

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** January 25, 2011

**Contact:** Judy Evans, 212-741-2247 ext. 237, jevans@sageusa.org

## **PFund Foundation to Receive Excellence in Aging Award from Services & Advocacy for GLBT Elders (SAGE)**

*The SAGE award honors organizations committed to improving the lives of LGBT older adults; award to be presented at the 23<sup>rd</sup> National Conference on LGBT Equality: Creating Change on February 3, 2011.*



[NEW YORK, NY] Services & Advocacy for GLBT Elders (SAGE) announced today that it will present its annual **SAGE Advocacy Award for Excellence in Leadership on Aging Issues** to the Minneapolis-based PFund Foundation. PFund has been committed to improving the quality of services and support offered to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) older adults since 1991, when it offered its first grant to an LGBT aging project.

“We’re proud to honor PFund Foundation for its longstanding commitment to improving the lives of LGBT older adults in the Midwest,” said Michael Adams, executive director of SAGE. “As one of the region’s earliest supporters of LGBT aging issues, it has created several groundbreaking initiatives, reports and programs for LGBT older adults. Moreover, PFund has remained true to its community roots, engaging LGBT older adults in dialogue to ensure that their voices help shape appropriate and sustainable solutions to the barriers they face.”

The award will be presented at the 23<sup>rd</sup> National Conference on LGBT Equality: Creating Change in Minneapolis, MN on February 3, 2011, during the opening plenary, starting at 8:00 pm. Creating Change, organized by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, is the nation's pre-eminent political, leadership and skills-building conference for the LGBT social justice movement. For more information, visit [www.CreatingChange.org](http://www.CreatingChange.org).

“PFund thanks SAGE for this fabulous honor. We are proud of the work we have been able to incubate and support in our communities to help improve the lives of LGBT older adults in the Upper Midwest,” says Kate Eubank, PFund executive director.

Among PFund’s accomplishments over the years:

- In 2010, PFund convened a series of interviews and roundtables with LGBT older adults and community leaders, culminating in the release of a first-of-its-kind report, *Equality as we Age: a Report on LGBT Seniors in Minnesota*. The report gave an overview of common challenges facing Minnesota’s LGBT older adult community and recommended changes to facilitate improved health and wellness, visibility, social interaction and services for LGBT elders.
- PFund will continue to convene a group of LGBT older adults and community organizations to address the recommendations laid out in the report.
- In the past year, PFund also collaborated on the release of both regional and national versions of the research report, *Ready to Serve? The Aging Network and Older LGB and T People*, which describes the national aging network’s readiness to meet the specific needs of

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the growing numbers of LGBT older adults in this country. The report was authored in partnership with the Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging, the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a), the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Services & Advocacy for GLBT Elders (SAGE), and the University of Minnesota College of Education and Human Development.

- In 2003, PFund created the Marystone Fund for Senior Initiatives, an endowed fund to address LGBT aging issues.
- PFund's ongoing support of regional LGBT aging groups led to the establishment of Training to Serve (TTS), whose mission is to train aging services providers to ensure that LGBT people are able to achieve a satisfying quality of life in later years.
- PFund has also shown a commitment to the full diversity of LGBT communities, most recently through a successful, multi-year Racial Equity Initiative, which has supported the leadership and capacity of local LGBT people of color organizations in the Twin Cities area.

PFund Foundation traces its roots back to 1987, when four friends joined together to create a modest fund of \$2,000 aimed at supporting and developing their LGBT community. The foundation now annually awards thousands of dollars in grants and scholarships to LGBT-related individuals and organizations throughout the Upper Midwest—in Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin. For more information, visit [www.pfundonline.org](http://www.pfundonline.org).

*Services & Advocacy for GLBT Elders (SAGE) is the world's largest and oldest organization dedicated to improving the lives of LGBT older adults. SAGE has pioneered programs and services for the aging LGBT community, provided technical assistance and training to expand opportunities for LGBT older people across the country, and provided a national voice on LGBT aging issues. In 2005, SAGE became the first official LGBT delegate at the White House Conference on Aging. In 2010, SAGE was awarded a three-year \$900,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Administration on Aging to seed the creation of the nation's only National Resource Center on LGBT Aging. Learn more at [sageusa.org](http://sageusa.org) and [lgbtagingcenter.org](http://lgbtagingcenter.org).*

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