



Media Advisory  
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Media Contact: Kate Eubank or Susan Raffo  
[executivedirector@PFundOnline.org](mailto:executivedirector@PFundOnline.org)  
(612) 870-1806

### **John E. Larsen recognized with PFund's first annual Power of Philanthropy Award**

- Larsen to receive award at PFund Cabaret event May 7 -

Minneapolis, Minn. (04/06/2011) – PFund Foundation today announced John E. Larsen as the first recipient of PFund's new Power of Philanthropy award, which recognizes those who inspire giving among the Upper Midwest's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community.

Larsen, of Minneapolis, has worked extensively with the Minnesota Council on Foundations (MCF), as a member of the foundation's board of directors for six years, as chair of the promotion of philanthropy task force and currently as a member of the strategic planning committee. He was also a leader and a founder of MCF's LGBT Funders network. He also serves on the board of directors for Project 515.

"From serving on the board of his family's private foundation, the John Larsen Foundation, to his involvement with multiple nonprofits across the metro area, Larsen continues to demonstrate philanthropy's vital role in building community," says PFund board chair Lupe Castillo. "His willingness to share what he has and to inspire others to do the same is a model for many of us in the LGBT community."

Larsen is a principal at design45, LLC, a residential design firm located in Minneapolis. He and his partner, Mike, have been hosts through the LGBT Host Home Program and he has volunteered with a range of organizations, including the Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus, Headwaters Foundation for Justice and Together Minnesota, a coalition organization dedicated to defeating the state's anti-LGBT marriage amendment in 2006.

Larsen was a key player in supporting the national network, Funders for LGBTQ Issues, to partner with the local LGBT funders network in order to complete a research study on LGBT grantmaking in Minnesota. The study was instrumental for donors and foundations in identifying funding trends and gaps; its findings were used by PFund to strengthen and expand its grantmaking over the last three years.

The award will be presented at PFund's Cabaret fundraiser May 7 at the Guthrie Theater, Level 9 818 S. 2nd St, Minneapolis. Tickets and information are available online at [www.pfundonline.org](http://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](http://PFundOnline.org).