



Contact:	Bill Keeton, ARCW Vice President Government and Public Relations 414.225.1572 (o): 414.313.2036 (c): bill.keeton@arcw.org
----------	--

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin Highlighted in Healthcare Equality Index 2014
ARCW Named as “Leader in LGBT Healthcare Equality” by National Survey

Milwaukee... For the second consecutive year, the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin – the state’s largest and most comprehensive provider of integrated health care to people with HIV – 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 announcement comes as a part of HRC Foundation’s Healthcare Equality Index 2014, a unique annual survey that encourages equal care for LGBT Americans, and recognizes healthcare institutions doing the best work.

ARCW 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 honored to receive this recognition from the HRC Foundation,” said ARCW President and Chief Executive Officer Michael Gifford. “Since the early days of the AIDS epidemic when patients faced almost certain death from HIV through today’s possibility for a long, healthy life with HIV, at ARCW our health care providers and staff have always been committed to treating everyone with the dignity and respect they deserve, regardless of their race, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation or age.”

ARCW was one of a select group of 426 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.

“Leaders in LGBT Healthcare Equality change the lives of LGBT patients and their families for the better each and every day,” said Chad Griffin, HRC president. “LGBT people should be

treated equally in all aspects of our lives, and HRC celebrates ARCW for their tireless work to create an inclusive and welcoming environment for all patients.”

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 new regulatory requirements and access to high-quality staff training.

For more information about the Healthcare Equality Index 2014, or to download a free copy of the report, visit www.hrc.org/hei.

About the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin:

ARCW 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 its pharmacy and dedicated social services that include food pantries, a legal program, housing support and social work case management, 3,000 HIV patients in Wisconsin gain the health care and social services they need for long-term survival with HIV disease from ARCW.