

Urbana Area PFLAG
Serving Champaign and Clark Counties

December 20, 2010

Dear Friend,

The Urbana Area PFLAG, serving Champaign and Clark Counties was established on April 1, 2010. It is chapter of the national PFLAG organization. PFLAG is the acronym for Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays.

The idea for PFLAG began in 1972 when Jeanne Manford marched with her gay son in New York's Pride Day parade. After many gay and lesbian people ran up to Jeanne during the parade and begged her to talk to their parents, she decided to begin a support group. The first formal meeting took place in March 1973 at a local church. Approximately 20 people attended.

The purpose of PFLAG is to promote the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons, their families and friends, through:

- Peer support , to cope with an adverse society
- Education, to enlighten an ill-informed public
- Advocacy, to end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights.

PFLAG promotes opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation and gender identity, and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity.

This has been an encouraging year for advocacy. We have seen the passage of the Matthew Shepherd hates crime legislation, and now the repeal of the discriminatory Don't Ask, Don't Tell bill. Each new piece of legislation brings us closer to equal civil rights for our children, family members, and friends.

Our local chapter has been holding peer support meeting on the 4th Tuesday of every month at 7:00. The meeting are held at Messiah Lutheran Church, 1013 E. Lawn Ave., Urbana. This next year we anticipate some events other places in Champaign and Clark Counties in addition to our monthly support meeting.

As president, I have been making school visits and found that our school administrators are welcoming and fair minded. Anti-bullying programs are in place in our local schools. What a relief it is to pass this information on to parents!

PFLAG is funded by a yearly membership drive. The membership fee and donations are tax deductible. We invite straight allies to join us as well as families, friends, and the LGBT people they support. The membership fee helps us to get information to those who need it most.

Thank you for your support,
Susan Mason, president