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**For Immediate Release**

**September 2, 2020**

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**Mercy Hospital Named “LGBTQ Health Care Equality Top Performer”  
By the National Human Rights Campaign Foundation**

**BUFFALO, NY**— Mercy Hospital of Buffalo has been named a “LGBTQ Health Care Equality Top Performer” by the Human Rights Campaign Foundation (HRC) for its dedication to the equitable treatment and inclusion of LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning) employees, patients and visitors. The designation was awarded in the HRC’s 13th annual Healthcare Quality Index report, which rates healthcare facilities across the country on their policies and practices in LGBTQ care.

Among the criteria used to evaluate Health Care Equality Top Performers are an assessment of staff training in LGBTQ patient-centered care; a review of patient and employment nondiscrimination policies; a look at employee benefits and policies, and an evaluation of the facilities’ procedures and practices aimed at eliminating bias and insensitivity.

“As a Catholic Health hospital, it is our mission to treat all people equally with reverence, compassion, justice and excellence,” said Mercy Hospital President Eddie Bratko. “We are proud that the HRC has recognized our efforts to ensure that our LGBTQ community feels welcome in our facility and free of any form of discrimination or bias as a patient, visitor or staff member.”

For more information about the Human Rights Campaign Foundation, visit [www.hrc.org](http://www.hrc.org) , or to review or download a free copy of the report, visit [Healthcare Equality Index \(HEI\)](#).

**About the Human Rights Campaign Foundation**

*The Human Rights Campaign Foundation is the education arm of America's largest civil rights organization working to achieve equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people. HRC envisions a world where LGBTQ people are embraced as full members of society at home, at work and in every community.*

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**About Mercy Hospital of Buffalo**

*Mercy Hospital is home to the Catholic Health Heart Center, providing a full range of cardiac care services including heart surgery and the latest minimally invasive cardiac procedures, and serves as a Joint Commission-accredited Comprehensive Stroke Center with physician experts and capabilities to diagnose and treat the most complex stroke cases. Since 2017, Mercy Hospital has been recognized as a High Performing Hospital by U.S. News & World Report for heart bypass surgery. The hospital is also home to the Mercy Emergency Center featuring 32 private treatment rooms and a rooftop heliport, as well as the Family BirthPlace providing a full spectrum of maternity/child services and a Level II neonatal intensive care unit. Mercy also offers a wide array of outpatient, primary care and rehabilitation services at convenient locations throughout the area, including 24/7 emergency care available at the Mercy Ambulatory Care Center (MACC) in Orchard Park. Founded over 100 years ago by the Sisters of Mercy, the hospital is committed to medical excellence with an ongoing mission to reveal the healing love of Jesus to those in need.*

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