

Operation Fundraiser bows out with Pride

After four years of fantastic fundraising achievements, Operation Fundraiser will be hanging up its buckets this year, having raised nearly a staggering £500,000 for LGBT and HIV charities in Greater Manchester.

Launched in 2003, Operation Fundraiser has received incredible support from the giving public. With your help it has raised and distributed £274,526 to over 100 HIV and LGBT groups and charities in the past four years. The public has also helped to raise £102,367.50 to keep condoms and lube free of charge across Greater Manchester, and £102,367.50 for the HIV Welfare Fund, helping people with HIV in dire need.

Emma Peate, Project Manager Operation Fundraiser said

“I’m incredibly proud of Operation Fundraiser. I’d like to thank everyone who is responsible for our success; our volunteers, the businesses and venues, Manchester Pride, and most of all you, the public, who have given us such fantastic support over the past four years.”

Phil Burke, Chair of the Village Business Association said

“The VBA has been extremely proud to support Operation Fundraiser over the last four years, not just during Manchester Pride but with its fundraising activity throughout the year. Raising nearly half a million pounds is a great achievement, and the legacy will live on through all the good causes who have received money from Community Futures. It is great to see that Manchester Pride will continue to raise vital funds for LGBT and HIV charities in Greater Manchester and the VBA will continue to support Manchester Pride as well as GHT and LGF in their fundraising endeavours”.

As founder members of the festival, Operation Fundraiser are delighted that Manchester Pride has realised the long-term vision of becoming a charity in its own right and feel that the time is now right to hand over the fundraising baton to Manchester Pride.

Andrew Stokes, Chair, Manchester Pride said

“The Manchester Pride Festival would not be where it is today without the huge commitment of Operation Fundraiser. As we become a charity in our own right, we would like to pay tribute to the volunteers and staff of The Lesbian and Gay Foundation and George House Trust for their vital role in the development of the festival. We would also like to pledge our continuing commitment to raise funds for LGBT and HIV charities and groups, as a lasting legacy to the strong foundations built by Operation Fundraiser.”

To this end Manchester Pride shall continue to working with LGF and GHT over the Big Weekend to raise funds for HIV and LGBT charities in Greater Manchester.

Tickets go on sale for this year’s Manchester Pride on Tuesday 1st May 2007. Visit www.manchesterpride.com for full details.