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Akron Gets Ready for Gay Games ***Community invited to April 8 information meeting***

AKRON, Ohio (March 26, 2013) – The Greater Akron community can learn about more the global Gay Games headed to Northeast Ohio in 2014 at an informational evening on April 8 at the John S. Knight Center. The event is free and open to the public.

“Northeast Ohio will host the Gay Games next year and we are gearing up for this great world-class event,” said Summit County Executive Russ Pry. “Attending this informational meeting will give you the opportunity to sign up to volunteer or participate in any of the Gay Games activities taking place in Summit County and throughout Northeast Ohio.

The global Games is expected to draw 30,000 visitors to Northeast Ohio from August 9-16, 2014.

The Gay Games informational meeting runs from 6 to 8 p.m. on Monday, April 8, at the John S. Knight Center, 77 E. Mill St., Akron. The free event, sponsored by the Akron Summit County Convention and Visitors Bureau, will include hors d’oeuvres and a cash bar.

Representatives from the Gay Games, including the Akron task force, will be on hand to talk about why the Games are coming to the region, what will be happening and how individuals and businesses can get involved as participants, volunteers or sponsors.

With more than 35 sports and cultural events to be held in Northeast Ohio, Akron will host some of the most popular sporting competitions. Softball will be played at Firestone Stadium, while track and field will be hosted at the University of Akron. The Akron Marathon organization will host the Games marathon on a portion of its course. Other sports venues will be announced as they are confirmed.

“Akron plays an integral role in the success of the Gay Games, and we appreciate all the support and willingness to welcome to the 2014 Games,” said Tom Nobbe, executive director of ’14 Gay Games.

Akron representatives on the Gay Games board of directors include Dirk Breiding of the Akron Summit County Convention and Visitors Bureau; Cindy Christman of the City of Akron; and Nancy Brennan of Brennan Management Group.

About the Gay Games

The Gay Games are an international sporting and cultural event held every four years. Launched in 1982, the Games invite participation from all competitors regardless of sexual orientation, race, gender,



religion, nationality, ethnic origin, political beliefs, athletic or artistic ability, age, physical challenge or health status.

The Games offer a safe environment for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered participants. They are open to anyone 18 years or older. About 10 percent of participants are from outside the LGBT community. Gay Games 9 will be August 9-16, 2014, in venues around Northeast Ohio. More than 11,000 participants expected to join the medal race. For more information, visit www.gg9cle.com, www.facebook.com/gaygamescleveland or www.twitter.com/gg9cleveland.