

For Immediate Release

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Community Foundation's HOPE Fund Launches Media Partnership to Promote Growing LGBT Leadership of Color

Detroit – The **Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan** announced today a unique media partnership between Issue Media Group and Between The Lines. Aimed at highlighting local LGBT leaders of color, the partnership is supported by The HOPE Fund's Racial Equity Initiative.

The first step in the partnership is the wide release and distribution of a HOPE Fund-produced short film, called "Growing Leadership." Over the last several years, The HOPE Fund has made grants to several organizations serving LGBT people of color. The film focuses on the leaders of these organizations and what it takes to incite and inspire others to make the region a more welcoming place.

"There is exciting momentum within the region's LGBT community, in great part due to the growing base of leaders serving communities of color," said Allan D. Gilmour, chair of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan and co-chair of The HOPE Fund. "The HOPE Fund is very pleased to release this film, which highlights several of our Racial Equity Initiative grantees and their leadership philosophies and experiences."

The 3-minute film is available at both www.modeldmedia.com and www.pridesource.com

Subsequent to the film, BTL and Issue Media Group (parent company of Model D Media and MetroMode) will showcase a number of LGBT leaders of color through written and video interviews over the coming year.

This activity builds on a series of activities by The HOPE Fund over the last four years to help build the capacity of LGBT people of color communities through its Racial Equity Initiative.

*Created in 1994, **The HOPE Fund of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan** exists to strengthen and empower organizations that serve the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities, by supporting important charitable activities in southeast Michigan and by encouraging individuals to consider what they can do with their personal philanthropy. Since its inception, more than \$1.3 million in grants have been made through the Foundation's HOPE Fund. The HOPE Fund also helps people carry out their charitable wishes to benefit the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities.*

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