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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pacific Pride Foundation Announces the Return of Counseling Services to Santa Maria Location

Santa Maria, Calif., March 6, 2019 – Pacific Pride Foundation (PPF), providing programs and services to more than 10,000 people in Santa Barbara County, proudly announces the return of LGBTQ+ and HIV community mental health services to their Santa Maria location at 123 S College Drive.

“Our Santa Maria office has been serving North County for decades with youth, education, and health and prevention programming. We are excited to have this crucial service re-established to encourage mental wellness in the local LGBTQ+ communities, and for those living with HIV/AIDS,” said Colette Schabram, executive director. “This is a crucial step in our strategic plan to offer all of our core programs and services in both locations, in both English and Spanish.”

Pacific Pride Foundation has a team of counselors who are trained in issues relevant to LGBTQ+ mental health in addition to robust training in best practices for transgender (including non-binary) clients. The center offers high-quality, culturally competent individual, couples, and family therapy for a sliding-scale fee based on income and number of dependents. Counseling is also open to family members of the LGBTQ+ community and those impacted by HIV.

To learn more or make an appointment, call 805-963-3636 x114 to speak with our PsyD-level clinician Maz Karandish, or e-mail counseling@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>.