



Mary's Center

Quality healthcare. Stronger communities.

**Press Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 4, 2022**

Contact:

Lyda Vanegas
Vice President of Marketing and Communications
lvanegas@maryscenter.org
202-420-7051

Michelle Shapiro
Communications Manager
mshapiro@maryscenter.org
202-420-7008

Mary's Center Earns 2022 "LGBTQ+ Healthcare Equality Top Performer" Designation from the Human Rights Campaign Foundation's Healthcare Equality Index

Washington, DC – Today, Mary's Center announced their "LGBTQ+ Healthcare Equality Top Performer" designation in the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Foundation's 15th anniversary edition of the [Healthcare Equality Index](#) (HEI). The HEI is the nation's foremost benchmarking survey of healthcare facilities on policies and practices dedicated to the equitable treatment and inclusion of their LGBTQ+ patients, visitors and employees. A record 906 healthcare facilities actively participated in the 2022 HEI survey and 251 of those earned an "LGBTQ+ Healthcare Equality Top Performer" designation.

"Mary's Center is honored to have received a top designation in the HEI survey for the second time, demonstrating our firm commitment to LGBTQ+ participant-centered care," said Dr. Paul Doherty, Pediatrician and member of the organization's LGBTQ+ committee, who co-led the participation in the survey along with clinical mental health therapist Ayla Westgate, LCPC. "We work hard every day to place the needs of our participants and community first, and this recognition is a testament to the supportive environment free from judgement that we are fostering here at Mary's Center through this process."

"Every person deserves to have access to quality healthcare, be respected and heard by their doctor, and feel safe in the facility where they are receiving care. But LGBTQ+ people are often subject to discrimination in all spaces, including healthcare facilities, which leads to members of the community avoiding care and anticipating our voices will not be respected in an incredibly vulnerable environment," said Tari Hanneman, Director of Health & Aging at The Human Rights Campaign. "The Healthcare Equality Index, at its core, strives to ensure LGBTQ+ people are protected and affirmed by their healthcare providers and feel safe seeking services. Our HEI active participants are truly pioneering the healthcare industry by implementing robust, comprehensive LGBTQ+ inclusive policies that hopefully, because of their work, will become standard practice."



Mary's Center

Quality healthcare. Stronger communities.

The HEI evaluates and scores healthcare facilities on detailed criteria falling under four central pillars:

- Foundational Policies and Training in LGBTQ+ Patient-Centered Care;
- LGBTQ+ Patient Services and Support;
- Employee Benefits and Policies; and,
- Patient and Community Engagement.

In the 2022 report, an impressive 496 facilities earned HRC's "*LGBTQ+ Healthcare Equality Leader*" designation, receiving the maximum score in each section and earning an overall score of 100. Another 251 facilities earned the "*Top Performer*" designation with scores between 80 to 95 points and at least partial credit in each section. With 82% of participating facilities scoring 80 points or more, health care facilities are demonstrating concretely that they are going beyond the basics when it comes to adopting policies and practices in LGBTQ+ care.

The remarkable progress reflected in the 2020 HEI includes:

- **93%** of participants met the HEI's training requirements, completing more than **200,000 hours** of staff training in LGBTQ+ patient-centered care.
- **82%** of participating facilities earned either the Leader or Top Performer.
- **99%** of HEI participants documented that they include both "sexual orientation" and "gender identity" in their patient non-discrimination policy.
- **99%** of HEI participants documented that they include both "sexual orientation" and "gender identity" in their employment nondiscrimination policy.
- **81%** of HEI participants offer transgender-inclusive healthcare benefits to their employees, up from **75%** in 2019, which was the first year that it was required to receive Leader status.

To learn more about Mary's Center services to the LGBTQ community, [click here](#).

###

[About Mary's Center](#)

Founded in 1988, Mary's Center is a community health center that provides health care, educational, and social services to more than 60,000 individuals from over 50 countries. Using a holistic, multipronged approach, Mary's Center helps each participant access individualized services that set them on the path toward good health, stability, and economic independence. For more information, visit www.maryscenter.org.

[About the Human Rights Campaign Foundation](#)

The Human Rights Campaign Foundation is the educational arm of the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), America's largest civil rights organization working to achieve equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ+) people. Through its programs, the

Headquarters: 2333 Ontario Rd NW, Washington DC 20009

maryscenter.org



Mary's Center

Quality healthcare. Stronger communities.

HRC Foundation seeks to make transformational change in the everyday lives of LGBTQ+ people, shedding light on inequity and deepening the public's understanding of LGBTQ+ issues, with a clear focus on advancing transgender and racial justice. Its work has transformed the landscape for more than 15 million workers, 11 million students, 1 million clients in the adoption and foster care system and so much more. The HRC Foundation provides direct consultation and technical assistance to institutions and communities, driving the advancement of inclusive policies and practices; it builds the capacity of future leaders and allies through fellowship and training programs; and, with the firm belief that we are stronger working together, it forges partnerships with advocates in the U.S. and around the globe to increase our impact and shape the future of our work. For more information, visit www.hrc.org.

Headquarters: 2333 Ontario Rd NW, Washington DC 20009

maryscenter.org