

For release: October 3rd, 2024

Media Contact:

Laura Henry
QRC Manager
lhenry@allianceor.org
458-250-5745 (cell)

HIV Alliance Announces the Launch of The Lavender Network

A collaborative expansion of the Queer Resource Center will allow for the area's first LGBTQ+ Community Center to open in November 2024

(Eugene, OR) The Queer Resource Center (QRC) located at 1185 Arthur Street in Eugene will be renamed and relocated to a new location in November 2024 in collaboration with several community partners. Since 2021, HIV Alliance has collaborated closely with [TransPonder](#), with both agencies offering services to Lane County's LGBTQ+ community out of the current location. HIV Alliance received a Community Benefit Initiative grant from Trillium Community Health Plan in 2023 with the goal of broadening the services offered at the current QRC. This grant has enabled the center to expand and welcome additional community partners including [Queer Eugene](#), [Pride Day Equality Project](#) (the nonprofit that produces Eugene Pride), and the [Eugene Performing Arts Center](#).

With this growth and an increased focus on community-building and social services, the Queer Resource Center is excited to announce its rebranding as *The Lavender Network* and a new location at 440 Maxwell Rd. in Eugene. The new name pays homage to a historic queer newsmagazine that was published monthly in Eugene from 1986 to 1994. In a gesture of respect, the center sought and received permission from the magazine's former publisher, Ron Zahn, to carry forward the name and its legacy.

"We want to be more than a resource center," said Laura Henry, Project Manager. "This effort has evolved significantly, and there are so many exciting partnerships and events we want to implement. We see this now as a true community hub, and The Lavender Network name reflects both the collaborative nature of our work and the rich local queer history we aim to honor."

On September 1, 2024, HIV Alliance signed a lease for The Lavender Network's new home at 440 Maxwell Road, Eugene, a space shared with the Oregon-Idaho Methodist Conference and the BeLonging Space. Formerly the Trinity United Methodist Church, the building already serves as a daycare, food pantry, and seasonally hosts the Egan Warming Center. All these services will continue to operate alongside The Lavender Network.

The new location will allow for expanded offerings for the area's LGBTQ+ community, including spaces for social gatherings and community events which are not possible at the current location. It will offer a year-round location for Eugene Pride, a first in that nonprofit's 30-year history, as well as a home for Queer Eugene and other local nonprofits that currently do not have office space.

Rev. Wendy Joy Woodworth, Cascadia & Crater Lake Districts Superintendent & Missional Strategist, OR-ID Annual Conference, welcomed the partnership, stating to the former congregation on September 4th: "We

HIVAlliance

Executive Board: Board President: Omar Al-Rais | President-Elect: Jayden Ruff | Secretary: Jesse Quinn | Treasurer: Paul Szczesiul

1195 City View Street, Eugene, OR 97402
541-342-5088 | hivalliance.org

believe this collaboration is in line with Trinity UMC's longstanding commitment as a Reconciling Congregation.”

The Lavender Network is set to officially open its doors for services at 440 Maxwell Road, Eugene, on Monday, November 4, 2024. A grand opening celebration is expected sometime in 2025 after all partner organizations have an opportunity to finalize operations and services being offered at the new location. Brooks McLain and Renee Yandel are available for media interviews. Please reach out to Laura Henry to arrange an interview: 458-250-5745 or lhenry@allianceor.org.

About HIV Alliance

HIV Alliance was founded in Eugene, Oregon in 1994 to support people living with HIV/AIDS and prevent new HIV infections. We are committed to not only addressing our clients' needs for HIV-specific care and prevention services, but to reducing all barriers to wellness. Our prevention and care programs work together to support and protect people living with and at-risk for HIV in our community, and we are able to provide comprehensive support to respond to a variety of needs experienced by our clients.