

Out in Front

By Sheryl Kay



Money Makes Changes

Every cause needs financial support, and **Katherine Acey** is not afraid to ask for it.

With 40 years of civil rights activism under her belt, and as executive director of the Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice for the past 20, Acey freely admits that she enjoys fundraising and sees it as an important aspect of crucial political work.

"I believe that asking for money for what you believe in is a political act," says Acey. "What we give is truly a reflection of our values."

Fundraising, she says, allows her to be an advocate for lesbians and the LGBT community, focusing on both feminist and racial justice issues. For Astraea, it's about expanding resources and giving people the opportunity to make a major impact by collectively pooling their money.

Acey, who has been a board or advisory member for organizations like Women in the Arts, the Center for Anti-Violence Education, New York Women Against Rape, MADRE and the Arab Women's Gathering Organizing Committee, says that fundraising has gotten tougher in the past few years, given the tremendous needs of many communities and the widening economic gap in the United States and around the globe. But she does see a few encouraging signs.

"I see people stretching their giving, both those with limited resources and those with substantial assets," she says.

In the near future, Acey says, Astraea will reach out more aggressively to the straight community.

"We have the responsibility to communicate clearly the work of our grantee partners, and how allies can be more engaged in key issues, as well as provide critical support," she says. "I believe many allies of Astraea and the LGBTI community connect deeply to the social justice/feminist framework we espouse."

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