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## L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center's [www.InvalidateProp8.org](http://www.InvalidateProp8.org) Distributes Funds Raised to Protect Marriage Equality

2,300 World-wide Donations Bring in \$60,000

LOS ANGELES, November 13, 2008— The L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center announced today that its [InvalidateProp8.org](http://www.InvalidateProp8.org) Web initiative has raised more than \$60,000 to support the effort to overturn Proposition 8. More than 2,300 postcards, one for each donation, are being sent to Mormon church President Thomas Monson, acknowledging that a donation has been made in his name to invalidate Prop. 8 and restore fundamental civil rights to all Californians.

The Center launched the initiative at a news conference in front of the Los Angeles Mormon Temple, three days after the election, to not only support the work to invalidate Proposition 8, but send a message to the leaders of the Mormon church that no one's religious beliefs should be used to deny fundamental rights to others. At the urging of church leadership, Mormons contributed more than \$15 million to fund the deceitful advertising campaign that resulted in the initiative's passage by a small margin.

"It is a travesty that the Mormon church bought this election and used a campaign of lies and deception to manipulate voters in the great state of California," said L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center Chief Executive Officer Lorri L. Jean. "People from all over the world are sending a message to President Monson that we will not tolerate being stripped of our equal rights in the name of religious bigotry. They're entitled to their beliefs, but not to impose them upon the constitution or laws of California."

Of the money raised so far, \$40,000 will be given to the ACLU, Lambda Legal and the National Center for Lesbian Rights, the three non-profit organizations that have jointly filed a lawsuit in the California Supreme Court challenging Proposition 8. Another \$20,000 remains in a fund that will be used to support grass-roots activities for full marriage equality.

The donations have come from nearly all 50 states and from countries around the world, including Canada, Mexico, Australia, Denmark, England, Germany, Japan, Singapore and South Africa.

The Web initiative, [InvalidateProp8.org](http://InvalidateProp8.org), remains active and will continue to raise and distribute funds to support the effort to overturn Prop. 8 and send postcards to the president of the Mormon church.

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**About the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center**

Since 1971 the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center has been building the health, advocating for the rights and enriching the lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. Our wide array of services and programs includes: free HIV/AIDS care and medications for those most in need; housing, food, clothing and support for homeless LGBT youth; low-cost counseling and addiction-recovery services; essential services for LGBT-parented families and seniors; legal services; health education and HIV prevention programs; transgender services; cultural arts and much more. Visit us on the Web at: [www.lagaycenter.org](http://www.lagaycenter.org).