



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Rosie's Place Marches in Boston Pride Parade**

*Staff members show commitment and support for LGBT rights*

BOSTON--This year Rosie's Place--the first women-only shelter in the U.S.--marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding, and on Saturday the organization celebrated another first: marching in the Boston Pride Parade.

Rosie's Place staff members and their friends and family participated in the parade to demonstrate the organization's longstanding commitment to LGBT rights. Since its beginning, Rosie's Place has offered a safe haven for LGBT women seeking shelter, who all too often encounter discrimination, harassment and violence when they are already at their most vulnerable. Rosie's Place has provided LGBT-inclusive training for staff and made the overnight shelter and other services available to those in need who self-identify as female.

Rosie's Place also showed its support for the Equal Access Bill, which would ensure that transgender people are protected from discrimination in public places like hospitals, nursing homes, public transportation, and retail establishments.

"In 1974, when Rosie's Place founder Kip Tiernan saw women disguising themselves as men to receive services at what were then exclusively male shelters, she said, 'We can do better than that,'" said Rosie's Place Executive Director Sue Marsh, "and she went on to open our doors in the South End. That's why on June 14<sup>th</sup> we marched for the lesbian and trans-identified guests of Rosie's Place, and the LGBT community as a whole, because we know together, we can do better."

Four decades after its founding, Rosie's Place not only provides meals and shelter but also creates answers for 12,000 women a year through wide-ranging support, housing and education services. Rosie's Place relies solely on the generous support of individuals, foundations and corporations and does not accept any city, state or federal funding.

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