

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **COURAGE+ PLANTS SYMBOLS OF SUPPORT FOR LGBTQ+ YOUTH**

*Award-winning youth alliance organization brings visible advocacy symbols to  
Wisconsin*

MILWAUKEE (June 1, 2026) — Courage+, Wisconsin's first and only licensed provider of nonprofit LGBTQ+ youth housing, has launched statewide sidewalk art installation titled [Courage to Grow](#) to draw attention to the unseen challenges of LGBTQ+ youth.

In the spirit of pride month, Courage+ is bringing visibility to the streets of Appleton, Madison, Milwaukee and Racine. Across more than 75 locations, from suburban sidewalks to restaurant patios, local businesses, also known as **Bravemakers**, are hosting floral installations blooming from the cracks in the sidewalk, telling the people of Wisconsin: It takes courage to grow.

"The 'plus' in our name is a promise; a promise to expand our care beyond safe housing and into the daily lives of LGBTQ+ youth and young adults. Their strength and resilience aren't abstract," said Brad Schlaikowski, founder of Courage+. "These installations are a way of acknowledging their strength and reminding every young person who sees the art installation that they're not alone, and there are people in their community who truly care about them."

Intentional eye-catching symbols of safe, inclusive spaces also direct to an interactive experience. Scan the QR code next to the flowers to discover a map of all the installations and a route to PrideFest.

### **What is a Bravemaker?**

A Bravemaker is a business, organization or individual that actively demonstrates support for the LGBTQ+ youth community by fostering safe, inclusive environments. Through collaboration with the Courage+ program, Bravemakers commit to ongoing education, visibility and advocacy efforts that empower young people to show up as their authentic selves.

How you can help:

-MORE-

- [Apply to become a Bravemaker](#) and have your business or organization considered for inclusion in the database of safe and affirming locations.
- Visit the Courage to Grow art installations across Wisconsin.
- Visit the Courage+ MKE PrideFest Youth Area from June 4-6.
- Follow Courage+ on social media, Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn.

For more information about the Courage to Grow art installations, visit the [Courage+ website](#) or visit the Courage+ Youth Area at MKE PrideFest.

### **About Courage+**

Courage+ is an award-winning, Wisconsin-based organization working to create a world where LGBTQ+ youth can live safely and authentically. While the work begins locally, the mission addresses the nationwide crisis of LGBTQ+ youth homelessness. Courage+ provides a variety of advocacy programs from safe, affirming housing to trauma-informed care for youth ages 12 to 24 through Courage House — Wisconsin’s first licensed group home for LGBTQ+ youth — and the C2 Apartments for those aging out of foster care. In addition to housing, the organization offers scholarships, grants, gender affirming care, financial preparedness courses, and other vital support systems to help youth learn critical life skills. Courage+ also advocates for more inclusive environments by partnering with businesses and nonprofits, through +YOU — a community-facing educational program about LGBTQ+ care and best practices. Every program is rooted in a trauma-informed approach, fostering stability, healing and personal growth for LGBTQ+ youth.

###

### **Media Contacts:**

#### **Tanner Kersey-Lopez**

(569) 676-5446

[tkerseylopez@bader-rutter.com](mailto:tkerseylopez@bader-rutter.com)

#### **Michaela King**

(262) 895-9422

[mking@bader-rutter.com](mailto:mking@bader-rutter.com)