



For immediate release

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ARCW Recognized in 2013 Healthcare Equality Index

ARCW Named as "Leader in LGBT Healthcare Equality" by National Survey

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 - is now recognized as a "Leader in LGBT Healthcare Equality" in the Healthcare Equality Index 2013. This annual survey is conducted by the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Foundation, the educational arm of the country's largest lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) organization. ARCW earned top marks for its commitment to equitable, inclusive care for LGBT patients and their families, who can face significant challenges in securing adequate healthcare.

"The AIDS epidemic continues to have a substantially disproportionate impact on the LGBT community, especially young gay men," said ARCW President and Chief Executive Officer Mike Gifford. "We are proud to earn this recognition from the Human Rights Campaign Foundation demonstrating our unwavering commitment to provide the highest quality care to everyone who comes to our medical center."

ARCW is one of a select group of 464 healthcare facilities nationwide to named "Leaders in LGBT Healthcare Equality." Facilities awarded this title meet key criteria for equitable care, including non-discrimination policies for LGBT patients and employees, a guarantee of equal visitation for same-sex partners and parents, and LGBT health education for key staff members.

"I am also proud that ARCW is among the inaugural class of a handful of LGBT Healthcare Equity Leaders in Wisconsin," Gifford said. "This recognition by the HRC is the gold standard that health care providers and systems throughout Wisconsin must embrace and achieve if we are going to reduce the serious health disparities faced by LGBT people."

HRC Health & Aging Director Shane Snowdon congratulated ARCW by saying, "LGBT patients deeply appreciate the welcoming environment provided by a Leader in LGBT Healthcare Equality. It makes a big difference to know that your local healthcare facility is fully committed to giving you the same care it gives your neighbors and co-workers."

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, and social work case management,

more than 3,000 HIV patients in Wisconsin gain the health care and social services they need for long-term survival with HIV disease from ARCW through nine statewide locations.

For more information about the Healthcare Equality Index 2013, or to download a free copy of the report, visit www.hrc.org/hei.

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