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**NEW YORK, June 17, 2024** — Skincare giant La Roche-Posay is set to host its 4th-Annual Pride in Dermatology event, dedicated to improving healthcare access and support for the LGBTQ+ community. This year’s event will benefit two stalwart organizations: Homeward NYC and OutCare Health, underlining La Roche-Posay's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) within the realm of dermatology.

Gallup data suggests that LGBTQ+ individuals now make up approximately 7.6% of the population, a significant increase from a decade ago. Despite this progress, the community continues to face substantial barriers in accessing healthcare. These challenges range from stigma and discrimination to financial insecurity and a higher prevalence of physical and mental health issues, including suicidality. A noteworthy consequence of these barriers is that many LGBTQ+ people avoid seeking necessary medical care, potentially exacerbating existing conditions or allowing new ones to develop unchecked.

Since initiating its partnership with OutCare Health in 2021, La Roche-Posay has supported training programs designed to enhance LGBTQ+ affirming care amongst dermatologists. These initiatives aim to educate healthcare providers on the nuances of communicating with, and caring for, LGBTQ+ patients with the sensitivity and affirmation they deserve.

Tyler Steele, Vice President of Medical & Media Relations at La Roche-Posay, expressed the company's dedication to DEI, saying, “Supporting DEI issues for all communities is an important core value for La Roche-Posay. We are honoured and proud to offer a platform that entertains, educates, and provides awareness not only to the dermatology community but also to nonprofit organizations doing critical work for the community.”

OutCare Health, which has benefited tremendously from La Roche-Posay's support, echoed these sentiments. Dr. Dustin Nowaskie, Founder, President, and Chief Medical Officer of OutCare Health, remarked, “La Roche-Posay's continued support has been instrumental in driving OutCare Health's growth and expanding our programs. Their commitment has enabled us to reach more healthcare providers, ensuring LGBTQ+ individuals receive the care they deserve. Together, we are making significant strides in bridging the gaps in healthcare, creating change, celebrating identities, and empowering LGBTQ+ communities.”

Homeward NYC offers a lifeline to homeless young mothers and LGBTQ+ young people through supportive housing and comprehensive wraparound services necessary for overcoming trauma and building life skills. Jeannette K. Ruffins, CEO of Homeward NYC, highlighted the profound impact of La Roche-Posay's support. “The assistance from La Roche-Posay has been life-changing for the formerly homeless LGBTQIA+ young adults we serve. Supportive housing provides them with a place to heal and gain independence. We are immensely grateful for La Roche-Posay's continued support,” Ruffins said.

The 4th-Annual Pride in Dermatology event is scheduled to take place at The Theater at Irving Plaza on Tuesday, June 18, 2024. The event will be hosted by renowned Drag Race star Peppermint, along with Tyler Steele. Attendees can look forward to performances by iconic R&B group En Vogue, Grammy Award-winning artist Jody Watley, and DJ Cazwell. Open to healthcare providers who identify as friends, family, allies, or members of the LGBTQ+ community, this event promises to be a spectacular blend of celebration and activism. Proceeds will directly support the mission-driven work of Homeward NYC and OutCare Health.

As Pride Month continues to inspire and empower, initiatives like La Roche-Posay’s Pride in Dermatology remind us of the importance of inclusive healthcare. While much progress has been made, events like these shine a spotlight on the ongoing need for supportive, affirming environments where every individual’s identity is respected and celebrated.

For further information and updates on the event, La Roche-Posay invites the community to engage with them on platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and Twitter @LaRochePosayUSA. This Pride, let's celebrate not just the strides we've made but also the path ahead, all while acknowledging the importance of inclusive care and community support.