



## San Francisco Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Community Center *Volunteer Spotlight*

*October 2009*

**Puya Vakili**



“I found The Center while searching for organizations to volunteer for,” Puya relates. “After the passing of Prop 8, I became motivated to look for a place where I could devote my free time to a good cause. I started looking at certain LGBT organizations and found that The Center and I were perfect fit. The people, the space, everything here at The Center tells me that I am part of a community and that what I do here makes a difference not matter how big or small.”

Puya takes advantage of the many different opportunities to get involved with the Center. For over a year he has shown great initiative, creativity and depth of commitment towards his involvements with the Center. He had been a valued Cyber Center volunteer and has been a devoted member of the front desk team as an I&R Specialist, showing great customer service and a very engaging personality with professional conduct. He has also contributed much of his time on different fund-raising projects with the Development Department, more recently starting the Friends of the Center, a volunteer group that helps generate awareness and excitement about the Center, as well as assisting in raising general membership funds. “Being around so many amazing people who are absolutely dedicated to helping out our fellow LGBT community members is also a great benefit of volunteering at The Center. Having people come up to me at the front desk and thank me for the help I had given them previously is possibly the most rewarding part,” admits Puya.

As for his memorable or favorite experience volunteering with The Center, Puya defends that, “To whittle down all the amazing experiences I have had at The Center wouldn't be doing justice to my time there and what The Center has offered me as a community space. But one of the most prominent experiences that comes to mind was the day of the Homecoming Brunch I helped put together. I had been battling a severe flu the week before and was not able to be as active in running things as I would have liked. But my awesome team of volunteers made the event a smashing success. Seeing it all come together and observing how much people enjoyed themselves at the event confirmed every hope I had about volunteering for The Center. Also, it didn't hurt that we were able to make a pretty penny for The Center, thanks to the generous donations of both the invited guests and the donations that helped make the event happen.”