

# Out for Health

a Project of Planned Parenthood



## Spring 2010

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Out for Health provides outreach, education, and information to (LGBT) people, their health care providers, and the community-at-large about the importance of inclusive, welcoming, and respectful care for LGBT people.

## Out for Health Honored by Webby Awards



Planned Parenthood's Out for Health program website, [www.outforhealth.org](http://www.outforhealth.org), has been recognized as an Official Honoree of the 14th Annual Webby Awards.

As a result of the 14th Annual Webby Awards, the exceptional quality of the submissions for the 2010 competition, the International Academy of Digital Arts and Sciences has chosen to recognize work exhibiting remarkable achievements in web design. Out of the nearly 10,000 entries submitted to the 14th Annual Webby Awards, less than 15 percent are awarded the status of Official Honorees. Outforhealth.org's award exemplifies successful collaboration at the highest level. Partnering with a local business and college enabled us to tap into the exceptional and specialized skills unique to a college town. Planned Parenthood worked in partnership with local branding, web, and print design company Ancient Wisdom Productions (AWP) and with Ithaca College's LGBT Center Director to create the concept, design, and content of [outforhealth.org](http://outforhealth.org).

Recognition by the Webby Award puts Planned Parenthood's Out for Health program in the esteemed group of industry leaders such as eBay, iTunes, Google, BBC News, The New York Times, NPR, Salon Magazine, Facebook, ESPN, Comedy Central, and PBS. We are delighted with this honor and even more pleased that local lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender health and wellness information is easily accessible online! Check us out now at [www.outforhealth.org](http://www.outforhealth.org).

The Webby Awards is the Internet's most respected symbol of success. The

## COLAGE Group starting in Ithaca!

COLAGE is a national movement of children, youth, and adults with one or more lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and/or queer (LGBTQ) parent(s). The organization builds community and works toward social justice through youth empowerment, leadership development, education, and advocacy.



We are proud to announce that Ithaca will soon be home to a new chapter of COLAGE! The kick-off meeting will take place on Saturday, May 22 at 3:00 p.m. The group is open to children of all ages and their LGBTQ parents or caregivers. Come and meet new friends. We'll use this event to organize a group that meets the needs of those who are attending.

Kris Haines-Sharp is taking the lead on organizing with the support of Planned Parenthood's Out for Health program ([www.outforhealth.org](http://www.outforhealth.org)) and the Lesbian and Gay Family Building Project ([www.prideandjoyfamilies.org](http://www.prideandjoyfamilies.org)).

**The kick off event will be from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Planned Parenthood's Out for Health office at 111 E. Seneca Street in downtown Ithaca.** Please contact Kris Haines-Sharp at (607) 351-8131 or [krishainesburnham@gmail.com](mailto:krishainesburnham@gmail.com) with questions or thoughts.

## SUMMER 2010 Lunch & Learns

Please join us!  
RSVP is required.

To register or learn more about our Summer 2010 Lunch & Learns:

E-mail: [lgbt@ppsfl.org](mailto:lgbt@ppsfl.org)  
Call: 216-0021, ext. 134

Please join us for one—or all—of four special events with movies, lunch, and robust discussion about meeting the many and varied needs of the LGBT community in Tompkins County!

All Lunch & Learns will be from 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. @ The Holiday Inn on Cayuga St., downtown Ithaca. Lunch is provided; RSVP is required.

### Tuesday, MAY 25th Just Call Me Kade

This documentary follows Kade Farlow Collins, a sixteen year old FTM (female to male transgendered person) residing in Tucson, Arizona during his exploration of his gender identity and his transition. Kade's parents maintain a supportive and nurturing relationship to Kade regarding the many challenges facing their teenage child. However, it hasn't always been easy.



### That's a Family!

#### Tuesday, June 22nd That's a Family

That's a Family! stretches the minds and touches the hearts of people of all ages. From the makers of "It's Elementary!," this fresh look at the changing American family breaks new

ground, and once again lets children lead the way in preventing prejudice and embracing diversity.

### Tuesday, July 27th Beauty Before Age: Growing Older in Gay Culture

This film explores the power of youth and beauty in the gay community. A diverse group of gay men, ages 19 to 77, negotiate their fears of becoming old, undesirable, and alone. The film critically examines the pressure to look young and attractive, the lack of positive older role models, and ways in which AIDS intensifies the fear and process of aging. Beauty Before Age offers a male perspective on an historically female issue and illuminates the larger societal obsession with physical appearance.



### Let's Get Real

#### Tuesday, August 24th Let's Get Real

This film examines issues that lead to taunting and bullying, including racial differences, perceived sexual orientation, learning disabilities, religious differences, sexual harassment and others.

## Pregnancy Risks Rise for Teens in the Closet

May is Teen Pregnancy Prevention month; a month during which reproductive health care organizations such as Planned Parenthood take pause to reflect on the statistics, facts and real life stories of young people impacted by unintended pregnancy. One might assume this has little to do with LGBT youth, however analysis of teen pregnancy data from British Columbia, Canada tells a different story.

Lesbian, gay and bisexual teenagers are at significantly higher risk for pregnancy during their teen years than their heterosexual peers, suggests a survey in the Canadian Journal of Human Sexuality. The University of British Columbia study looked at adolescent health surveys of 1992, 1998, and 2003, which were random studies of about 70,000 students in Grades 7 through 12 in public schools across the province of B.C.

One of the reasons for higher pregnancy among sexual minority youth, say the report's authors, is the stigma gay teens continue to face and the strategies they may engage in order to cope with that stigma. For example, among the teenage girls surveyed in 1998, 7.3 percent of lesbians and 10.6 percent of girls who said they were bisexual reported pregnancy compared with 1.8 percent of heterosexual girls.

Among boys, the numbers were also higher for gay teenagers, with 9.6 of gay males and 11.6 percent

Teens experiencing harassment and discrimination may use pregnancy as a way to deny their orientation or to prevent further enacted stigma.

## The Lesbian & Gay Family Building Project

### What specific things would you like LGBT people to know about your services?

The Lesbian and Gay Family Building Project opened its doors on April 1, 2000, which means we just celebrated our tenth anniversary! We started as a resource for gay men and lesbians wanting to become parents, with a special focus on lesbians facing fertility challenges. Over the years, our programs and services have grown in every way and we have expanded our focus to include the health and wellbeing of LGBTQ parents, their kids, and prospective parents.

Current programs include our **Pride and Joy Families Network**, which offers support, education and a sense of community to the adults and children in LGBTQ families across upstate New York. The Network has grown to more than 500 households, with the strongest presence in Syracuse, Binghamton, and Rochester, where groups meet regularly. We have 3 websites:



**PrideAndJoyFamilies.org**  
**LGBTHealthInitiative.org**  
**LGBTServicesDirectory.com**

The latter is our online, searchable database of welcoming health and human service providers, which has grown from 180 to 450 welcoming attorneys, sperm banks, therapists, adoption agencies, etc. We are doing more work providing educational programs and information on LGBTQ families and parenting to educators and other professionals who come into contact with our families. Our LGBT Healthy Families Initiative offers resources and information

specific to LGBTQ families to help create better health outcomes for the adults and children in these families.

### Are there things LGBT people can do to get involved with your program?

Yes! Got a question or concern about parenting as an LGBTQ person or building a family? We provide individual assistance and referrals. Want to learn more about building and sustaining healthy families? Visit our websites! Want to join an in-person or virtual community of LGBTQ parents? Become a member of the Pride and Joy Families Network. Join one of our regional parent discussion listservs, or become a fan on Facebook. Want to know when our next social or educational event will be held in your town or around the state? Sign up on our mailing list! Looking for an LGBT-welcoming provider? Visit **LGBTServicesDirectory.com**. Know of an awesome provider that we should invite to list with us? Drop us an e-mail or give us a phone call and we will send them an invitation.

### Are there any upcoming events our readers might like to know about?

I am thrilled to announce the 2011 Pride and Joy Families Weekend Conference which will be April 8-10 in Rochester at the RIT Inn and Conference Center.

Watch for more information in our upcoming newsletters and on our websites!

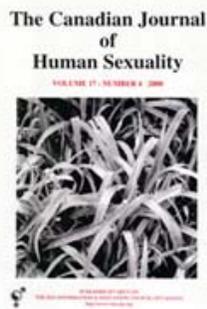


## Pregnancy Risks, continued

of bisexual teen boys reporting involvement with a pregnancy, compared with 1.5 percent of heterosexual young men. In 2003, pregnancy rates declined slightly overall, but remained much higher among gay and lesbian teens than heterosexual teens.

The report suggests that for youth, the stigma of being gay may lead to engaging in opposite sex dating and sex as a form of "camouflage" to avoid being identified as a gay teen. "Those who experience harassment and discrimination may choose pregnancy involvement as a way to deny their orientation, to prevent further enacted stigma," the report suggests.

The numbers vary between girls and boys when it comes to the relationship between pregnancy and discrimination. Of the girls surveyed, 100 per cent of



those who had become pregnant also said they had been discriminated against on the basis of their sexuality, while only 42.7 per cent of lesbian girls who said they had never been pregnant cited discrimination. Only 18.4 per cent of gay teenage boys who were involved in getting a woman pregnant said they had experienced discrimination, while 60.4 per cent of those who were not involved in pregnancy said they had not been discriminated against.

Other explanations for the higher rates of pregnancy may be the higher number of gay and lesbian youth who live on the streets. The study finds that street youth - those who have run away from home, for example - are at higher risk for teen pregnancy, in part because survival sex or sexual exploitation can increase the frequency of sex and make it difficult to negotiate contraception and safer sexual practices. The study also suggests a higher number of gay and lesbian teens are experiencing sex at a younger age - under 14 - than their heterosexual peers. **Want more info? sieccan.org**



**Planned Parenthood's  
Out for Health Program**  
111 East Seneca Street  
Ithaca, NY 14850  
(607) 216-0021, ext. 134  
lgbt@appsfl.org

[www.outforhealth.org](http://www.outforhealth.org)



## What you need to know about ENDA and transgender rights

Right now, people can be fired in 29 states for being lesbian, gay, or bisexual, and in 38 states for being transgender. The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, PFLAG National, National Center for Transgender Equality, National Black Justice Coalition, National Stonewall Democrats, National Center for Lesbian Rights, and Pride at Work are urging Congress to pass the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA).

A healthy LGBT community is one where discrimination is a thing of the past. Learn more about ENDA and other important issues related to LGBT rights at:

**Lambda Legal**

[lambdalegal.org](http://lambdalegal.org)

**National Center for Transgender Equality**

[www.nctequality.org](http://www.nctequality.org)

**National Gay and Lesbian Task Force**

[thetaskforce.org](http://thetaskforce.org)



Go to [www.nctequality.org](http://www.nctequality.org) for more information about ENDA and transgender rights.

The National Center for Transgender Equality (NCTE) is a social justice organization dedicated to advancing the equality of transgender people through advocacy, collaboration, and empowerment. NCTE was founded in 2003 by transgender activists who saw the urgent need for a consistent voice in Washington DC for transgender people.