



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Contact: Noel Alicea,
212-423-8162**

noel.alicea@nychhc.org

Metropolitan Hospital Center Highlighted in Healthcare Equality Index 2013

Metropolitan Hospital Center named as “Leader in LGBT Healthcare Equality” by National Survey

New York, NY — (July 11, 2013) Metropolitan Hospital Center, has been recognized as a “Leader in LGBT Healthcare Equality” in the Healthcare Equality Index 2013, an annual survey conducted by the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Foundation, the educational arm of the country’s largest lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) organization. Metropolitan Hospital Center earned top marks for its commitment to equitable, inclusive care for LGBT patients and their families, who can face significant challenges in securing adequate healthcare.

“We are all very proud of this designation,” said Meryl Weinberg, Executive Director of Metropolitan Hospital Center. “Our team is committed to providing comprehensive and inclusive services that address the physical and mental health needs of all of our patients with sensitivity and respect. This recognition from the HRC Foundation reinforces our commitment to the LGBT patients we already serve, as well as to our staff and the larger community. We are especially proud to be the first of the city’s public hospitals to receive this designation.”

Metropolitan Hospital Center was one of a select group of 464 healthcare facilities nationwide to be named Leaders in LGBT Healthcare Equality. Facilities awarded this title meet key criteria for equitable care, including non-discrimination policies for LGBT patients and employees, a guarantee of equal visitation for same-sex partners and parents, and LGBT health education for key staff members.

Metropolitan Hospital Center was congratulated by HRC Health & Aging Director Shane Snowdon. “LGBT patients deeply appreciate the welcoming environment provided by a Leader in LGBT Healthcare Equality. It makes a big difference to know that your local healthcare facility is fully committed to giving you the same care it gives your neighbors and co-workers.”

For more information about the Healthcare Equality Index 2013, or to download a free copy of the report, visit www.hrc.org/hei.

Metropolitan Hospital Center (MHC) is the community hospital of choice for residents of East Harlem, northern Manhattan and neighboring communities. MHC provides culturally-sensitive care in a welcoming and hospitable setting, emphasizing primary care medicine and utilizing the latest advances in medical science. Metropolitan is part of the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation (HHC), the largest municipal hospital and health care system in the country. For more information, please visit www.nyc.gov/mhc

