

## **Press Release**

For Immediate Release: November 2, 2007

Manchester, CT

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### **Contact:**

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### **Headline:**

Recognition Event Pays Tribute to True Colors Volunteers and Donors

### **Body:**

True Colors will honor the dozens of program volunteers who contributed more than 10,000 volunteer hours over the past year on Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> from Noon to 3:00 PM in the Zachs Community Room at the University of Connecticut, School of Social Work, 17908 Asylum Ave in West Hartford, "I was astonished when I did the math." noted True Colors Board President, Cheryl Parks, "If we ascribed CT minimum wage to these hours, volunteers donated over \$78,550 last year. If not for the passion of these dedicated volunteers, our overall budget would have to be almost 20% higher! In addition, individual donors provided more than half of our overall budget last year. Certainly, we couldn't do what we do without THEM!"

True Colors Board Development Chair, Nick D'Agostino, added, "True Colors has changed the landscape for LGBTI youth across Connecticut with our mentoring program, annual conference – now in its 15<sup>th</sup> year – our training and our policy collaboration with the Department of Children and Families. The truth is, though, we couldn't have done it without our volunteers! For example, volunteers donate over 5,000 hours a year to the mentoring program. For many of our youth, their mentor is the ONLY person in their lives not paid to care about them. With the conference, volunteers account for about 3, 250 hours a year. If not for them, we would have to price the conference well out of reach for most youth attendees."

"We are so delighted to be able to say 'thank you' in a special way this year," Says Executive Director, Robin McHaelen. For the first time, our 'thank you' volunteer recognition will be free to all True Colors Conference, Safe Harbors and Mentoring program volunteers, as well as our individual donors. We will have a light brunch, non-alcoholic drinks, and a volunteer recognition award certificate for attendees. As part of our commitment to fiscal responsibility, spouses, admirers, and interested others who want to attend will be asked to make a 'free will donation' to help cover the costs of their participation. We know it is going to be a wonderful, joyous event – and a great way to say a well deserved, very enthusiastic THANK YOU to the people who make our work possible!

For more information or to RSVP for this event, please call True Colors at 860-649-7386, ext 204.

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True Colors works to create a world where youth, adults and families of all sexual orientations and gender identities are valued and affirmed. We challenge all forms of oppression through education, training, advocacy, youth leadership development, mentoring and direct services to youth and those responsible for their well-being. We can be reached at 888-565-5551, or on the web at [www.ourTrueColors.org](http://www.ourTrueColors.org)