



Advocacy &  
Services for  
LGBTQ+ Elders

**We refuse to be invisible®**

**SAGE's National LGBTQ+ Elder Housing Initiative (NHI) Baltimore Monthly Newsletter: Nov. 2023**

*SAGE's NHI is dedicated to providing information that helps LGBTQ+ elders and allies make informed decisions when it comes to housing. For LGBTQ+ older people, finding a place that's welcoming—where they can feel free to be themselves and be treated respectfully and compassionately—is a mainstay of our program.*

---

**Welcome**

We are so thrilled to bring you our newsletter about SAGE's housing work in Baltimore. This monthly newsletter will provide information and updates about the project, as well as opportunities to get involved. Thank you for joining us on this journey!

Hello, and Happy November! As the seasons change, we wish you beautiful weather, warm memories, and sweet time with loved ones!

**Honoring Caregivers in our Community**

November is National Family Caregivers Month. This designation was created to raise awareness and appreciation for the many non-professional caregivers who provide critical support to older adults and others in their lives. Caregiving within our community has its own complexities, not least of which is the fact that so many LGBTQ+ people rely on friends and other "families of choice" for care because they either don't have or don't feel close to their own biological families. You may not realize that the term "family caregiver" applies to you, but if you're providing any kind of ongoing support to a friend or loved one who needs assistance – cooking meals, taking them to the doctor, or even just checking in on their wellbeing – you are a caregiver! And if you aren't a caregiver right now, chances are you know someone who is, or you will become one in the future.

It's important for caregivers to receive support not just for the person they're helping, but for their own well-being. It's important for providers to understand some of the nuances of caregiving within the LGBTQ+ community so that they can effectively identify and support caregivers who identify as part of the community themselves and/or are caring for someone who does.

In 2014-2017, thanks to support from the Harry and Jeannette Weinberg Foundation, SAGE had the opportunity to bring its signature caregiver support program, SAGECAP, to Baltimore. Working in close collaboration with Chase Brexton Health Care, we helped to establish programs and services that would later become parts of the [ElderPride](#) program. We also worked together to create resources that remain

available through our National Resource Center on LGBTQ+ Aging. Check them out and learn more by clicking the links below:

- [Fact Sheet on LGBTQ+ Caregiving](#) – facts and data on LGBTQ+ caregiving
- [Caregiving in the LGBTQ+ Community](#) – a guide for service providers on caregiving within the LGBTQ+ community
- [Prepare to Care - LGBTQ+ Edition](#) – a guide for caregivers with an LGBTQ+ perspective

*Please note that the phone number listed within these resources for SAGE's National LGBTQ+ Elder Hotline has changed. The new hotline number is 877-360-LGBT (5428).*

### **Trans Awareness Week and Trans Day of Remembrance**

November offers us opportunities to celebrate the lives of Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming (TGNC) people in our community. November 13th to 19th is Trans Awareness Week. This week is an opportunity to celebrate and honor TGNC communities. TGNC elders have contributed so much to the advocacy, culture, art, and community of LGBTQ+ individuals in Baltimore. Take time to celebrate the lives of TGNC people around you this month as you reflect on how your life has been impacted by the brave advocacy of TGNC older adults.

This week is a celebration leading up to Trans Day of Remembrance, taking place on November 20th. Trans Day of Remembrance is an important day of reverence to honor, grieve, and celebrate the lives lost to transphobic violence. Transgender people face significantly more violence, abuse, and harassment than their cisgender counterparts. The world is not making space for Trans people to thrive; these challenges lead to violence and mental health complications for many in the community. As we celebrate the lives of TGNC people in our communities and our history, please take a moment to honor the lives of those lost to violence, mental health challenges, and other issues related to transphobia.

### **We Need Your Input!**

As we continue to explore potential sites for an LGBTQ+ affirming, affordable housing development for older adults in Baltimore, we need input from locals like you to help us narrow our search. Please take a moment to share your thoughts by filling out a brief, anonymous survey about Baltimore neighborhoods. We thank you in advance for your help!

[Baltimore Neighborhood Survey - CLICK HERE](#)

### **National LGBTQ+ Elder Housing Initiative Trainings**

Are you interested in learning more about the LGBTQ+ affirming housing development process? Check out our National Housing Initiatives' free and self-directed online training. These trainings were developed for housing developers, property managers, and other housing service providers to help bring more LGBTQ+ inclusion to the older adult housing industry. Learn about topics such as Fair Housing Regulations, Trauma-Informed Design, Cultural Competency, and Inclusive Programming for Residents. Click the link below to access our training.

[LEARN MORE HERE](#)

Thank you for being a part of our efforts to bring LGBTQ+ affirming, affordable housing for older adults to Baltimore City. If you have any questions about this work, please contact us (contact information below). Feel free to share this newsletter and look for more opportunities to get involved in the future. Have a lovely November.

Thomas Godwin (they/them)  
Assistant Director, National  
LGBTQ+ Elder Housing Initiative  
[tgodwin@sageusa.org](mailto:tgodwin@sageusa.org)

Alex Kent (she/her)  
National Projects  
Coordinator  
[akent@sageusa.org](mailto:akent@sageusa.org)

Know someone who might be interested in this project?  
Please **SHARE** this newsletter, and invite them to [SIGN UP](#) to receive future updates.