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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FACT: MANHATTAN NO LONGER HAS A QUEER BOOKSTORE. AN INSPIRED LOWER EAST SIDE PAIR IS HOPING TO CHANGE THAT.

When Donnie Jochum and Greg Newton realized there was no longer a queer bookstore in Manhattan, the duo decided to start the Bureau of General Services—Queer Division (BGSQD), an independent bookstore and community gathering space dedicated to serving the queer community.

November 26th, 2012, New York - All over the country independent bookstores are struggling. It seems like every week we hear another story of a treasured shop closing its doors. This is certainly the case in Manhattan, with Oscar Wilde and A Different Light, two well-known and historic gay bookstores that have recently disappeared from the small business landscape. These closings have left a gaping hole in the cultural fabric of New York City. Nowhere is this more evident than in the queer community, where these independent bookstores served as not only retail locations, but also community gathering places, hotbeds of activism, and safe spaces for a historically marginalized group of the city's population.

Hence the dismay of the BGSQD co-founders when they realized that Oscar Wilde and A Different Light had both gone out of business. Their plan? To open an independent bookstore and space dedicated to serving the queer community. The Bureau of General Services—Queer Division, which opened a temporary pop-up store in Strange Loop Gallery on the Lower East Side at 27 Orchard Street, is not only planning on selling books, they also hope to excite and educate a self-confident, sex-positive, and supportive queer community by offering books, publications, and art and by hosting reading groups, authors' talks, and performances.

What they need now is the funding to take the concept they are demonstrating at the pop-up space, and turn it into a permanent location. That's where Lucky Ant comes in. For the next 25 days, the BGSQD will be raising \$15,000 for the down payment on the lease of this new location. This space, while still undetermined, will likely be near their current pop-up store in the Lower East Side. "We want BGSQD to be a space fully embraced and supported by the community. What better way to grow BGSQD than raising funds through community based crowdfunding? We see this as validation of our idea. If the New York City community supports what we're doing with their dollars, it's a clear sign that a place like BGSQD is needed, will be supported, and can continue to exist long into the future."

For more information, or for funding opportunities, visit www.luckyant.com