

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
October 22, 2010

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PAUL RAPOPORT FOUNDATION AWARDS THE FIVE LARGEST GRANTS IN ITS HISTORY – FOR A TOTAL OF \$2.1 MILLION

NEW YORK, NY--The Paul Rapoport Foundation, an independent private foundation established in 1987 to serve the lesbian, gay, transgender and bisexual (LGTB) communities of the metropolitan New York area, with a particular focus on the nexus between racial and economic justice, announces the largest multi-year grants in its 22-year history to five agencies in the first funding cycle of its final four years of grantmaking.

The Foundation, which plans to spend out all of its assets by 2014, is narrowing its focus and increasing its grant size so that it can help ensure the sustainability of key organizations serving youth, seniors and transgender persons in LGTB communities of color. Through emphasis on infrastructure development and collaborations as well as on expansion of current demonstrably effective programs, the Foundation hopes have significant impact on services to and advocacy for and by LGTB communities of color. To this end:

The Ali Forney Center received a three-year award totaling \$450,000 to create an in-house development department. The Ali Forney Center, established in 2002, provides safe housing and services to LGBT runaway and homeless youth (RHY) in New York City.

The Friends of Green Chimneys received a four-year award totaling \$665,000 to establish a career development program for foster care and runaway and homeless LGTB and questioning youth in its New York City Division that utilizes its acclaimed animal- and horticultural-assisted therapy models. Green Chimneys, founded in 1947, provides services for children with emotional, behavioral, social and learning challenges.

Community Healthcare Network (CHN) received a four-year award totaling \$595,000 to replicate, in its Jamaica, Queens clinic, its model health services program for people of transgender experience. CHN, founded in 1981, operates nine community health centers throughout NYC and established its Transgender clinic in the Bronx in 2002, where they currently provide medical services and support programs to approximately 200 transgender patients and their partners.

The GRIOT Circle, Inc. and SAGE received a joint two-year award of \$430,000 to build program capacity to better serve LGBT older adults of color in Brooklyn, Harlem and the Bronx. Working together, the two agencies plan to replicate each other's program models, with modifications to meet the culturally diverse needs of older adults in the three boroughs. The GRIOT Circle, founded in Brooklyn, NY in 1996, is an intergenerational, culturally diverse community-based organization serving the needs of the community of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, and transgender elders of color. SAGE (Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders), established in 1978, is the world's oldest and largest organization dedicated to improving the lives of LGBT older adults. SAGE recently launched—in partnership with GRIOT Circle and nine other organizations from around the country—the nation's only National Resource Center on LGBT Aging under a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Administration on Aging.

Since its founding, the Paul Rapoport Foundation has made nearly \$14 million in grants to LGTB communities in the New York metropolitan area. The Foundation will bring its grantmaking operations to a close as of June 30, 2014 and cease operations entirely by June 30, 2015.