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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Pacific Pride Foundation Unveils “Stand with Stonewall”; Hosts 2019 Pacific Pride Festival at Chase Palm Park**

**Santa Barbara, Calif., Aug. 14, 2019** – 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. PPF is excited to host its annual Pacific Pride Festival on Aug. 24 at Chase Palm Park, this year themed “Stand with Stonewall.” The event will be held from 12:00 to 7:00 p.m.

A diverse crowd of nearly 4,000 lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (LGBTQ+) and ally supporters and their families from the Central and South Coast is expected to attend.

“This year two special appearances are planned in conjunction with the festival featuring icons of LGBTQ+ activism,” said Colette Schabram, executive director of the Pacific Pride Foundation. “We’re delighted to announce that Jim Obergefell, a plaintiff in the Supreme Court Case that brought us marriage equality will be a keynote speaker at our event on Aug. 23 and Lady Gaga’s Born This Way Foundation will host a local event for their national ‘21 Days to Be Kind’ challenge.”

On the day of the festival, a Pride Rally “Stonewall Speaks” will kick things off from 12:00-12:30 p.m., with elected officials, local activists, and other community member speakers. Guests are encouraged to attend to engage with local representatives and hear about issues facing the local LGBTQ+ community. Lady Gaga’s Born This Way Foundation will also speak about their 21 Days to Be Kind challenge, and the Santa Barbara County Pride Week Proclamation will also be read.

From 12:30-1:30 p.m. Love.Period will be held on the main stage featuring a panel of speakers from the local spiritual and religious community. Afterward, hosts Alan Rose of KEYT and 2016 Queen of Pride Vivian Storm will emcee a diverse lineup of live entertainment, including a performance by Pepper MaShay, who is most famous for the international charting single "Dive In The Pool", which has always been

considered the unofficial single for the multi-award winning Showtime series *Queer As Folk*.

Throughout the festival, guests can choose from dozens of booths and activities for the whole family, including a bounce house, youth lounge, a beer and wine garden, and food from Ben & Jerry's, Tea Bazaar, 805 Kettle Corn, and The Flipside 805.

[UGG®](#), the Presenting Sponsor for this year's festival, and Pacific Pride Foundation are collaborating this year with a booth selling sweatshirts, t-shirts, hats, and shoes with bright, rainbow-themed, and cozy designs for everyone to enjoy at the Pride Marketplace. Information about PPF's programs and services as well as representatives of Lady Gaga's Born This Way Foundation will be available for guests to learn more about both organizations. The first 250 guests who enter through the main entrance of the festival and donate to Pacific Pride Foundation will receive a free pair of sunglasses from Pacific Pride Foundation.

After the festival, the Pride After Party will be held at Wildcat Lounge and the Bobcat Room, starting at 7:00 p.m., with a special performance by Pepper MaShay and music by DJs Zeke and Charlie Wood, as well as drag performances by Vivian Storm, Angel De'mon, and the 2019 Santa Barbara Queen of Pride Bobbi Something.

Community members can celebrate Santa Barbara's official Pride Week starting on Monday, Aug. 19, by attending a variety of events that support the festival. The Pride Syllabus, a lecture and Q&A session with Pacific Pride Foundation covering the diverse landscape of the LGBTQ+ community will be held on Aug. 19 from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. at Antioch University. On Aug. 21, join PPF for one of the last installments of the Sunset at the Canary series for this season, held on the rooftop of the Kimpton Canary Hotel with happy hour cocktails and entertainment from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Electric Drag Queen Carnival, a drag show hosted at EOS Lounge, will take place on Aug. 21 at 9:00 p.m. Girl Party, a long-standing tradition for Pride Week in Santa Barbara celebrating Pride and the women in our community will be held at Armada Wine & Beer Merchant on Aug. 22 from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Perspectives on Pride: From Stonewall to the Supreme Court and Beyond will be held at Santa Barbara Community College in the Fe Bland Forum on Aug. 23. At 5:30 p.m. there will be a reception with a chance to meet keynote speaker Jim Obergefell, followed by a talk by Obergefell about being a plaintiff in the landmark 2015 Supreme Court case Obergefell v. Hodges that legalized gay marriage. Afterward a panel addressing past and current LGBTQ+ issues representing multiple generations will speak and take questions, including Jim Obergefell, Ellen Broidy, PhD, co-founder of the first Gay Pride March & member of Gay Liberation Front, Aiden Hirshfield, PhD, Fielding graduate & transgender scholar, and Anaiya Boutan, Pacific Pride Foundation Youth Advocate Leader 2019.

Wildcat Lounge will also host One Love: A Pride Week Celebration on Aug. 25 at 9:00 p.m. featuring a drag show with Vivian Storm, BellaDonna SantaBarbara, Miss Kitty,

Maddy Mokes and your 2019 Queen of Pride: Bobbi Something, plus music by DJ Zeke and DJ Sparx and no cover charge.

“PPF would like to thank our sponsors, dedicated Pride Committee members, and volunteers for ensuring that the Pacific Pride Festival is free of cost for our community,” continued Schabram. PPF is now accepting individual and corporate sponsorships for this year’s event. To learn more about the festival or how to get involved, contact Jackie VanLingen at [jackie@pacificpridefoundation.org](mailto:jackie@pacificpridefoundation.org).

*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, LGBTQ+ competency training, 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 over 300 people from potentially fatal overdoses in the past year.*

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