FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 21, 2022
Media Contact: Tyler Neal
Phone: 757-640-0929, ext. 250
Email: tneal@lgbtlifecenter.org

LGBT Life Center to receive $1,800,000 in funding to expand services into Hampton, reducing barriers to accessing care for LGBTQ+ and HIV+ individuals on the Peninsula

Norfolk, VA – On March 10, 2022, the Senate passed the Fiscal Year 2022 spending package. The LGBT Life Center is proud to announce that it will receive $1,800,000 in funding to expand services in Hampton, allowing the agency to reduce barriers to accessing care for LGBTQ+ and HIV+ individuals in Hampton Roads.

The LGBT Life Center will use these funds to renovate and open a facility in Hampton which will expand medical and support services on the Peninsula. The LGBT Life Center has been providing services on the Peninsula for over 25 years but has not had the facilities to support the community. The Center currently serves an estimated 300 individuals on the Peninsula through prevention programs. This opportunity creates a new facility that is professional and affirming so LGBTQ persons and people living with HIV can access services close to home.

The Center's expansion onto the Peninsula will reduce barriers, create equitable access to medical care, and ensure the delivery of LGBTQ+ affirming and culturally competent medical care for a vulnerable community that has barriers in accessing services in mainstream venues. Additionally, the LGBT Life Center will be a safe space for LGBTQ+ youth and adults to seek support and resources.

By partnering with local community leaders, the Center will provide health education, youth and adult services, cultural competency trainings, and an affirming space for community gatherings on the Peninsula.

WHY? The LGBT Life Center has proudly served the Hampton Roads area since 1989. The mission of the LGBT Life Center includes providing testing and treatment, which is much needed in the Hampton area.

Of all new HIV diagnoses in 2020*:

- 27.9% of new HIV diagnoses in the Eastern Virginia district came from the Peninsula
- 10.3% of all new HIV diagnoses in Virginia came from the Peninsula
- 22% of individuals living with HIV in Eastern Virginia are from the Peninsula
- Peninsula saw more new HIV diagnoses in 2020 than Virginia Beach or Norfolk

Thank you to the incredible and unwavering support from **Congressman Bobby Scott, Senator Tim Kaine, and Senator Mark Warner.** Their support, combined with the support of Hampton Mayor, Donnie R. Tuck, will enable the LGBT Life Center to improve community health outcomes and offer a safe space for LGBTQ+ individuals living on the Peninsula.

LGBT LIFE CENTER
248 W. 24th Street
Norfolk, VA 23517
757-640-0929

lgbtlifecenter.org

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For more information on LGBT Life Center, or to learn how you can make a financial gift to support the expansion into the Peninsula, please visit www.lgbtlifecenter.org or call 757-640-0929.

**Data provided by the Virginia Department of Health.*

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LGBT Life Center has provided HIV and LGBTQ+ services to Hampton Roads since 1989. Formerly known as CANDII House, Full Circle CANDII, and ACCESS AIDS Care/LGBT Center of Hampton Roads until June of 2017 when it expanded its mission and rebranded as LGBT Life Center. LGBT Life Center is a trusted leader that empowers the LGBTQ communities and all people affected by HIV through improving health and wellness, strengthening families and communities, and providing transformative education and advocacy.