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### **HTX WILL BE HOME TO 1ST LGBTQ AFFIRMING SENIOR HOUSING CENTER IN THE SOUTHWEST**

**(HOUSTON, TX, JAN 31, 2017)** - The Montrose Center needed to secure \$2.5 million in funds in order to receive an in-kind donation from the Midtown Redevelopment Authority in the form of a 2.87 acre lot at 2222 Cleburne Street. The lot valued at \$3,265,000 is essential to build a facility large enough to meet the need of seniors being priced out of neighborhoods that are affirming. The LTR Lewis Cloverdale gift allowed the Center to exceed the \$2.5 million fundraising goal.

This lead gift came from the LTR Lewis Cloverdale Foundation and the Center is honoring the foundation's lead gift with the naming rights of the senior community center building. This building will be one of three on the property and will serve as the entrance to the facility. The building will be named after LTR Lewis Cloverdale Foundation name sake and LGBTQ community leader Robert "Bob" Reeves Lewis.

Housing is one of the greatest financial challenges, and correspondingly, one of the greatest needs for older adults across the nation. Led by honorary campaign co-chairs, Mayor Annise Parker and State Representative Garnet Coleman, the Montrose Center's "There's No Place Like Home" campaign is committed to raising \$6.5 million in private funds, over the next three years, to support development of the project in Houston's historic Third Ward.

The property will feature 112 one- and two-bedroom independent living apartments for low-income seniors ages 62 and older. Eligible seniors will pay no more than 30% of their income for rent. Additional features of the property will include a geriatric primary care clinic, a group dining area, meeting, computer and fitness rooms, a resident library / lounge area and outdoor recreational spaces.

This project presents a unique opportunity for the LGBTQ community and its allies to come together to ensure that LGBTQ and Third Ward elders can age in a safe and affirming environment, with dignity, independence and a sense of community.

"We are very excited about this partnership with this long standing community foundation. It is so appropriate that the senior community center will be named after Bob Lewis, a leader in the LGBTQ community and also a medical provider. We believe he would be proud to see his name on this historic project," said Ann Robison, Executive Director at the Montrose Center.

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## **THE MONTROSE CENTER**

Established in 1978 as a safe and affirming place for lesbian and gay Houstonians to receive counseling, the Montrose Center has emerged as one of the nation's leading full-service LGBT centers. Although counseling remains at the heart of what we do, services have expanded to meet the changing needs of our diverse community. These services include substance abuse treatment, support and advocacy for LGBT survivors of violent crimes, care and assistance for people with HIV/AIDS, free community wellness programs and activities, and programs for our community's most vulnerable and isolated—youth and seniors. We sit at the center of the LGBT community and serve as a gathering place for LGBT organizations and groups. The Montrose Center is a United Way Agency.

## **ABOUT ROBERT "BOB" LEWIS**

Robert "Bob" Lewis was born in Lafayette, Indiana and helped his parents with the farm and the special cattle they raised. Bob was an extremely smart young man and graduated from Purdue University with a degree in Pharmacology. Bob moved to Houston in 1984 and earned an M.B.A. from the University of Houston and worked for Walgreens for 13 years. He was a driving force behind the annual Walgreens/Channel 13 Seniors Valentine Celebration. Bob was an important presence in Houston's LGBT community. Bob passed away from complications from AIDS on June 11, 1997. He requested that the Lewis LTR Cloverdale Foundation be developed to support the community based 501(c)3 organizations.