



On December 18, President Clinton (center) announced the release of \$479 million in new Ryan White funding. Also pictured are Dr. Scott Hill, Chairman, President's Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS (l) and Sandy Thurman, Director of the Office of National AIDS Policy (r).

Journey

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organization. They responded with Bible readings, a video presentation, a dramatic musical interpretation and personal messages of faith. It was an emotional and uplifting morning for both the participants and the congregants — many of whom shed tears of joy.

As part of an upcoming event dubbed "The Shoes Project," members will be asked to find an inspirational figure within another oppressed group (such as Rosa Parks or Cesar Chavez) and decorate a pair of shoes to reflect that individual. Honeycutt explains, "Sometimes we can do in someone else's shoes what we can't do in our own."

When asked about her motivation to assist GLBT youth, Honeycutt recalls a conference she attended in Washington, DC. Someone asked her what the local church was doing to help the gay community in the Charlotte area and she realized that the honest answer was not enough. She states, "It was at that moment that I realized I had to change that."

As the founder and an independent contractor of Journey, Honeycutt wears many hats. She has attended leadership school to better man-

age the organization and is very active in fundraising efforts. Although Journey receives money for academic scholarships from MCC-Charlotte each week, it gets no money for general operating expenses — to cover things like salaries or supplies — and needs additional financial assistance.

GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network), a New York-based organization that works on GLBT issues in schools and colleges (and is headed by NC native Kevin Jennings), has grown to 80 chapters in four short years. Honeycutt predicts that Journey's unique focus on spirituality and education will lead to the same explosive growth.

When asked about the difficulties of maintaining a new organization, Honeycutt downplays the challenges and responds, "There is nothing that would stop me." She likens Journey's role to her favorite quote from *Alice in Wonderland*, "If you don't know where you're going, any road will get you there."

"Journey's goal is to give youth a direction both spiritually and academically," she intones, "so they'll know where they're going."

For more information, including volunteer and sponsorship opportunities, contact Kim Honeycutt at (704) 531-6900. ▼

in a committed relationship since 1981 and jointly planned to bring their daughter "Jane Doe" into the world via alternative insemination. Marcia is the biological mother, but both women have raised Jane since birth.

Patricia M. Logue, managing attorney of Lambda's Midwest Regional Office, said, "Adoption is supposed to be about what's best for children. It's disappointing that the court focused on narrow legal questions rather than on providing Jane with the security that other children take for granted — like the right of both mothers to make medical decisions for her."

Lambda is considering an appeal to the Ohio Supreme Court.

In 1996, the mothers asked the Summit County Court of Common Pleas to grant them a second-parent adoption which are available to non-gay stepparents in Ohio.

The trial court denied the request, saying that under the Ohio Adoption Act, Trish could not adopt Jane without first terminating Marcia's legal status as parent. On appeal, Lambda argued that previous adoption cases had established the court's authority to grant second-parent adoptions. ▼

Decisions

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tody of their mother, Kimberly Boswell.

The Court of Special Appeals found that the cruel restrictions, which neither the mother, the social worker assigned the case, nor the children's psychologist had requested, were an abuse of court discretion.

Adoption setback

In the first such ruling from an Ohio appellate court, the state Court of Appeals in Akron ruled in the case of *In re: Adoption of Jane Doe* that second-parent adoptions, which allow a person to adopt the children of her or his unmarried partner without terminating the partner's parental status, were not possible for lesbian or gay parents under Ohio law.

Writing for a unanimous three-judge panel, Judge Sheila G. Farmer said, "Although we are mindful of the dilemma facing the parties and are sympathetic to their plight, it is not within the constitutional scope of judicial power to change the face and effect of the plain meaning of [Ohio adoption law]."

"Trish Smith" and "Marcia Jones," have been

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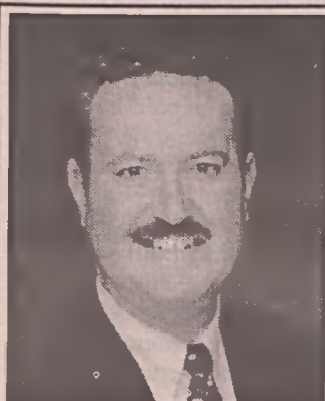
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