



# the at a glance series :: our extended families

Family Pride is the national non-profit organization committed to securing family equality in our lifetime. Our work consists of strategically linked initiatives—broad in scope, but simple in vision—love, justice, family, equality. We make change. We share information. We build community. We are visible.

You watched me grow up.  
You watched me come out.  
You know me.  
I'm asking for your help.



## what's an ally?

Allies know inequality is wrong, so they stand up to it. Allies are prepared to say, "we are all part of a greater family community and when you hurt one family, you hurt us *all*." *Standing up* for family equality is what makes you an ally.

I don't talk about this often with you. But I need you to know how I'm being treated. People don't know me, but they hate me and they tell me about it. And it's not just about me; it's about our whole family. We're in this together.

"The Bible is very clear; all of you at the Family Pride Coalition and lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgenders and their parents whom support them are condemned to eternal damnation in hell."

*-excerpt from an email recently received by Family Pride*

**Love:** I am told that when I love someone it's not real.

**Justice:** I am being denied my civil rights.

**Family:** I am told that I am not qualified to create a family of my own.

**Equality:** I am being treated as a second-class citizen.

**I need you to:**

### 1. combat stereotypes ::

Prejudice and discrimination stem from misinformation. If people knew more about LGBTQ-headed families, who we really are, how we're being treated and what we need to be successful, folks would be on our side.

#### > educate & de-mystify

As an extended family member, you know me and you have been privy to my challenges and struggles in a way that many others have not. Educate people that loving families come in a vast array of constellations—a single parent, a blended family, two moms or two dads. Love, commitment and support make a family, and a diversity of family structures should be **recognized, respected and celebrated**.

One of the common misconceptions that family members struggle with when a loved one comes out is the myth that their LGBTQ relative won't be able to have a family. That's simply not true. There are a vast myriad of ways for LGBTQ people (as well as everyone else) to create and raise a family (donor insemination, adoption, surrogacy, foster care, guardianship, co-parenting, kinship). We need your help to educate people and de-bunk myths.

#### > share our stories

One of the best ways to combat stereotypes is to share our personal family story. Real faces and real names make a real difference.

## 2. stand up for me ::

When you hear jokes, comments or policies that are homophobic, transphobic, or derogatory regarding gender presentation or identity, educate people as to why those comments are hurtful & discriminatory. If you don't, who will?

## 3. vote! ::

School board, city council, mayor, judges, governor, senator, president—these are all offices that affect how LGBTQ parents and their children are treated, supported and protected in our communities. Make family equality, including marriage equality, part of your litmus test for selecting your candidates.

## 4. come out in support ::

### > lead by example

You have the power to set a **welcoming** and **inclusive** example in:

- **schools**
- **the community**—at community centers, neighborhood associations and in your local faith communities, be mindful of **language, policies** or **practices** that may exclude some families
- **your workplace**—be an ally to your current (and future) colleagues by checking for and working towards **anti-discrimination policies** (including sexual orientation, gender identity and parental status) and **maternity and paternity leave** (for moms and dads, for parents who are biologically related to their child as well as those who are not)

## 5. invite & include me ::

Include *all* families when planning parties, gatherings, events and meetings like block parties, birthday parties, or gardening clubs.

Fundamentally, this fight is about fairness.

**Thank you for STANDING UP for all loving families by STANDING OUT for us.**

**To learn more :: [www.familypride.org](http://www.familypride.org)**

**Visit** [www.pflag.org](http://www.pflag.org) (Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays)

**Explore** “Allies! Friends, Family, Neighbors” in our “About You” section online

**Download** “Activating Allies,” one our publications

# LOVE :: JUSTICE :: FAMILY :: EQUALITY

## Can you afford not to support family equality?

Help us secure equality for all loving families. An annual gift of \$35 is just 10¢/day. Major Donors begin receiving exclusive benefits for \$100/month.

Make the commitment to fight for family equality by going to **[www.familypride.org/donate](http://www.familypride.org/donate)** today!