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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pacific Pride Foundation Celebrates Stonewall 50 by Taking LGBTQ+ Youth to World Pride in New York City

Santa Barbara, Calif., June 13, 2019 – Pacific Pride Foundation (PPF), providing programs and services to more than 10,000 people in Santa Barbara County, is celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising and National Pride Month by taking eight LGBTQ+ Youth Advocate Leaders to New York City for World Pride.

Eight members of PPF's PROUD Youth Group Youth Advocate Leaders, who run the (90) Days of Summer youth program for their peers, were qualified to travel with PPF staff and volunteers to World Pride in New York City during the last week of June.

On the work service trip, youth will volunteer at Youth Pride (the section of the New York City Pride Festival dedicated to youth), march in the New York City Pride Parade, and visit the Stonewall Inn. They will meet a member of the community who was a part of the famous uprising, and have a chance to ask questions about what it was like to be a part of such a significant moment in history.

This year's National Pride Month is especially important to the LGBTQ+ community, because this summer marks fifty years since the uprising at the Stonewall Inn, an LGBTQ+ bar. A police raid in the early morning of June 28th, 1969 at the Inn - typical at LGBT bars in the 1960s - made history when patrons fought back. After police arrested many Stonewall patrons, people protested outside the bar for weeks afterward, leading to the first march for gay and lesbian rights in July 1969. This kicked off what many agree to be a

beginning to the modern LGBTQ+ equality movement that we are familiar with today.

“This is such a rare and wonderful opportunity for our youth to learn, reflect on, and celebrate those that came before them and the history behind the LGBTQ+ community that they are a part of today,” said Colette Schabram, Executive Director of Pacific Pride Foundation. “We are so grateful to our donors and community members who are helping us make this trip a reality.”

For more information, or to donate, visit pacificpridefoundation.org.

Pacific Pride Foundation (PPF) is the largest LGBTQ+ center between Los Angeles and San Francisco, serving all of Santa Barbara County. It partners with 35 other educational and nonprofit agencies to create a thriving and visible LGBTQ+ community and prevent the transmission of HIV and HEP-C. PPF provides services and programs to more than 10,000 clients in the inclusive and diverse LGBTQ+ community including youth programs, elder programs, counseling services, sensitivity trainings, community events, and advocacy on LGBTQ+ issues.

PPF directly prevents the transmission of disease through its HIV/AIDS and HEP-C testing and prevention outreach and education, delivering 1300 free tests in the past year. PPF is the leader in programs for LGBTQ+ youth, serving 200 kids with mental health, suicide prevention, and anti-bullying programs, while providing them with a safe place and leadership opportunities. PPF is also addressing the opioid crisis through the only clean needle exchange program in the county, which collects about 100,000 used needles every year, and by distributing Narcan kits, which have saved 90 people from potentially fatal overdoses in the past year.

For more information or to make a donation please visit <https://pacificpridefoundation.org>.