience is students' exposure to diversity. Fair-minded Kentuckians live in rural towns like Murray and major metropolitan areas like Lexington. Both of those communities and the universities that serve them have initiatives reaching out to all walks of life. The KFA Foundation wishes to further the efforts of Kentucky's institutions of higher education and **offer more equal education opportunities to undergraduate students in the 2009-2010 academic year**.

The KFA Foundation will award **three scholarships** this fall at the annual statewide fairness gala, *Out & About*, being held November 14, 2009 in Elizabethtown, KY. We will award the following scholarships:

Jason Johnson Scholarship

In the spring of 2006, undergraduate student Jason Johnson was expelled from one of Kentucky's institutions of higher education. Not because he was failing — he had good grades! Not because he caused problems — he had many friends and contributed to the community! He was expelled because he was gay. And rather than go home and hide, Jason took a courageous route — he spoke up against this injustice, and he started a statewide debate about funding for such exclusionary schools.

Mark England Scholarship

In the spring of 2009, this scholarship was created to applaud the considerable efforts of Louisville's own Mark England. He is a unique and dynamic individual that is known for his success in the business community working as a real estate professional. Mark has long been a leader in the fairness community working to better the lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) Kentuckians. He is a graduate of the University of Louisville's School of Business.

"Erika's Hope" Memorial Scholarship

Erika Flynn was poised to enter Spalding University's Masters of Social Work Program the summer of 2008, but passed away unexpectedly before being able to do so. From the moment she interviewed for that program, Erika inspired University officials with her commitment, spirit, and possibility. Prior to Spalding, she completed a Bachelor's Degree in English at the University of Louisville and went on to teach at-risk youth at the Hampshire Educational Collaborative in Northampton, Massachusetts until 2003. When she returned to Louisville, Erika opened a coffee shop, the Atomic Saucer. During the five years Erika ran the Atomic Saucer, it became a well-known gathering place for people of all identities and walks of life. Also, Erika used the coffee shop as a way to advocate for change and assist those in need. Those that knew her during life speak strongly of Erika's "hope" for a more diverse and loving society for the LGBT community.

PO Box 1280 • Frankfort, KY 40602 • kentuckyfairness.org

The ampersand symbolizes the inclusiveness we are working toward and the solidarity we are building with fair-minded Kentuckians.



Each scholarship will carry a monetary value of \$1,500. They will be awarded to Kentucky students based on social and financial need, scholastic aptitude and leadership potential. We will pay close attention to those students who have lost the financial and social support of their families and/or communities as a result of revealing their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Please **share the attached scholarship application good for all three scholarships** with anyone who may be an applicant for these awards. Submissions will be considered for all three opportunities. **The deadline to submit applications is August 14, 2009.** If you have any questions regarding our scholarship program, please feel free to contact me electronically at jodycofer@bellsouth.net or by phone at 270-703-1582.

Your support of this program will not end anti-fairness extremism in Kentucky, but it will provide support to a student facing hardships that many of us have already experienced.

KFA Foundation seeks your help in sharing this information with bright, energetic leaders working to continue their education.

In Fairness,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jody Cofer".

Jody Cofer
Selection Committee

The Kentucky Fairness Alliance seeks to advance equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people through leadership development, public education, and by encouraging participation in the democratic process. We are dedicated to building a fair Kentucky from the ground up! Visit kentuckyfairness.org!



2009 Scholarship Application

Jason Johnson Scholarship - Mark England Scholarship - "Erika's Hope" Memorial Scholarship

Please provide all of the following in an MS Word or PDF file:

1. Name, Home Address, Phone, Email, Grade Point Average, Class Rank, and Major(s).
2. An autobiographical statement that describes you and your academic and future goals. The statement should describe your educational and community experiences and your plans for future education or work. (up to 500 words)
3. A description of any services to, contributions to, or activities in the gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender community in Kentucky. (up to 250 words)
4. An outline of your student involvement, leadership experiences, volunteer efforts and/or work experience. Please provide reference and contact information for each experience. (up to 500 words)
5. A statement describing your financial need. (up to 250 words)
6. Three letters of recommendation to support your application. They should vary in scope (student colleague, faculty member, administrator, community member, etc.)

Please remit by August 14, 2009 to:

KFA Foundation Scholarships Selection Committee
c/o Jody Cofer
jodycofer@bellsouth.net