



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

October 2010

Pamela Stuessy



Pamela came to us in the summer of 2009 and has since been a source of inspiration to many of the volunteers and staff of the Center. She has over 30 years of volunteerism in organizations whose missions are bettering the human condition and supporting civil rights. As a member of the LGBT community, she strongly supports the Center's mission and volunteers at The Center's Information and Referral Program. Pamela also lends her time and warm, inviting personality helping out with the Economic Development Program's vital LGBT job fairs. We are blessed and thankful to have Pamela on our team!

- *Joseph Peralta, Community Programs Coordinator*

What brought you to The Center? Where do you volunteer and why do you volunteer at this particular team?

At the desk we are the first people guests see when they enter the door. A friendly welcoming face puts people at ease and invites them into the Center. We see many people from other states and foreign countries making this a priority stop when they travel to San Francisco. The local community counts on us to be a centralized resource for referrals and information.

The Center offers me the opportunity to serve the LGBT community in a variety of positive ways. I choose to donate my time to the Center as a way to give back to San Francisco for what it has given to me and my wife. Though much hard work the LGBT community and San Francisco's city leadership has been in the forefront of LGBT rights and particularly gay marriage.

My wife, Rosemary, and I married in Vancouver 4 years ago. We flew the Canadian flag in front of our home to honor a country that allowed us to legally marry. However, we wanted to be recognized as a married couple in the US, not just hope to be domestic partners one day. We knew it would never happen in our home state of Texas and so we decided to move to the Bay Area after a trip to SF. We believed that California would give us the best chance of to marry in the US and we loved the area. It took us only 8 months to make the move. We arrived just in time to marry 4 months later.

What excites you about volunteering for The Center?

I look forward to the day-to-day encounters with folks who cross the threshold of the Center's doors. Some come seeking general information about the Center and its programs. Others need information about San Francisco services and other Bay Area resources. Others have very specific needs and we are able to provide referrals address their needs. I love when people leave with information that helped them out. They are so thankful we are here. I love the camaraderie of the volunteers and how supportive they are of each other. We look out for each other.