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CONTACT: Crystal Jang 415-595-3662
Alex Wong 415-263-9959

Tradition 2.0: Red Envelope Giving Circle Puts a New Spin on an Old Tradition

California's first AAPI Queer Giving Circle Donates \$10,000 to 4 Organizations in the Bay Area

San Francisco, CA – January 15, 2012 - Traditionally given during holidays and family gatherings in many Asian cultures, the red envelope represents a sign of auspiciousness: it is also a symbol that represents a long tradition of giving, mutual aid and community. In that same spirit, the **Red Envelope Giving Circle** (REGC) was formed to build on this ongoing legacy of giving back but in this instance to improve the lives of the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) LGBTQ community in the Bay Area.

Matched with generous support from **Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy** (AAPIP) and **The Gill Foundation**, REGC pooled their resources, raised \$10,000 and selected the following San Francisco/Bay Area projects:

- **Asian and Pacific Islander Family Pride's** DVD production of, "Coming Out. Coming Home";
- **One Love Oceania's** traditional dance instruction program for queer and Two Spirit Pacific Islander women;
- **Queer Rebel Productions'** performance featuring 15 Asian American artists; and
- **The Dragon Fruit Project**, an oral history exhibit sponsored by The GLBT Historical Society.

REGC is part of a network and a national movement led by AAPIP to increase investments, strengthen leadership and engage new donors in the AAPI community through shared giving. Last year AAPIP released a report titled *Missed Opportunities: How Organized Philanthropy Can Help Meet the Needs of LGBTQ Asian American, South Asian, Southeast Asian, and Pacific Islander Communities*. The report is the first of its kind to summarize key issues facing Queer AAPI communities, document the lack of philanthropic investment in these communities, and make funding recommendations. Dr. Alice Y. Hom, the report's author and Director of AAPIP's Queer Justice Fund says, "Developing LGBTQ AAPI giving circles is one recommendation from the report and is an amazing vehicle to increase the philanthropic support for Queer AAPI communities. AAPIP is proud to work with and support REGC's effort to build democratic philanthropy."

To ring in the start of the new year in true style, REGC will be celebrating their first year of giving by and for the AAPI LGBTQ community on **Sunday, January 20, at 5:00pm** at the groundbreaking exhibit "**For Love and Community**" at **The GLBT Historical Society Museum** located in San Francisco's Castro District. In its last week of showing, the exhibit features some of the most significant historical moments of the AAPI Queer Community. Come celebrate, meet new friends, get acquainted with old ones and find out how you can get involved in the community!

Red Envelope Giving Circle is fiscally sponsored by Horizons Foundation. For more information on Red Envelope Giving Circle, visit www.red-envelope-giving-circle.org. To learn more about AAPIP's National Giving Circle Movement, visit www.aapip.org.

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