



# family pride's parents group corner :: welcome to your parents group kit!

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.

## Parents Group Kits Are Here!

At Family Pride, we know that the health and vitality of our movement is based in part on our parents' abilities to connect with one another. That's why we are re-committing to our work with parents groups. We want to be as supportive and informative as possible, to serve you in the best ways we can. As the national organization dedicated to securing equality for all loving families, Family Pride is uniquely positioned to provide free resources and to connect parents and parents groups with each other. In order to combine these efforts, we've created one of our most exciting projects to date—the parents group kits!

The idea behind the parents group kits is to share information directly and to help build community through access to resources and consistent communication. We understand that LGBTQ parents groups around the country are widely diverse, ranging from very political groups to those who identify as purely social. Still, we want to give *all* parents groups equal opportunity to share in the advocacy and education work of Family Pride. We invite you to utilize the resources and knowledge we've gathered over the last 27 years in whatever ways work best for *you*. Whether it's following the monthly guide to the letter or passing out hand-outs to the membership of your group, the way you use your kits is up to you! We intend for these resources to be 100% your own.

That said, we've made these kits with tender, loving care, and hope you'll see the method to our madness. There are a lot of issues affecting our families, and they are all interconnected. We want to cover as many of these issues as we can. So let's take a look at what the kits have to offer:

## What's Inside

This, your first parents group kit, will be a little different from the others. In addition to this introductory letter, you'll find information on:

- Growing your parents group
- Outreach to new members
- Building and maintaining coalitions with other groups
- And other tips to keeping your group organized and engaged

Also included is a binder for you, the parents group contact/leader. Each kit will come with master copies of hand-outs and other resources, which you can add to your binder as you go along. The binder can also serve as a workbook for you—a place to keep whatever additional parent group information you have.

Each kit, *including* this first one, will always include **information, tools, and resources** related to specific topic areas. Sending you new stuff with each kit, we'll provide different information on schools and our families, as well as other topics. Each kit will also include the most up-to-date *OUTSpoken Families Newsletter*.

## Speaking of the Internet

Family Pride would also like to announce the creation of the **Parents Group Corner**, a new website linked from [www.familypride.org](http://www.familypride.org), made specifically for folks involved in parents group work. Here you'll not only find each kit downloadable in its entirety, but also resources and updates. Visit [www.familypride.org/parents](http://www.familypride.org/parents) to check it out!

## Stay in Touch

To further enhance the relationship between you as a parent group contact/leader and Family Pride, we've tapped two of our staff members to be regional coordinators for parents group work. *It just so happens* that each regional coordinator has a strong, personal connection to the region they're charged with. In this kit you'll find a note from your regional coordinator, introducing themselves, as well as their contact information. As we pilot these parents group kits, we want to be in touch with you, to share ideas and receive feedback about how things are going. Some of our best work nationally has grown from the thoughts and ideas of parents group members. So be sure to stay in contact!

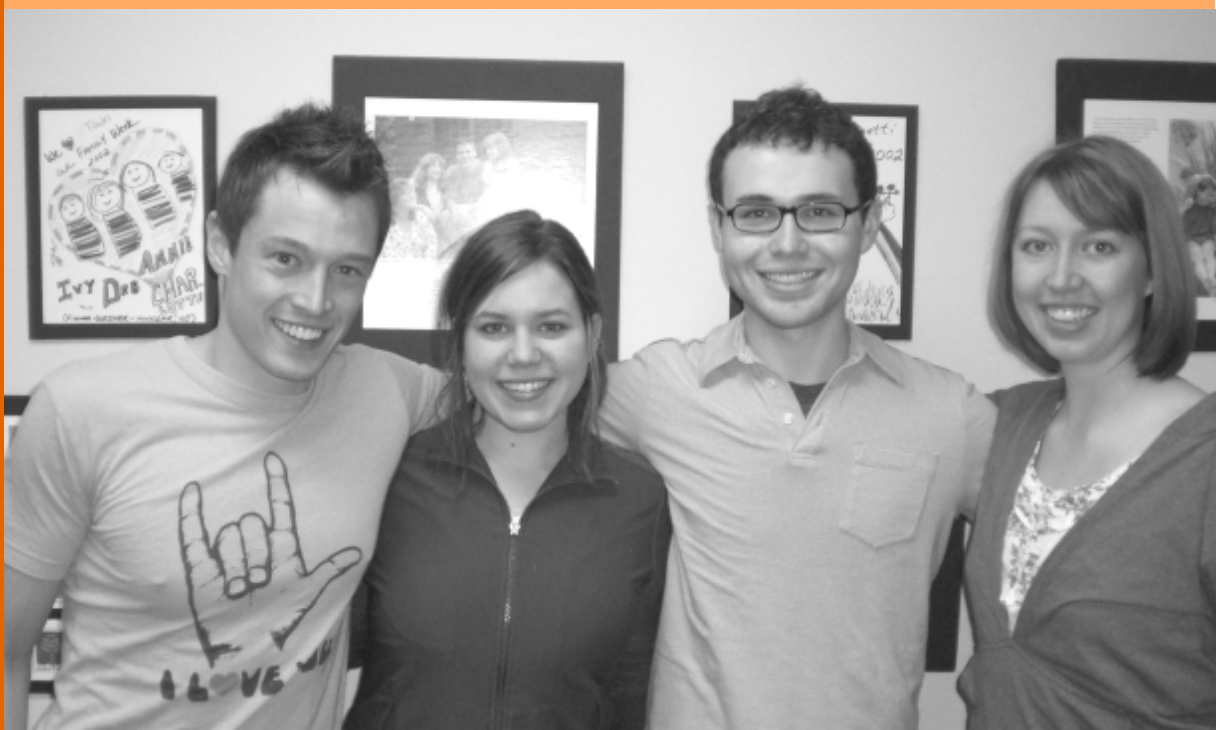
## What's Next

As mentioned, parents group kits will come out on a periodic basis. Remember that all current information will be available at the Parents Group Corner, downloadable for *free*. Let us know if you have any initial questions, suggestions, or other ideas. We're thrilled to be sharing these kits with you, and look forward to great things in the months ahead.

## All the best, The Parents Group Team!

P.S. If you have any questions, comments, suggestions—or if you need additional materials, please let us know. Give us a call, send us an email or write a letter and we'll get them out to you.

Pictured below, from right to left: eCommunications Coordinator, David Jacques; Midwest / West Regional Coordinator and Program and Education Associate, Lisa Bahr; East / South Regional Coordinator and Program and Education Associate, Dustin Kight; Program and Education Manager, Trina Olson.



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