

THE ADVOCATE

THE

Forward

DOSSIER

GIVE IT AWAY

For 20 years, Katherine Acey has headed the Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice, which funds some of the world's worthiest causes

AT AN OCTOBER EVENT CELEBRATING Katherine Acey's two decades as head of the Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice, Acey found herself in a new place: the spotlight. Typically, the beneficiaries of Astraea's grants get all the attention.

In 2007 the foundation will give away a record \$2.4 million—up from \$100,000 in Acey's first year—through partnerships with groups that include the first and only transgender organization in South Africa and the first Palestinian

lesbian organization in the Middle East.

When you joined Astraea, what role did you see for yourself and the organization? My goal was to begin providing some significant support to lesbian, multiracial, and intergenerational organizations. We knew we wanted to grow the organization but not just to become big. We wanted to become a significant player in promoting social justice feminism and full equality for queers.

And do you feel you've achieved this? And then some. We hoped and dreamed some day we could expand, and we're now funding in every place but some parts of Europe and in Canada.

What part of the job gives you the most satisfaction? Sometimes when you just think, *I don't know if I can do this anymore*, these moments come along: everything from sitting in an office in Guadalajara, Mexico—having a translator interpret for this lesbian feminist group we're there to see—to being in an office in San Francisco with a queer women's organization that's working with young people who have no place to live and no way to eat, and they're beginning to train them just to survive. —William Henderson



Acey's all smiles.

YOUR HEALTH:
NEW STRIDES
AGAINST
HIV/AIDS

AMY ADAMS IS
ENCHANTED

THE
EVANGELICAL
CULT THAT
WANTS YOU
DEAD

MONDAY NIGHT
FOOTBALL'S
CUTE GAY GUY

MARY J. BLIGE

The Queen of Hip-Hop Soul on AIDS, honesty, and what hip-hop really thinks of us

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