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THE MATTHEW SHEPARD FOUNDATION APPOINTS GREGORY LEWIS MANAGING DIRECTOR TO FACILITATE LONG TERM PLANNING AND STRATEGIC GROWTH

Casper, WY – The Matthew Shepard Foundation today announced the appointment of Gregory Lewis as its Managing Director.

“We are very fortunate to have someone with Gregory’s proven background in long term planning and strategic growth join the Foundation,” said Judy Shepard, Executive Director of the Matthew Shepard Foundation. “He has always been a good friend and important advisor to the Foundation. His extensive experience in program, donor and financial management will bring the Foundation to a new level of success. We are very excited to have Gregory officially join the team at the Matthew Shepard Foundation”.

As Managing Director, Gregory will supervise the day-to-day operations, activities and direct all program, fundraising and event planning for the Matthew Shepard Foundation. He will also assist Judy Shepard, in her role as Executive Director, in the overall management and strategic growth of the organization.

“For the past seven years, Judy and her Foundation staff have honored Matthew by developing and facilitating incredible programs that have truly changed the hearts and minds of people across this country,” said Lewis, who had been serving on the Foundation’s Advisory Board for the past two years. “I am truly honored to have this opportunity to play a role in growing and enhancing the incredible work the Foundation does every day to replace hate with understanding, compassion and acceptance.”

Gregory brings more than ten years of nonprofit experience with him to the Foundation, with the last seven served at the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), the nation’s largest gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender civil rights organization. Gregory served as a member of the senior management team of HRC’s Development & Membership Division, where he played a key role in the significant revenue and membership growth of the organization. His job responsibilities included the oversight and management of the division’s operations and its \$32 million annual fundraising budget, as well as the development of new revenue streams for the organization.

“I can think of no one more uniquely suited to do this important and noble work than Gregory Lewis. His brilliance and his passion have been on display each day that I have had the privilege to work with him,” said Joe Solmonese, President of HRC & MSF Honorary Board Member. “He has worked closely with Judy Shepard and the Matthew Shepard Foundation while at HRC and embodies the drive and commitment that they need. While I am sad to see Gregory leave the HRC family, I know that we will continue to work together and have an even stronger and supportive working relationship with the Matthew Shepard Foundation.”

“Gregory is one of the most exciting and innovative employees we ever had at the Human Rights Campaign,” said Elizabeth Birch, former Executive Director of HRC & MSF Honorary Board Member. “His imagination knew no bounds and he created magic with everything he touched. The Matthew Shepard Foundation has added a wonderful person to its team.”

“For years, I’ve admired Gregory Lewis’ skills in building business partnerships with nonprofit causes,” said Bob Witeck, CEO of Witeck Combs Communications & MSF Honorary Board Member. “I’m confident he will bring valuable new energy to the Matthew Shepard Foundation’s mission and

help amplify Judy's vital leadership role and outreach. She truly has a universal message that deserves to reach all communities."

Gregory will be based in the Foundation's Denver office. For a photo of Judy Shepard & Gregory Lewis please visit: http://www.matthewshepard.org/press_images.html

The Matthew Shepard Foundation was founded by Dennis and Judy Shepard in memory of their 21-year old son, Matthew, who was murdered in an anti-gay hate crime in Wyoming in October 1998. Created to honor Matthew in a manner that was appropriate to his dreams, beliefs and aspirations, the Foundation seeks to "Replace Hate with Understanding, Compassion & Acceptance" through its varied educational programs and by continuing to tell Matthew's story. For more information, please go to www.MatthewShepard.org

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