COMMUNITY FOUNDATION BOULDER COUNTY

INSPIRING IDEAS. IGNITING ACTION.™

OUT BOULDER COUNTY

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MEDIA RELEASE

Community Foundation and Out Boulder County host "The Gayla"

New partnership re-imagines annual Open Door Fund dinner to recognize and celebrate the strengths and contributions of Boulder County's LGBTQ+ community

Boulder (April 15, 2018) – Since 1996, Community Foundation Boulder County has stood with our LGBTQ+ community through the Open Door Fund. Today, thanks to a strong, committed group of volunteers and donors, the fund has surpassed its goal of a $1M endowment.

It all started in 1992, when Colorado voters approved an amendment to the constitution that would have allowed discrimination against LGBTQ+ people in the workplace. In response, the Community Foundation applied for a matching grant opportunity issued by the Tides Foundation to ignite positive action. From there – raising $25K from both gay and straight community members through small dinners that developed into the popular Open Door Fund galas – the bootstrap operation was on its way.

This year, for the first time, the Community Foundation is partnering with Out Boulder County to host "The Gayla." The evolution of the foundation's annual Open Door Fund dinners, "The Gayla" will benefit LGBTQ+ programs of Out Boulder County, in addition to a host of grantees of the foundation's Open Door Fund. At the sold-out event on April 20, Seagate Technology will receive the Corporate Changemaker Award, recognizing its active emphasis on inclusiveness, and Colorado's First Gentleman Marlon Reis will be honored with this year's individual Changemaker Award. Reis – Gov. Jared Polis' partner – has served on Out Boulder County's Board of Directors, and worked with the Community Foundation to support local LGBTQ+ organizations. "The Gayla" will further feature headliner comedian Paula Poundstone.

"From seniors to youth, our LGBTQ+ community continues to face persistent challenges, including disproportionate incidents of hate crimes," says Jeff Hirota, CEO, Community Foundation Boulder County. "Additionally, according to the foundation's TRENDS Report, LGBTQ+ high schoolers report higher rates of dating violence, including sexual assault, than their straight peers.

"Through the Open Door Fund, we're working alongside other local nonprofits to support our LGBTQ population by building community, facilitating dialogue, fundraising, and grantmaking."

As a longtime grantee of the Community Foundation, Out Boulder County specializes in educating, advocating, and providing services, programs, and support for Boulder County's LGBTQ+ communities. "From youth and young adult programming to a range of support groups – including for seniors – to addiction recovery, and social and spiritual programs, we encourage empowerment," says Mardi Moore, Executive Director, Out Boulder County. "By partnering with the Community Foundation this year, 'The Gayla' is sure to be more exciting and galvanizing than before – not only benefitting our LGBTQ community members, but also for their friends, families, advocates, and allies."

For more information, or to arrange an interview(s), please contact Gretchen Minekime, Vice President of Communications, Community Foundation Boulder County: Gretchen@commfound.org, 303.442.0436 x107.

Community Foundation Boulder County

For 28 years, Community Foundation Boulder County has been a community catalyst, responding to immediate needs and anticipating future challenges. Through informed decision-making, we inspire ideas, ignite action and mobilize resources to improve the quality of life for all. Advancing inclusivity and providing leadership and on key issues, the foundation collaborates with community-minded individuals and organizations that want to make a difference, accomplishing more together than we do alone. Since its founding in 1991, the foundation has granted more than $82M to nonprofits focused on health and human services, education, civic engagement, arts and culture, and animals and the environment. commfound.org

Out Boulder County

Out Boulder County is a 501(c)(3) organization that educates, advocates, and provides program services and support to Boulder County's lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) communities. In 1994, several LGBTQ community members in the City of Boulder collaborated on a series of events to celebrate Gay Pride; this collective was called Boulder Pride, which received a grant from the Gill Foundation to secure a community center (now known as "Pridehouse") and offer services to the local LGBTQ community. In 2016, Out Boulder changed its name to Out Boulder County, and opened an additional office in the City of Longmont. outboulder.org

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