



July 30, 2013

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SAGE Metro Portland announces LGBT Equality Survey for Senior Housing

Portland, OR – [SAGE Metro Portland](#) aims to connect LGBT older adults with LGBT-friendly housing utilizing a new assessment survey for senior housing. The new **LGBT Equality Assessment for Senior Housing** survey offers assessments of residential facilities; retirement communities, assisted living and nursing homes, using a proprietary multifaceted assessment tool that assists in discovering the culture, policies, diversity of staff, and outreach efforts of a particular senior housing establishment.

In Portland, there are an estimated 10,000 LGBT older adults, a number that is growing as baby boomers reach retirement age. From the [LGBT Movement Advancement Project report](#); LGBT older adults face challenges that their heterosexual counterparts do not, including: unequal treatment under laws, programs and services, effects of historical and present-day social stigma and prejudice, and an increased reliance on informal “families of choice” for social connection, care and support. LGBT Housing Committee members of SAGE Metro Portland shared at this month’s meeting, “I just think it’s so sad we’ve struggled so long to gain equality. Some of my friends go to assisted living facilities and they have to go back in the closet” and “We need safe and affordable housing for LGBT seniors, the options do not widely exist yet.”

Lauren Fontanarosa, SAGE Metro Portland Coordinator, shares “Often LGBT individuals face discrimination when looking for retirement communities, assisted living and/or long-term care options; however, there are many people who work in the senior care field who are supportive and advocate for the LGBT community. The SAGE Metro Portland new Equality Survey is proactive in its approach to address the issues of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender older adults who are often challenged by the search for welcoming and inclusive senior housing options. Our new Equality Survey will allow us to get out in front of these issues now.”

Senior housing providers accepted into the program before year-end will be part of the Founders Circle, will receive free membership fees for three years and will be included in the published Housing Guide Options for LGBT older adults, available January, 2014. If you are a senior housing facility interested in participating in the survey for an opportunity to join the program, please contact the SAGE Metro Portland Coordinator at (503) 224-2640, email sage@friendlyhouseinc.org or take the [online survey](#). On-site consultations can be scheduled if assistance is needed to complete the survey. To learn more about SAGE Metro Portland, visit [SAGE Metro Portland](#), contact the SAGE Metro Portland Coordinator at (503) 224-2640 or sage@friendlyhouseinc.org.

About Friendly House

[Friendly House](#) is a non-profit neighborhood center and social service agency, founded in 1930. Its programs and services are provided at no charge or on a sliding fee scale to ensure access to all members of the community. Friendly House provides a continuum of services in three program areas: Children’s Programs, Community Recreation and Education, and Services for Seniors. Services for Seniors includes SAGE Metro Portland, previously known as Gay & Grey. SAGE Metro Portland is the local affiliate of [SAGE](#) (Services & Advocacy for GLBT elders) offering a range of services for LGBT older adults 60 and better with a goal of enhancing the lives of LGBT community members.

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