

RYAN PALMER OF SOUTHBOROUGH HONORED FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR LGBT YOUTH IN SCHOOL

-- Greater Boston PFLAG awards scholarship at April 3 event --

April 6, 2014 (Boston, MA)-- Greater Boston PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people) is proud to announce that Ryan Palmer of Southborough was the recipient of the 2014 Elsie Frank Scholarship Award. Since 1998, Greater Boston PFLAG has awarded scholarships to high school students who have improved their school climate for LGBTQ youth and their allies and whose actions have created greater support and acceptance of LGBTQ youth.

A senior at St. Mark's School in Southborough, Ryan was honored for his work to amend the non-discrimination policy at this school to include protections for transgender and gender nonconforming students. In addition to changing the name of the school's Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) to Gender-Sexuality Alliance to further trans and gender nonconforming students, Ryan has organized trips to LGBTQ-focused conferences in the area and organized the school's first Spirit Day.

Ryan was honored together with five other area high school scholarship recipients at Greater Boston PFLAG's *Pride and Passion* event benefitting PFLAG's work in creating safe school and family environments for LGBTQ youth. Attracting over 500 hundred attendees, the April 3rd event at the Seaport World Trade Center was co-chaired by **Stanley N. Griffith**, Chair Emeritus of Greater Boston PFLAG, **Sarah C. Libbey**, Executive at Fidelity Investments, and **Holly Safford**, Founder and President of The Catered Affair. With Honorary Co-Chairs **Rufus Gifford**, Ambassador to the Kingdom of Denmark and past Pride and Passion Honoree, and his partner **Dr. Stephen DeVincent**, the event honored **Joanne Jaxtimer**, BNY Mellon Regional Executive.

About Greater Boston PFLAG

Greater Boston PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people) is dedicated to fostering LGBTQ-inclusive families, schools and communities through support, education and advocacy. For over 21 years, Greater Boston PFLAG has provided award-winning, highly effective bullying and violence prevention services. Each year, Greater Boston PFLAG delivers over 200 educational programs statewide, reaching over 15,000 people in middle and high schools, religious organizations, colleges, corporations, and at conferences for healthcare, counseling, and prevention specialists. Greater Boston PFLAG helps change attitudes and creates an environment of understanding so that LGBTQ family members and friends can live in a world that is safe and inclusive.