



JENNIFER CHRISLER

Executive Director
Family Pride

Serving as the Executive Director of Family Pride since April 2005, Jennifer Chrisler has led a substantial expansion of the organization's visibility, budget, staff and scope. Family Pride is now the largest national non-profit organization exclusively dedicated to securing family equality, especially for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) parents, guardians and allies.

During Chrisler's tenure with Family Pride, she has focused on increasing the organization's capacity and effectiveness, both in terms of its influence and operations. Under Chrisler's leadership, Family Pride's operating budget has increased by 45% and the number of full time staff has doubled. The organization has sponsored events across the country to bring LGBTQ families together, energize family activism and combat public misinformation about LGBTQ families. In addition, Family Pride has enjoyed the greatest level of media attention in its 28-year history.

In April 2006, Chrisler led a group of more than 100 LGBTQ headed families to participate in the White House Easter Egg Roll in Washington, DC. The event received unprecedented national attention from the media and the public and represented the single largest example of LGBTQ family visibility in American history. The 2006 Egg Roll activities garnered Family Pride more than \$1 million in earned media coverage by dozens of broadcast and print outlets across the country. When James Dobson, leader of the prominent anti-gay organization Focus on the Family, submitted an op-ed about LGBTQ parents to Time Magazine in December 2006, Chrisler's rebuttal "Two Mommies or Two Daddies Will Do Fine, Thanks" was published on Time.com days later and achieved wide distribution and praise. Chrisler is a talented media spokesperson and appears frequently on television and in print media as an advocate for family equality. She has been featured on ABC's *Good Morning America*, *The O'Reilly Factor* on Fox, and various CNN programs, as well as in national and local print outlets such as *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, the *San Francisco Chronicle* and the Associated Press.

Under Chrisler's leadership, Family Pride has worked to educate the public about the overwhelming research data indicating that children with LGBTQ parents are as well adjusted as those with heterosexual parents. In 2006, Family Pride co-sponsored groundbreaking academic symposium focused on accurate research about LGBTQ-headed families and related issues. In addition, Chrisler oversaw the launches of *Real Families, Real Facts* in 2006 and *Out in 50 States* in 2007. These campaigns worked to clarify America's perception of LGBTQ people and their ability to parent and to defeat anti-family legislation across the country.

Chrisler's direction has focused on training and empowering LGBTQ parents, families and allies to be vocal, visible and proactive in their communities. Family Pride's groundbreaking national speakers bureau, OUTSpoken Families, has now reached more than 1,000 people and trained more than 400 in person to tell their families' stories and to provide credible information about LGBTQ-headed families. OUTSpoken Families live in 39 states and the District of Columbia, as well as in one U.S. Territory and three other countries. In addition, Family Pride released "The Back to School Tool: Building Equality in Every Classroom" in 2006, which provides parents with concrete, easy-to-execute strategies to educate school communities about the unique needs of children of LGBTQ parents in the classroom.

Prior to taking on her role at Family Pride, Chrisler was a successful fundraising consultant and raised \$1.3 million in just eight weeks for a 2001 special election in Massachusetts' 9th Congressional District. She served as Director of Operations for SoftBank's i-Group and as Director of Corporate Communications for American Science & Engineering, Inc. In addition, she worked for five years as a Staff Director in the Massachusetts State Senate. Chrisler was honored in 2001 by the Human Rights Campaign, and received the 2002 Massachusetts Freedom to Marry Coalition Award in recognition of her outstanding political work in the LGBT community. In 2007, Chrisler was recognized as a "Prime Mover" by the Hunt Alternatives Fund, a national program that supports leaders who work toward a more just society.

Chrisler and her spouse, Cheryl Jacques, a national LGBT civil rights activist, reside in Washington, DC with their five-year-old twin sons, Timothy and Thomas. Chrisler is a graduate of Smith College in Massachusetts.

Family Pride is the only national not-for-profit organization exclusively dedicated to securing equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender parents and their families.