

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jessica Halem (773) 572-5116

Night/cell: (773) 505-3140

Email: jessica@lccp.org

Thousands to Party at Largest Midwest Fundraiser for Lesbian Health

Chicago, IL (January 5, 2006) – The Coming Out Against Cancer Ball began as a pot luck for a few hundred self described woman warriors and today, 15 years later, is the largest fundraiser for lesbians in the Midwest, bringing together over 2,000 men and women and raising over 1.5 million dollars over the years. The funds raised by the Ball have been the main source of revenue for the Lesbian Community Cancer Project's (LCCP) work advocating for lesbian health. This year, the LCCP Ball will be held for the 10th time at the South Shore Cultural Center, 7059 South Shore Drive in Chicago, on Saturday, February 4, 2006 with a sit-down dinner at 6:30 and Ball from 8:00 pm until Midnight.

LCCP began as a support network for lesbian survivors of cancer and their partners. With a hotline and support group, they began sharing information and courage to fight a devastating disease. Over the years, LCCP took this fight to other fronts as well, ensuring that the health of lesbians, bisexuals and transgender people were better understood in the eyes of lawmakers, mainstream cancer agencies, funders, doctors, nurses and public health officials. The goal of LCCP is ensure that women can be honest and open with healthcare providers before, during and after illness because when women's sexuality and gender is better understood and supported then prevention, diagnosis and treatment have a greater impact.

"Much has changed for lesbians in the past 15 years and LCCP is proud to have been a force in that change. Today we fight for lesbians, bisexuals and transgender people across Chicago, the state of Illinois and the nation, ensuring that everyone has access to the healthcare they deserve," said Jessica Halem, Executive Director of LCCP.

The event begins with the 15th Anniversary Dinner at 6:30 pm which includes a sit-down dinner, open bar, and the Coming Out Against Cancer Awards. Being honored this year for their commitment to LCCP and the lesbian community are: Sidetrack Video Bar, the Chicago Foundation for Women, and Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association Women's Softball League. Tickets for the dinner begin at \$150 and tables of 10 begin at \$1,500 and all dinner tickets include

admission to the Ball. Tickets for the dinner can be purchased in advance and only through LCCP on their website, www.lccp.org, or by calling (773) 572-5117.

Then, at 8:00 pm, another 2,000 men and women will pour into South Shore for the Ball. Until Midnight, guests will enjoy dancing in two rooms with a mix of DJs, silent auction, a game of post office to meet people, raffle, dessert bar, and festive cash bars hosted by some of Chicago's top lesbian and gay spots. Tickets for the Ball are \$60 in advance and \$75 at the door and can purchased now on www.lccp.org or at Women and Children First bookstore. Information about valet parking and offsite parking can also be found on www.lccp.org

“Fifteen years ago this event was sponsored by local businesses from the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community. Today, our local sponsors are joined by such national gold sponsors as: American Airlines, American Family Insurance, Miller Brewing Company, olivia, and TimeOut. It is a thrilling time to be a lesbian in Chicago,” said Jennifer Rangel, Co-Chair.

The vision of the Lesbian Community Cancer Project is that lesbians, bisexuals and those who are transgender have appropriate and accessible health care in a supportive and bias-free environment. The mission of the Lesbian Community Cancer Project is to advance the health and quality of life for lesbians, bisexuals and those who are transgender through advocacy and public education.

[b-roll and photos available upon request]

###