



## Families Like Ours (FLO)—GLBTQ: SAFE program Placement Case Study

**GLBTQ: SAFE** (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered and Questioning—Youth: Supportive Adoption & Foster Education)

### Finding Safe Families for GLBTQ Youth



Placing a GLBTQ youth with a foster or adoptive family can be a difficult task for agencies and placement teams. Often we hear; “We do not have families for gay children”, or “We do not have the resources available to help a gay child.” These perceptions are not uncommon beliefs from many agencies managing foster families.

Identifying and educating families open to fostering

and adopting GLBTQ youth has become a critical need in the foster system today. Education is also needed to prepare agencies and caseworkers on how best to support both the youth and families.

A recent case involved a 16 year old girl who revealed to her biological parents that she was homosexual. Her parents in turn, kicked her out of the home. She was subsequently placed in a group home while a placement team searched for a safe foster home.

Finding a foster home that was willing to take a GLBTQ youth was not an

easy task. The placement team experienced unreturned calls from potential foster homes and even hang-ups. One foster family stated; “The only bed I have available would be in my daughter’s room and I cannot do that, it would be like putting a boy in there with her.”

Supporting agencies, placement workers, and families with education and pre-identified families open to GLBTQ fostering & adoption is what the Families Like Ours GLBTQ: SAFE program is designed to do.

In this case, FLO’s GLBTQ: SAFE program was able to assist in recruiting families open to taking a GLBTQ youth. SAFE also was able to provide referrals for local community resources and counselors experienced in the GLBTQ field that could help this youth with the grief & loss of her biological parents.

*For more information, contact Families Like Ours at 1-877-230-3055.*

#### Case Issues

- IDENTIFYING A FOSTER PLACEMENT THAT WAS OPEN AND SUPPORTIVE OF A GLBTQ CHILD
- SUPPORT OF A GLBTQ YOUTH IN TRANSITION

#### FLO’s, GLBTQ: SAFE Program Results

- IDENTIFIED FAMILIES WHO HAVE EXPRESSED A SPECIFIC INTEREST IN PROVIDING A HOME (FOSTER OR ADOPT) TO A GLBTQ YOUTH.
- POST PLACEMENT TRANSITIONAL SUPPORT FOR THE 16 YEAR OLD GIRL AND THE FOSTER FAMILY

### Families Like Ours, GLBTQ: SAFE program

**Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered & Questioning Youth: Supportive Adoption & Foster Education** is a private-public partnership designed to provide support and education assistance in the permanency planning for GLBTQ foster youth, families, and professional teams including agencies and placement workers.

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

#### Helping Support Youth & Families



Adoption Referral  
& Information Service