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New York Adoption and Foster Care Agency Earns Human Rights Campaign Foundation’s “All Children – All Families” Seal of Recognition for its Work with LGBT Families

You Gotta Believe earns seal for implementing fully inclusive policies in working with LGBT families

WASHINGTON – The Human Rights Campaign Foundation, the educational arm of the nation’s largest lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender civil rights organization, announced today that You Gotta Believe! The Older Child Adoption and Permanency Movement, Inc., has earned the *All Children—All Families* seal of recognition. The New York adoption agency earned the honor by meeting the required criteria for fully inclusive policies and practices in working with the LGBT community. The Human Rights Campaign’s *All Children—All Families* initiative provides a comprehensive framework for agencies to establish policies and practices that welcome, support and affirm LGBT foster and adoptive parents. The seal will be presented to Susan Grundberg, executive director and CEO at an event at the LGBT Community Center this evening.

"You Gotta Believe has long been committed to our work with LGBT youth and families," said Susan Grundberg, executive director and CEO. "LGBT teens and young adults are disproportionately represented in the foster care system and are among those most at risk to age out of foster care without lifetime parents. And we know that there are many thousands of potential parents in the LGBT community that can make a profound impact in their own lives and the lives of children they adopt. The HRC assessment was an important process for us and one that has only strengthened our ability to serve the community. We are thrilled to receive this recognition and look forward to our continued and expanded work to support both LGBT youth and families."

"You Gotta Believe has joined the family of child welfare organizations that are truly committed to creating more loving families by removing barriers to qualified LGBT adoptive parents. LGBT individuals and couples in New York have another trusted resource to turn to when pursuing adoption," added Ellen Kahn, director of HRC’s Children, Youth, and Families Program and a professional social worker.

The “All Children – All Families” initiative, launched in 2007, promotes policies and practices that welcome LGBT foster and adoptive parents. The program seeks to enhance LGBT cultural competence among child welfare professionals and educate LGBT people about opportunities to become foster or adoptive parents to waiting children. To date, ACAF has over 60 participating agencies across the country, and has awarded 34 seals of recognition. More information about the initiative can be found at www.hrc.org/acaf.

WHAT: HRC to honor You Gotta Believe. with the HRC All Children – All Families Seal of Recognition

WHEN: Tuesday Dec. 3, 2013, 6:30 p.m.

WHERE: The LGBT Community Center, 208 W 13th St., New York, NY 10011

The Human Rights Campaign Foundation is the educational arm of America's largest civil rights organization working to achieve lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender equality. By inspiring and engaging all Americans, HRC strives to end discrimination against LGBT citizens and realize a nation that achieves fundamental fairness and equality for all.

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