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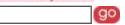


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# Rainbow World Fund Gearing Up For Bus Of Hope

By Dennis McMillan Published: September 11, 2008

San Francisco queer humanitarian aid agency Rainbow World Fund is hitting the road in October with the "Bus of Hope," and it is looking for volunteers and donors right now. The eight-year-old LGBT-and-friends aid organization is currently packing its school bus - a rainbowcolored fixture seen at recent Pride events and in the Castro - with 5,000 pounds of medical supplies,



The Rainbow Bus was featured in this year's Parade.

medicines, and school supplies to aid community groups in Tijuana, Mexico. The week-long trip, which starts Oct. 5 in San Francisco, includes stops in Sacramento, San Jose, Los Angeles, Long Beach, and San Diego to pick up donations from churches, colleges, community groups, and individuals.

"We hope to completely fill the bus with donated supplies. This journey is about putting our highest beliefs and values into action as a community, and reaching out - helping others in need," says RWF founder Jeff Cotter. "Painted on both sides of the bus is our philosophy, 'One Human Family', which we strive to incorporate into all that we do."

In Tijuana, the "Bus of Hope" will deliver its cargo to four nonprofits that Cotter says are "doing difficult, important work and deserve our support." The four beneficiaries are: Hogar Infantil "La Gloria," an orphanage for abandoned and abused children; EUNIME, an orphanage for abandoned children with HIV; A Su Futuro, a program that funds education for the Hogan Infantil orphans and the surrounding community; and Clinica Acosida Tijuana, a Tijuana medical clinic offering free, quality health care and medicines for low-income people with HIV.

Local partners for the "Bus of Hope" include the San Francisco LGBT Community Center, Metropolitan Community Church, The Stop AIDS Project, St. Aidans Episcopal Church, Martuni's, and Steamworks. "The 'Bus of Hope' Project is a great collaboration that is providing lifesaving medications to the LGBT HIV-positive community in Tijuana. The Recycled AIDS Medicine Program (RAMP) is glad to be able to support such international humanitarian medical relief efforts on the behalf of our community," says Howard Edelstein, MD, RAMP's vice president.

"Our supporters have been incredible, but we have room in the bus for even more," says Cotter. "Our stretch goal is to arrive in Tijuana with 15,000 pounds of Music Reviews & Features

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medicine and school supplies as well as cash grants, and we need the community's help to meet that target."

To learn more about the "Bus of Hope" and how to support it, and for a list of needed supplies go to rainbowfund.org or email supplies@rainbowfund.org.

Donations of supplies can be dropped off at the front desk of the LGBT Center at 1800 Market Street or at the Rainbow World Fund office at 4111 - 18th Street #5.

Martuni's bar is hosting a fundraiser for the "Bus of Hope" project on Sunday, Sept. 14 from 4-7 p.m. Entertainment will include Veronica Klaus and Friends. There will be a raffle and a silent auction with some great goodies up for grabs. Look for the Rainbow Bus parked outside - decorated with a festive Mexican theme.

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