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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pride Month Launches with LGBT Senior Housing and Care Expo

Pioneering Pathways: Integrating LGBT Affirming Practices into Senior Living

West Orange NJ, May 23, 2019; The 2nd annual LGBT Senior Housing and Care Expo was held on Sunday May 19th, 2019 in West Orange NJ. The event, *Pioneering Pathways Integrating LGBT Affirming Practices into Senior Living* launched LGBT Pride month, held nationwide in the month of June

LGBT Senior Housing and Care in collaboration with Garden State Equality, Hudson Pride Center, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, Sage NJ and The Health Advocacy Network presented sessions including Making the Case for LGBT Inclusion, Health Care Needs and Partnerships, Environment and Culture in Senior Living and Care, and a Legislative Update on the LGBT Seniors Act from Garden State Equality.

"Our second Expo solidified the need for detailed and forthright discussion about the needs of LGBTQIA seniors regarding their healthcare, long-term care, housing and support systems," said LGBT Senior Housing and Care Director Amy Simon. "Understanding and defining the needs of this most marginalized group. and creating and executing a system of best practice is the goal of the LGBT Senior Housing and Care program."



Panels included experts in the field including Jackie Baras, MSN, MBA/HCS, RN Co-Chair of the RWJUH PROUD Advisory Panel, Graeme Davis President of the Health Advocacy Network and RWJUH PROUD Advisory Panel member, Bianca Chanel Mayes Health and Wellness Coordinator for Garden State Equality, Michael McNett MD family physician, LGBTQIA HIV/Hep C specialist, Pam Montemurno Director of Hospital and Physician Relations for Marquis Health Services, Jan Moore activist and marriage equality leader, Aaron Potenza, MA MPHIL Director of Policy for Garden State Equality, David Rosen DBH LCSW Clinical Director at the Hudson Pride Center, Gordon Sauer SAGBE NJ Affiliate Leader and GAAMC President, Sidney Shackelford RWJUH Advisory Panel and Amy Simon LGBT Senior Housing and Care director and President of A Simon Says, LLC.

The Expo was held for the second time at Green Hill Inc in West Orange NJ. Green Hill was the first senior living community in NJ to fly the PRIDE flag beginning in June 2018. A certificate of appreciation was presented to Green Hill Inc was presented for their two-year lead sponsorship of the LGBT Senior Housing and Care program.

The 2nd Annual LGBT Senior Housing and Care Expo was sponsored by Green Hill Senior Living, Robert Wood Johnson Barnabas Health, Horizon NJ Health, and The Honorable Richard J Codey.

For more information on the LGBT Senior Housing and Care program contact Amy Simon at <u>Amy@asimonsays.com</u>. Or visit <u>www.lgbtseniorhousingandcare.com</u>, launching in June.

Photos attached:

Flag: Raising the rainbow flag with from left; David Rosen, Bainca Mayes, Amy Simon, Judy Wittler Executive Director Green Hill Inc., Gordon Sauer, Graeme Davis.
Group: Attendees of the LGBT Senior Housing and Care Expo at the rainbow flag raising.
Health Panel: From Left Dr. Mike McNett, Jackie Baras, Sidney Shackelford, David Rosen, Graeme Davis.
GH certificate group: The LGBT Senior Housing and Care group presents their certificate of appreciation to Donna Lazartic, former Executive Director of Green Hill Inc., and Judy Wittler Executive Director Green Hill Inc.

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