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The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida Announces New LGBT Community Fund

—Giving Circle Pools Resources to Benefit Local LGBT Population—

Jacksonville, FL (September 17, 2014) At a news conference this afternoon, The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida announced the formation of a new fund, the LGBT Community Fund for Northeast Florida, and identified the recipients of the fund's inaugural grants.

Initially prompted by the request of a donor, the LGBT Community Fund is a giving circle, a group of like-minded individuals who give collectively and determine the focus of their philanthropy as a group. Together, the LGBT Community Fund members help the local community address some of the needs of our LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) friends and neighbors. The LGBT Community Fund is The Community Foundation's second giving circle; the Women's Giving Alliance was established by The Community Foundation in 2002.

"The LGBT Community Fund seeks to help existing community organizations and institutions better serve the community's LGBT youth, families and elders," said Nina Waters, President of The Community Foundation. "The goal is to build capacity, knowledge and understanding within the organizations serving LGBT youth, family and elders, so they may respond capably and equally to the needs of all constituents, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity."

Jeff Chartrand, a LGBT Community Fund member and underwriter of the exploratory group that led to the creation of the Fund, said that the Fund will support \$100,000 in grants, outreach and research in this first year of operation:

- \$40,000 to JASMYN (The Jacksonville Sexual Minority Youth Network) to expand its fundraising capacity to accommodate increased demands for service, and to facilitate strategic planning.
- \$30,000 to ElderSource to provide LGBT sensitivity training to professionals serving elders, and to provide outreach to LGBT elders in the community.
- \$18,000 to University of North Florida LGBT Resource Center to support creation of a campus-wide education and visibility campaign to address safety and inclusion issues for transgender and gender non-conforming individuals.
- \$7,000 to support development of the fund, outreach and awareness
- \$5,000 to conduct and disseminate research on services and programs that support LGBT families

"We couldn't be more pleased with our first giving and grant-making cycle," said Chartrand. "The grant proposals requested and submitted by these organizations reflect their thoughtful dedication to improving the lives of LGBT seniors, youth and families. We are proud to become supporters of their meaningful and impactful work."

There is no minimum gift requirement to participate in the Fund, though only those donors who make annual gifts of \$2,500 or more per person are eligible to participate in the grantmaking process. The LGBT Community Fund is a non-endowed fund — meaning all of its assets are available for grantmaking. The annual funding campaign will be held from January through April, with the results determining the available grant pool for the year. At this time, the fund does not accept unsolicited grant proposals; organizations seeking grants must be invited to apply.

About The LGBT Community Fund for Northeast Florida

The LGBT Community Fund for Northeast Florida, a giving circle of The Community Foundation of Northeast Florida, was founded in 2014 and pools the collective resources of its members to benefit the LGBT community in Northeast Florida. A steering committee representing members works to develop the grantmaking strategy and guides the work of the Fund. Any member making an annual gift of \$2500 or more can serve on the Steering Committee. To become a member or donate to the Fund, or for more information, visit www.lgbtnefl.org.

About the Community Foundation

Now celebrating its 50th anniversary, The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida (www.jaxcf.org) is Florida's oldest and largest community foundation. The Foundation works to stimulate philanthropy to build a better community – helping donors invest their philanthropic gifts wisely, helping nonprofits serve the region effectively, and helping people come together to make the community a better place. The Foundation has nearly \$297 million in assets and has made grants in excess of \$278 million since 1964.

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