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## Public forum on Feb. 27 to raise awareness about the risks of LGBT elder isolation

(MINNEAPOLIS – Feb. 18, 2014): The Minneapolis/St. Paul Chapter of Little Brothers - Friends of the Elderly (LBFE), in partnership with Prime Timers MSP, is presenting a forum to raise awareness and define solutions to elder isolation in the LGBT community.

The forum is scheduled for **Thursday, Feb. 27, 6-9 p.m.**, at the **Center for Changing Lives, 2400 Park Avenue So., Minneapolis**. The event is free and open to the public; refreshments will be served.

“While LBFE is concerned about elder isolation in general, we are aware that the risks of isolation are even greater among those in the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community,” said Greg Voss, LBFE Executive Director. According to the [2012 Twin Cities LGBT Aging Needs Assessment Survey Report](#), LGBT persons are more likely to live alone, and are less likely to have a caregiver or children that look after them as they age.

“There is a horrific fear factor among older LGBT persons,” said Harry Hartigan, Primer Timers MSP board member. “Even in our ‘enlightened’ society, members of the LGBT community are more likely to suffer physical and emotional abuse by their caregivers, often as punishment for, or denial of, their sexual orientation. Sadly, they are more likely to die alone, forgoing medical care in order to avoid humiliation and abuse.”

The forum will include a showing of the award-winning documentary, [Gen Silent](#), with presentations by representatives from AARP Minnesota, the Amherst H. Wilder Foundation and Training to Serve. In addition, Tara Patet, Sr. Prosecutor with the St. Paul City Attorney’s Office, will discuss the connection between isolation and LGBT elder abuse, and Julie Switzer, M.D., Director of Geriatric Trauma at Regions Hospital, will offer a balanced medical perspective.

The forum is made possible through [the LGBT Aging Initiative](#), a PFund grant opportunity awarded jointly to LBFE and Prime Timers MSP. To register for the forum, contact [info@littlebrothersmn.org](mailto:info@littlebrothersmn.org) or 612.746.0726.



*Little Brothers - Friends of the Elderly has provided one-on-one companionship services and social activities for isolated and lonely older adults in the Twin Cities for 42 years. A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, LBFE has been recognized by the Charities Review Council for meeting its Accountability Standards. More information about LBFE can be found at [littlebrothersmn.org](http://littlebrothersmn.org) or on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/LittleBrothersMN](http://www.facebook.com/LittleBrothersMN).*

*Prime Timers MSP is a 501(c)7 organization of gay and bisexual men, ages 50 and over, and their supporters, that provides social, recreational and educational services to members in the metropolitan area, as well as some members in greater Minnesota. More information can be found at \_\_\_\_\_.*

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