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## **GLAA Announces 2012 Distinguished Service Awards**

The Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance of Washington, D.C., is pleased to announce its 2012 Distinguished Service Award recipients. GLAA presents awards to local individuals and organizations that have served the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community in the national capital area. The awards will be presented at GLAA's 41st Anniversary Reception on Thursday, April 26 from 6:30 to 9:00 pm at the Washington Plaza Hotel at 10 Thomas Circle, NW. Tickets are \$50 and can be purchased at [www.glaa.org/anniversary/](http://www.glaa.org/anniversary/), where a range of donor levels is also available.

GLAA's 2012 Distinguished Service Award recipients are:

Burgundy Crescent Volunteers  
Sexual Minority Youth Assistance League  
Ruby Corado  
Jeri Hughes  
Will O'Bryan  
Jeffrey D. Richardson

**Burgundy Crescent Volunteers (BCV)** was founded in 2001 as a source of LGBT volunteers for gay and gay-friendly non-profit organizations in the District, Maryland, and Virginia, and brings LGBT singles and couples together for volunteer activities that are social in nature. BCV, itself a non-profit, has over 5,000 members who have provided over 100,000 volunteer hours to the community. Their good efforts have ranged from doing yard work for Frank Kameny to pruning the cherry trees at the Tidal Basin to wrangling giant parade balloons to staffing the welcome table at GLAA anniversary receptions.





The **Sexual Minority Youth Assistance League (SMYAL)** was founded in 1984 to promote and support self-confident, healthy, and productive lives for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning youth ages 13-21 as they journey from adolescence into adulthood. SMYAL is the only Washington, D.C. metro area service organization dedicated solely to supporting LGBTQ youth. The staff and volunteers and SMYAL concentrate on five areas: Life Skills and Leadership Development; Counseling and Support; Health and Wellness Education; Safe Social Activities; and Community Outreach and Education.

**Ruby Corado** has been a transgender rights activist in DC for over fifteen years, focusing on inclusion of the Latino community in the areas of healthcare, HIV, human rights, and immigration. She has been tireless and outspoken in defending and assisting transgender people demanding justice for brutalized and murdered sex workers. She has been at victims' hospital bedsides, at meetings with police officials, and at crime scenes organizing vigils, bringing her own experience as a Latina transwoman to bear in promoting the interests of this at-risk community in our city. Ruby has worked as a program manager for Whitman Walker Health, Transgender Health Empowerment, and Latinas En Accion, a group she has led for many years.

**Jeri Hughes** has persistently and doggedly pressed the District government to increase its employment of transgender people. Her efforts led to Mayor Gray directing the Department of Employment Services to conduct Project Empowerment job training for transgender citizens. Her efforts to highlight violations of the D.C. Human Rights Act by the Department of Corrections has led to ongoing efforts by the city and activists to improve the treatment of the city's transgender inmates and detainees. Jeri helps transgender people every day in her job at Transgender Health Empowerment.

**Will O'Bryan** is Managing Editor of *Metro Weekly*, which he joined in 2005 as a community reporter. He previously served as a news reporter and arts editor for the *Washington Blade*, and as media liaison for a nonprofit health organization. Prior to that he was arts and entertainment editor for *Just Out*, the Northwest's premiere LGBT publication. Will is an unwavering advocate for coverage of the entire breadth of the LGBT community, especially those who are often neglected. His biweekly column, "Stonewall Baby," has shown his personal engagement of issues affecting our community. He exemplifies the quiet, unheralded commitment by so many people among us who do the vital work of building community.

**Jeffrey D. Richardson** is Director of the Mayor's Office of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Affairs, where he has taken the initiative to connect activists with key agency staff and get results. His tireless efforts have ranged from advocacy within the government to supervising young LGBT interns to reaching out to officials in need of educating on how to relate to transgender people. He brings to his job the empathy and service-oriented approach that he developed in his career as a social worker. In his prior post as president of the Gertrude Stein Democratic Club, he was a steady leader who worked amicably and productively with GLAA and other advocacy groups.

A list of previous award winners can be found on the GLAA website at [www.glaa.org/resources/awardshistory.shtml](http://www.glaa.org/resources/awardshistory.shtml).

Founded in 1971, the Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance of Washington, DC (GLAA) is an all-volunteer, non-partisan, non-profit political organization that defends the civil rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in the Nation's Capital. GLAA lobbies the D.C. Council; monitors government agencies; educates and rates local candidates; and works in coalitions to defend the safety, health and equal rights of gay families. GLAA remains the nation's oldest continuously active gay and lesbian civil rights organization.

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