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NEWS RELEASE

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PFLAG Salisbury, Inc. Receives \$5,000 “A Community Thrives” Grant From USA TODAY NETWORK and The Gannett Foundation

PFLAG Salisbury, Inc. will receive a \$5,000 Local Operating Grant for LGBTQ+ Youth Programming.

October 7, 2021 (Salisbury, MD) – PFLAG Salisbury, Inc. was announced a grant recipient of *A Community Thrives*, a grantmaking and crowd-funding program from the USA TODAY NETWORK and a part of the Gannett Foundation, today. PFLAG Salisbury, Inc. will receive a \$5,000 Local Operating Grant for LGBTQ+ Youth Programming, in partnership with Faith Lutheran Church of Salisbury.

A Community Thrives supports non-profit organizations with projects focused on community building and has helped to contribute more than \$17 million since 2017. This year, *A Community Thrives* engaged participants in 45 states. *PFLAG Salisbury, Inc.* was named one of 2 winners in the State of Maryland.

PFLAG Salisbury, Inc.’s mission is to support LGBTQ+ people and their allies, increase the visibility of the LGBTQ+ community, educate the local community on practices that create affirming environments for LGBTQ+ people, and to work with organizations and government to create policies and procedures that support and affirm LGBTQ+ people. The *A Community Thrives* grant will support a years’ worth of youth programming, including weekly online meet-ups and monthly in-person activities for LGBTQ+ youth in our local community, ages 12-18. Programming is offered in conjunction with one of our faith partners, Faith Lutheran Church of Salisbury.

Executive Director, Mark DeLancey, says “it is important that we serve our local LGBTQ+ youth, working to create opportunities for them to connect with each other, develop friendships, and serve as sources of support for one another. We are very excited that, with funding from an *A Community Thrives* Local Operating Grant, we are able to both continue our existing programming, and expand it to serve more youth here locally. Thank you to our partner, Faith Lutheran Church of Salisbury, for assisting us in securing this grant.”

“We are proud of the work PFLAG Salisbury, Inc. has done to enhance the Salisbury area. At Gannett, we take pride in supporting the organizations that make a positive impact in their communities. Through *A Community Thrives*, we lend financial support to that purpose as well as rally the whole community to champion a good and meaningful cause,” said CEO and Chairman Mike Reed

About A Community Thrives

A Community Thrives is a grantmaking and crowd-funding program from the USA TODAY NETWORK and is part of the Gannett Foundation. A Community Thrives supports non-profit organizations with projects focused on community building and has helped to contribute more than \$17 million since 2017.

About USA TODAY NETWORK

USA TODAY NETWORK, part of Gannett Co, Inc. (NYSE: GCI), is the largest local-to-national media organization in the country, powered by our award-winning newsrooms and marketing solutions business. With deep roots in local communities spanning the U.S. with more than 250 local media brands, plus USA TODAY, we engage more than 140 million people every month through a diverse portfolio of multi-platform content offerings and experiences. For more information, visit www.gannett.com.

About PFLAG Salisbury, Inc.

PFLAG is the largest Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning/Queer (LGBTQ+) ally organization in the nation. PFLAG envisions a world where diversity is celebrated and all people are respected, valued, and affirmed inclusive of their sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression. By meeting people where they are and collaborating with others, PFLAG realizes its vision by providing support for families, allies, and people who are LGBTQ+; providing education about the unique issues and challenges facing people who are LGBTQ+; and providing advocacy in the community to change attitudes and create policies and laws that achieve full equality for people who are LGBTQ+. Salisbury’s PFLAG Chapter was founded in 2015 and offers a variety of programming and events, including youth programming, general meetings, community picnics, drag shows, and more. For more information, visit www.salisburypflag.org.

About Faith Lutheran Church of Salisbury

Faith Lutheran Church of Salisbury is a congregation of the ELCA - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Delaware-Maryland Synod. As a Reconciling in Christ community, they are an inclusive community of faith, where everyone is welcomed and God’s arms are open wide. They meet in-person for Sunday worship at 11:00 am in their sanctuary with a full liturgy and singing of hymns. Masks are optional and all are welcome. For more information, visit <https://www.facebook.com/FaithLutheranSalisbury>

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