

Families Matter!

Emerging research from the Family Acceptance Project at San Francisco State University (<http://familyproject.sfsu.edu/overview>) tells us that the single most important issue for an LGBT youth is the response of their families to their coming out. LGBT youth with accepting families do much better than those with rejecting families. For example, LGBT youth with rejecting families are 8 times more likely than their peers to attempt suicide!



In addition, the research indicates that most families, even those who begin as very rejecting, move toward greater acceptance over time. We want to know how to help families make that journey. We want to know culturally competent support looks like for families that are racially, culturally, religiously diverse? What might all families have in common – and what might be unique considerations for specific groups? This 3 year project will explore those questions.

In year one, we are concentrating on **listening** to you! We will be talking with parents and other care-givers with LGBT children or family members. We want to hear about your experiences.

Join us in small, intimate, confidential focus groups where family members can come together, share a little food and refreshments, and talk with us and each other about their experiences.

These are some of the topics we will talk about together:

- What was it like for you when your child first told you?
- What was your first reaction?
- Has that reaction changed at all over time? If so, how?
- Who have you turned to for help, information or support? How did you find them? Were they helpful? What do you wish you had that you didn't?
- What are your family's cultural and religious beliefs or values about this topic? In what, if any ways, did they impact your reactions to your child's coming out?
- What advice do you have for other parents whose kids are coming out?
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Interested in participating in a focus group near you or talking directly with someone about it?

Call: Kent or Ashley at (888) 565-5551, ext 304

Email: director@ourtruecolors.org

Fax the attached form to (860) 232-0049

Family Acceptance Project
Request to Participate Form

Your Name: _____

Your Email: _____

Your Phone number: () - (check off type: home, work, cell)

City or Town of residence _____

Your relationship to LGBT youth: check off all that apply

- Parent or guardian
- Brother or sister
- Grandparent
- Aunt or Uncle
- Cousin
- I prefer to identify as: _____

Although not required the following information helps us ensure that we talk to many different kinds of families:

I identify my race as: _____

I identify my ethnicity as: _____

I identify my gender as: _____

I am a recent immigrant (within the 18 months) to the US: ___ yes ___ no

I grew up within a religious or spiritual tradition ___ yes ___ no

I currently belong to a religious or spiritual tradition ___ yes ___ no

If yes, which one: _____

Please return this form:

- By Email: director@ourtruecolors.org
- By Fax (860) 232-0049
- By Mail: True Colors, Inc., ATTN: Kent/Ashley, 576 Farmington Ave, Hartford, CT 06105,

Thanks for your interest in making a difference for LGBT youth across CT!