

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
NOVEMBER 11, 2009**

**THE SAN FRANCISCO  
LESBIAN GAY BISEXUAL TRANSGENDER  
COMMUNITY CENTER**



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### **SF-TEAM and Other Prominent Community Groups Honor the Fallen with the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Transgender Day of Remembrance**

(San Francisco - November 11, 2009) San Francisco's transgender community, with family, friends and allies, will gather for the 11<sup>th</sup> annual Transgender Day of Remembrance to honor transgender victims of violence. The Transgender Day of Remembrance observance will take place on **Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup> at the Asian Pacific Islander Wellness Center, 730 Polk Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, San Francisco, CA 94109, from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.** The program will include well-known community speakers, a reading of the 2009 known victims' names, and an open community dialogue and altar to pay homage to the fallen.

SF TEAM is a program of The San Francisco LGBT Community Center, in collaboration with Asian Pacific Islander Wellness Center, Community United Against Violence (CUAV), Lou Sullivan Society, Our Family Coalition (OFC), Transgender Economic Empowerment Initiative (TEEI), TRANS:THRIVE, Transgender Law Center (TLC) and Transgender San Francisco (TGSF); and with funding support from the Bank of America LGBT Employee Resource Group. SF TEAM extends a warm welcome to community members, allies and all who would like to attend this important event to memorialize those that have passed and underscore the suffering of the Transgender Community. To date, 412 of our community members are known to have lost their lives due to transgender-related violence. No one should be subjected to violence simply because of their gender identity or expression. No persons should be denied the basic rights that protect their safety and security.

"Day of Remembrance is about appreciating those whose journeys have come to an end this past year. It's their passing, often as a result of hatred, ignorance and violence that brings us even closer as a community" says Leeza Edwards, co-chair of SF TEAM.

The Transgender Day of Remembrance was created by Gwendolyn Ann Smith to honor Rita Hester, whose 1998 murder prompted the launch of the "Remembering Our Dead" web project and a candle light vigil in San Francisco in 1999. The observance was established to memorialize those who were killed due to anti-transgender hatred or prejudice (transphobia). Since then, the event has grown to an international event,

observed each year on 11/20 in hundreds of cities around the world. Please join with us on this day to remember our fallen kin.

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The following is a list of event co-sponsors:

#### **ABOUT SF TEAM**

San Francisco Transgender Empowerment, Advocacy & Mentorship (SF TEAM), mission is to commemorate our heritage, to empower and nurture transgender and gender-variant individuals; and to increase visibility to promote positive social change. We are an ad-hoc group of transgender community members committed to coordinating quarterly events for the benefit of SF Bay Area community. These events are intended to unite the wide array of transgender communities to meet, educate and support each other while celebrating the diversity and richness of our lives and accomplishments. SF TEAM is open to all members of the San Francisco Bay Area transgender community and we are a program of The SF LGBT Community Center.

#### **ABOUT THE SAN FRANCISCO LGBT COMMUNITY CENTER**

The San Francisco LGBT Community Center is the home, heart and hands of the Bay Area lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community. The Center is dedicated to building community, creating opportunity and securing equality for all. Our vision for the future is a LGBT community united by common purpose, celebrating our history, culture and diversity, while ensuring that no one is left behind. Each month, The Center serves over 9,000 visitors and hosts more than 250 events. The Center is located at 1800 Market Street in San Francisco. Visit The Center at [www.sfcenter.org](http://www.sfcenter.org), or call us at (415) 865-5555, to learn more.

#### **ABOUT ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER WELLNESS CENTER**

Asian & Pacific Islander Wellness Center is a health services, education, research, and policy organization. Our mission is to educate, support, empower and advocate for Asian and Pacific Islander (A&PI) communities—particularly A&PIs living with or at risk for HIV/AIDS. For more information, please contact us at (415) 292-3400 or [www.apiwellness.org](http://www.apiwellness.org).

#### **ABOUT COMMUNITY UNITED AGAINST VIOLENCE**

Founded in 1979, Community United Against Violence (CUAV) works to build the power of LGBTQQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning) communities to transform violence and oppression. We support the healing and leadership of those impacted by abuse and mobilize our broader communities to replace cycles of trauma with cycles of safety and liberation. As part of the larger social justice movement, CUAV works to create truly safe communities where everyone can thrive. For more information, call (415) 777-5500, email [info@cuav.org](mailto:info@cuav.org) or visit [www.cuav.org](http://www.cuav.org).

#### **ABOUT EI-La PROGRAM PARA TRANS LATINAS**

The El/La Transgender Latina Program was created to provide HIV health education and risk reduction services to transgender Latinas in San Francisco. El/La works to build collective vision and actions that promote the survival and improved quality of life for transgender Latinas in the San Francisco Bay Area. We do this work by providing opportunities for trans-Latinas to participate in community building and advocacy development activities, by supporting members of our families and community in our daily and political struggles, by educating ourselves about the risks to our health and safety, and by responding to those who would threaten our health or our lives. For more information, call Alexandra Byerly at (415) 864-7278.

#### **ABOUT LOU SULLIVAN SOCIETY**

The Lou Sullivan Society exists to provide information, education, support, community building and advocacy for transgender, transsexual and genderqueer people assigned female at birth and their loved ones. For more information, email [info@lousullivansociety.org](mailto:info@lousullivansociety.org) or visit [www.lousullivansociety.org](http://www.lousullivansociety.org).

#### **ABOUT OUR FAMILY COALITION**

Our Family Coalition promotes the civil rights and well-being of Bay Area lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) families with children and prospective parents through education, advocacy, social

networking and grassroots community organizing. For more information, call (415) 981-1960 or visit [www.ourfamily.org](http://www.ourfamily.org).

#### **ABOUT TRANSGENDER ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT INITIATIVE**

TEEI helps transgender individuals achieve financial self sufficiency through stable employment in jobs providing a living wage and benefits, with opportunities for advancement. TEEI Partners include the Center, Jewish Vocational Services, Transgender Law Center, and SF TEAM. For more information, visit our collaborative TEEI website at [www.teeisf.org](http://www.teeisf.org).

#### **ABOUT TRANSGENDER LAW CENTER**

The Transgender Law Center (TLC) is a civil rights organization advocating for transgender communities. Every day we connect transgender people and their families to technically sound and culturally competent legal services, increase acceptance and enforcement of laws and policies that support California's transgender communities, and work to change laws and systems that fail to incorporate the needs and experiences of transgender people. TLC utilizes direct legal services, public policy advocacy, and educational opportunities to advance the rights and safety of diverse transgender communities. For more information, call (415) 865-0176 or visit [www.transgenderlawcenter.org](http://www.transgenderlawcenter.org).

#### **ABOUT TRANSGENDER SAN FRANCISCO**

TransGender San Francisco is dedicated to serving the educational, social, and recreational needs of the transgendered community, alongside partner organizations. TGSF is also dedicated to educating the general public about transgenderism and promoting a positive image of transgendered persons among the general public. For more information, call (415) 839-9448 or visit [www.tgsf.org](http://www.tgsf.org).

#### **ABOUT TRANS:THRIVE**

TRANS: THRIVE, which stands for Transgender Resource and Neighborhood Space (TRANS), and Transgender Health & Resource Initiative for Vital Empowerment (THRIVE) is a drop-in center by and for the trans community. Our mission is to foster healthy trans community empowered by the leadership of its peers. It is a program of the Asian and Pacific Islander Wellness Center which is currently funded by the San Francisco Department of Public Health. For more information, call (415) 409-4101 or visit <http://www.transthrive.org>

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