Partnering Against LGBTQ+ Homelessness in Families of Faith

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WHO WE ARE

HELLO

WHO WE ARE

EXIT
The Host Home Program | Cultural Competency Training
Faith in Families | Resource Guides | LGBTQ Advocate
Learn more at: www.safeandsupported.org

Equipping Christians to practice reconciliation with the LGBTQ+ community and responding to the spiritual needs of LGBTQ+ Christians

Our programs:
- Small group Bible Studies for LGBTQ+ and straight friends
- Training events for pastors and Christian leaders
- Gay Pride Outreach/Repentance
- Dialogue Events

Different Houses - Same Neighborhood
LGBTQ Youth Homelessness

- 40% experienced financial or emotional neglect from family
- 42% experienced rejection due to sexual orientation or gender identity
- 32% experienced physical, emotional, or sexual abuse at home
- 27% aged out of the foster care system
- 14% left home due to family rejection of sexual orientation or gender identity

Rejecting Behaviors

- You aren't going to Heaven.
- Don't dress like a girl, you won't get beat up.
- Don't bring your friends home.
- I don't think Grandma should know you're gay.
- I'm disappointed you've decided to be trans.
- Don't see those friends anymore.
Family Rejection

⚠ CONTENT WARNING ⚠

Consequences

SUICIDE
8x More Likely

UNSAFE SEX
3x More Likely

DRUG USE
3x More Likely

DEPRESSION
6x More Likely

AWKWARD
1ST STEPS
Awkward First Steps

- Dealing with biases/fears
- Challenges to partnership
  - Institutional Support
  - Biases/Suspending Suspicion
  - Finding Common Ground
  - Perceived Threats from Wider Community
- Capacity (Time + Resources)

REFLECTION #1

WHERE WE ARE TODAY
Where We Are Today

- Program Challenges
  - Getting New People/Groups in the room
- Messaging/Terminology
- Bureaucracy
- Distrusting Christians/LGBTQ+ People
- Few Models to Follow
- Geographic Challenges

REFLECTION #2

OUTCOMES
Pastors’ Lunch & Learn
- 12 attended
- Training ground for Melissa
- Connection
- Positive feedback

Youth Pastor’s Training
- Trained 47 youth pastors, pastors, Christian leaders
- 91% respondents rated the event as good or excellent
- 87% would recommend it to a friend
- 53% pledged to take an action step to make their communities safer for LGBTQ+ youth
- Melissa’s presentation favorably received

Faith in Families
- Three programs delivered to 12 attendees
- Marketing
- Partnership
Finding New Ways to Support Each Other
- Curriculum Support
- Sharing Information
- Q Christian Conference
- Safe and Supported Steering Committee

Positive Perception from LGBTQ Community
- Feedback
- Fundraising

Lighthouse Support
- Grant Writing
- Fundraising
- Approval for Social Marketing Campaign
Lessons Learned

- Seek out unlikely partnerships
- Building expectations/agreements at onset
- Communication is key
- Personal transformation
Why Do It?
» Personal Thoughts
» Stronger Together!

REFLECTION #4

Thank You