

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACTS:

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HIGH RESOLUTION PHOTOS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

Live Out Loud Youth Project presents...

PHOTOVOICE

A photography and written word exhibit taking you inside the experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning and allied youth in Berkshire County

Pittsfield, MA — Beginning March 2nd, the Lichtenstein Center for the Arts hosts **PHOTOVOICE**, an exhibit of original photos taken by local LGBT youth addressing a series of questions including: What inspires you to be who you are? Where do you find support? What do homophobia and transphobia look like and feel like? What matters in relationships? What message do you want to give to other LGBT youth? The photos will be displayed with text from discussions that took place between the youth as they were talking about their experiences, and what they wanted to express in their photographs.

This unique, raw, and moving exhibit will provide a window into the experiences of LGBT youth in our community. It is intended to empower the youth to express their strengths and their needs; to raise public awareness about the experiences of LGBT youth, and to provide an opportunity for community members, legislators, educators, health care providers, and youth serving agencies to develop an action plan to address the needs identified by the project.

The exhibit will be open to the public during gallery hours from Wednesday March 2nd through Saturday March 5th. Live Out Loud Youth Project invites parents, families, friends of youth, youth serving agencies & organizations, educators, legislators, art lovers, and interested community members to the following events which will take place in the gallery of the Lichtenstein Center for the Arts. Both events are free and open to the public.

A **Community Forum** to view the exhibit and discuss action plan for addressing the needs of LBGT youth will be held from 10am-12pm on Wednesday March 2nd. Bagels and coffee will be provided.

A **Reception and Fundraiser** with musical performance and speeches by the youth involved in the project will be held on Friday March 4th from 6pm-8pm. Hors D'oeuvres will be provided.

This project was facilitated by the Live Out Loud Youth Project, funded by Berkshire Area Health Education Center, Department of Public Health, Garret Lee Smith Memorial Act, SAMHSA Grant # U79SM57402-05.

For more information about the events, call Sara Shuff (413) 358-3038 or Kelly Heck (413)358-5697 or email sarashuff@affirmativecounseling.net or kellyheck@affirmativecounseling.net

Photovoice Exhibit

March 2nd through March 5th

Community Forum March 2nd 10am-12pm

Reception & Fundraiser March 5th 6pm-8pm

Gallery hours: Wed-Sat 12 noon-5pm

The Lichtenstein Center for the Arts

28 Renne Ave, Pittsfield, MA 01201

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