COMMUNITY FOUNDATION BOULDER COUNTY

INSPIRING IDEAS. IGNITING ACTION.™

OUT BOULDER COUNTY

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MEDIA RELEASE

Colorado's First Gentleman Marlon Reis to receive Changemaker Award

LGBTQ+ advocates to be recognized at annual gala hosted by Community Foundation Boulder County and Out Boulder County

Boulder (April 15, 2018) – On April 20, Community Foundation Boulder County and Out Boulder County are partnering to host "The Gayla" – the evolution of the foundation's annual Open Door Fund dinner, this year benefitting 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 at Boulder's St. Julien Hotel, 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.

"As the First Gentleman of Colorado, Mr. Reis seeks to advance civil rights causes, as well as environmental causes and animal welfare," says Jeff Hirota, CEO, Community Foundation Boulder County. "Our LGBTQ+ community faces persistent challenges. It's a privilege to honor an individual who's committed to overcoming those challenges – for himself and his family, and on behalf of our community as a whole."

"The local LGBTQ+ community definitely has a friend in Marlon Reis," adds Mardi Moore, Executive Director, Out Boulder County.

"As an activist for LGBTQ+ rights, I'm truly honored to be recognized with this Changemaker award," says Reis. "I am lucky to be the first gentleman of Colorado – the first same-sex partner to any Governor in the United States. But this isn't about me – it's about helping others lead better, easier, and more truthful lives."

He continues, “It’s about speaking up on behalf of those who – historically – haven’t had a voice, and who need a champion. It’s about setting an example and inspiring the next generation of LGBTQ+ activists.

“I hope that – through my position – I can be a stepping stone for people who come after me, who won’t have to worry about the same things I worry about in pursuit of equality under the law and in the eyes of our fellow Americans. I thank the Community Foundation for this honor, and look forward to celebrating all the progress we have made together.”

“The Gayla” – featuring headliner comedian Paula Poundstone – will further honor Seagate Technology with this year’s Corporate Changemaker Award. 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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