

MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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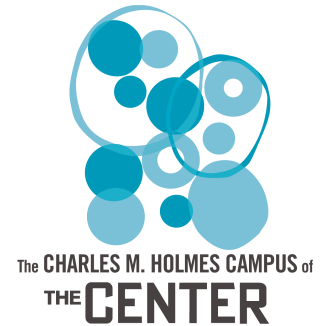
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SF-TEAM in collaboration with various transgender community programs and agencies honors the fallen with the 12th Annual San Francisco Transgender Day of Remembrance

(San Francisco - November 10, 2010) San Francisco's transgender community, with family, friends and allies, will gather on the 12th anniversary of the Transgender Day of Remembrance (DOR) to remember and honor transgender victims of violence. The Transgender Day of Remembrance observance will initially gather outside of **San Francisco City Hall** steps on **Saturday, November 20th** at 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place (Polk St.), **San Francisco, from 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM**. The program includes well-known community speakers, a reading of the 2010 known victims' names, and a vigil march through San Francisco's Tenderloin neighborhood to Ark of Refuge. A community celebration with food, music and community performances will proceed at Ark of Refuge, 1025 Howard St. (cross 6th and 7th Sts), San Francisco, from 8:00PM to 10:00PM.

SF TEAM, a program of the San Francisco LGBT Community Center, in collaboration with the Ark of Refuge, API Wellness: TRANS:THRIVE, ATE, T-LISH Programs, El-La Program para Trans Latinas, Joie de Vivre Hospitality, Lyon Martin Health Services, SFDPH - HIV Prevention Section, San Francisco LGBT Center, Transgender Economic Empowerment Initiative, Transgender Law Center, TransGender San Francisco, and UCSF's Center of Excellence for Transgender Health extends a warm welcome to community members and allies to remember and memorialize those that have passed and underscore the suffering of the transgender community for the last 12 years.

It is the belief of these community partners that "no one should be subjected to violence simply because of their gender identity or expression and no persons should be denied the basic rights that enable their safety and security."

Yavanté Thomas-Guess, co-chair of SF TEAM, states, "We decided to have San Francisco's DOR 12th year commemoration and march through the Tenderloin in order to involve those that are most at risk for transgender-related violence. Additionally, we wanted to have an opportunity to celebrate the lives of our fallen brothers and sisters by recognizing our community's resiliency in times of hardships."

The Transgender Day of Remembrance was set aside to memorialize those who were killed due to anti-transgender hatred or prejudice (transphobia). The event is held annually on November 20th, founded by Gwendolyn Ann Smith, to honor Rita Hester,

whose murder in 1998 kicked off the "Remembering Our Dead" web project and a San Francisco, California candlelight vigil in 1999. Since then, the event has grown to encompass memorials in hundreds of cities around the world.

This year, we will pay special tribute to our local fallen sisters Mariah Malina Qualls and Chloe Anne Lacey. Chloe's parents, Allison Murphy and Sean Dempsey, will honor their daughter's legacy and memory by attending this year's San Francisco's DOR to share their story and their commitment to empowering and enriching the lives of transgender people.

About SF-TEAM

San Francisco Transgender Empowerment, Advocacy & Mentorship (SF-TEAM), mission is to commemorate our heritage, to empower and nurture transgender and gender-variant individuals; and to increase visibility to promote positive social change. We are an ad-hoc group of transgender community members committed to coordinating quarterly events for the benefit of SF Bay Area community. These events are intended to unite the wide array of transgender communities to meet, educate and support each other while celebrating the diversity and richness of our lives and accomplishments. SF TEAM is open to all members of the San Francisco Bay Area transgender community and we are a program of the San Francisco LGBT Community Center.

About the San Francisco LGBT Community Center

The Center's mission is to connect our diverse community to opportunities, resources and each other to achieve our vision of a stronger, healthier, and more equitable world for LGBT people and our allies. The Center inspires and strengthens our community by: fostering greater opportunities for people to thrive; organizing for our future; celebrating our history and culture; and building resources to create a legacy for future generations. Our safety net programs serve the most vulnerable members of the community while providing a welcoming gathering place for all LGBT and allied people. Each month, the Center serves over 9,000 visitors and hosts more than 200 events. The Center is located at 1800 Market Street in San Francisco. Visit the Center at www.sfcenter.org, or call us at 415-865-5555 to learn more.

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