



AIDS RESOURCE CENTER OF WISCONSIN

Excellence in HIV Health Care

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| Contact: Bill Keeton, Vice President Government and Public Relations 414-225-1572 (o) 414-313-2036 (c) Bill.Keeton@arcw.org |
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ARCW Recognized in 2016 LGBT Healthcare Equality Index

Milwaukee... The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) - Wisconsin's largest and most comprehensive provider of HIV medical, dental, mental health and social services, as well as prevention programming - has been recognized as a "[*Leader in LGBT Healthcare Equality*](#)" by the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Foundation, the educational arm of the country's largest lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) civil rights organization.

"The AIDS epidemic continues to disproportionately affect the LGBT community, particularly young gay men," said ARCW President and Chief Executive Officer Mike Gifford. "We are honored to receive this recognition from the Human Rights Campaign Foundation demonstrating our unwavering commitment to provide the highest quality care to each patient and client that seeks treatment at our medical center."

The recognition is a part of HRC Foundation's *Healthcare Equality Index 2016*, a unique annual survey that encourages equal care for LGBT Americans by evaluating inclusive policies and practices related to LGBT patients, visitors and employees.

"Despite all the progress we've made, far too many LGBT people still lack inclusive and affirming healthcare. Leaders in LGBT Healthcare Equality are helping to change that, and, in the process, making the lives of LGBT patients and their families better each and every day," said Chad Griffin, President of the Human Rights Campaign. "LGBT people have a right to be treated equally in all aspects of our lives, and HRC celebrates the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin for its work to create an inclusive and welcoming environment for all patients."

ARCW has earned top marks in meeting non-discrimination and training criteria that demonstrate its commitment to equitable, inclusive care for LGBT patients, and their families, who can face significant challenges in securing the quality health care and respect they deserve.

ARCW is one of a select group of 496 healthcare facilities nationwide to be named *Leaders in LGBT Healthcare Equality*. Facilities awarded this title meet key criteria, including patient and employee non-discrimination policies that specifically mention sexual orientation and gender

identity, a guarantee of equal visitation for same-sex partners and parents, and LGBT health education for key staff members.

The *Healthcare Equality Index* offers healthcare facilities unique and powerful resources designed to help provide equal care to a long-overlooked group of patients, as well as assistance in complying with regulatory requirements and access to high-quality staff training.

For more information about the *Healthcare Equality Index 2016*, or to download a free copy of the report, visit www.hrc.org/hei.

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ABOUT ARCW:

The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin is home to the ARCW Medical Center – Wisconsin’s largest and fastest growing HIV health care system. Through its integrated medical, dental and mental health clinics along with pharmacy and dedicated social services, approximately 3,700 HIV patients across Wisconsin gain the health care and social services they need for long-term survival with HIV disease from ARCW.

ARCW is also a leading provider of innovative and aggressive prevention services to help at-risk individuals to stay free of HIV.