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HAPPY HOLIDAYS MR. PRESIDENT, FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS
Nation’s leading lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender family rights organizations launch historic visibility campaign

SAN FRANCISCO – Today, the San Francisco Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Community Center joined national and regional lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) family rights groups from around the country to launch the “From Our Family to Yours Campaign,” designed to introduce the First Family to thousands of LGBT families. In addition to spreading holiday cheer, the campaign will increase visibility and awareness for the need for federal protections for the LGBT community.

“This campaign provides an important opportunity to raise visibility of the many diverse LGBT families in the LGBT community,” said Isaac Kwock, Community Programs Manager at the San Francisco LGBT Community Center. “We need to continue pushing to secure federal rights and benefits that will extend to and support our families.”

To participate in the campaign, families will send holiday cards to the First Family, sharing their photos and seasons greetings. Currently there are an estimated 2 million children being raised by lesbian or gay parents, living in 99.9 percent of counties across the United States.

On August 17, 2009, President Obama stated, “While we work with Congress to repeal DOMA, my administration will continue to examine and implement measures that will help extend rights and benefits to LGBT couples under existing law.”

Since 2002, the San Francisco LGBT Community Center has provided children and family programming through our KidSpace Program and collaboration with Our Family Coalition and COLAGE. Through its programming, the Center provides a safe and welcoming environment that acknowledges and celebrates LGBT families, and supports parents and children to deal with the specific challenges unique to LGBT parents and their children.

“We wish the First Family happy holidays and a New Year filled with renewed support for LGBT equality. Passage of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, the Every Child Deserves a Family Act and repeal of the so-called Defense of Marriage Act are the needed steps toward equality that profoundly impact all families,” said Jennifer Chrisler, Executive Director of Family Equality Council. “We hope as many families as possible will participate in the ‘From Our Family to Yours Campaign.’”

Participating organizations include Center Kids: A Program of the New York Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Community Center, COLAGE, Equality California, Equality Federation, Family Equality Council, Family Matters: a program of the San Diego LGBT Community Center, L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center's Family Services Program, Lesbian and Gay Family Building Project, the Mega Family Project, National Center for Lesbian Rights, Our Family Coalition, Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), and the San Francisco Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Community Center.

For details, please visit <http://fromourfamielstoyours.wordpress.com/>.

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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 400 events. The Center is located at 1800 Market Street in San Francisco. Visit The Center at www.sfcenter.org, or call us at (415) 865-5555, to learn more.