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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pacific Pride Foundation Celebrates National Pride Month All Year Round

Santa Barbara, Calif., June 18, 2018 – Pacific Pride Foundation (PPF), providing programs and services to more than 10,000 people in Santa Barbara County, is the largest LGBTQ+ center between Los Angeles and San Francisco. June is National Pride Month, and PPF is celebrating with the community -- but it won't stop when July hits. PPF has events to celebrate Pride all summer, and continues to provide programs, services, and community events throughout the year.

Santa Barbara-based company Deckers Brands, whose portfolio includes UGG®, Teva® and other brands, is teaming up with PPF to celebrate National Pride Month by donating ten percent of the proceeds from their brand showcase store in Goleta during the month of June to the Pacific Pride Festival. PPF relies on sponsors like Deckers each year to host the local Pride festival free of cost to the public, many coming from all over the Central Coast each year to attend. This year the Pacific Pride Festival will be held at Chase Palm Park on Saturday, August 25. After a day of food, sun, and music by the beach, PPF is hosting an after-party at Matrix Santa Barbara, featuring even more entertainment to continue the celebration into the night.

In preparation for the festival, PPF's annual Queen of Pride pageant at Matrix Santa Barbara on July 28 will include a panel of judges to decide who will become Santa Barbara's 2018 Queen of Pride. Whoever is crowned Queen of Pride is featured at the Pacific Pride Festival and works with PPF with events and services for the community throughout the following year.

Since Pacific Pride Foundation reaches all parts of the county, PPF is hosting a wine tasting event in Los Alamos at Martian Ranch & Vineyard on Saturday, August 18. Guests of the event can picnic and taste local wine in the sun while celebrating and supporting the LGBTQ+ community.

At PPF, Pride isn't only about events. The organization is also celebrating National Pride Month by spreading awareness and educating the community through LGBTQ+ competency training through the County's Department of Behavioral Wellness. In June alone, PPF is scheduled to train seven local organizations on how to welcome LGBTQ+ clients, definitions and Q&A on each letter in the "alphabet soup" of LGBTQ+, as well as more tailored training covering topics like the unique needs of LGBTQ+ elders, youth, or serving survivors of family rejection and homophobia. PPF provides training for various organizations throughout the year across Santa Barbara County. Community members can learn more here:
pacificpridefoundation.org/lgbtq-competency-training

Pacific Pride Foundation supports the LGBTQ+ community with programs and services all year round, and celebrates the achievements and resilience of the community during Pride season. Join PPF this summer in celebrating Pride, whether it's shopping at Decker's brands showcase store in Goleta, attending a Pride event, or scheduling a LGBTQ+ competency training. For more information or questions about an event or service, call 805.963.3636.

PPF is the largest LGBTQ+ center between Los Angeles and San Francisco, serving all of Santa Barbara County, and partnering 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 addressing the opioid crisis through the only clean needle exchange program in the county, which collects about 100,000 used needles every year, and 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>