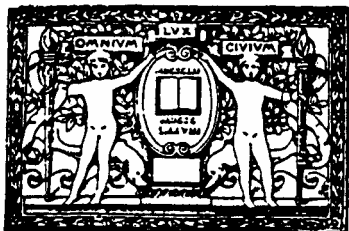


CABLE ADDRESS. "DARTMOUTH BOSTON"



Boston Public Library

Boston, Massachusetts 02117

December 16, 1999

Ms. Peggy Gillespie
Family Diversity Projects
P.O. box 1209
Amherst, Massachusetts 01004-1209

Dear Peggy:

Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$1,500, our payment for the exhibit, *Love Makes A Family*. It is a wonderful exhibit, and I want to thank you for arranging for us to have it on such short notice.

As I was about to take it down on November 30, a class of about twenty teenagers arrived from a nearby high school, and I stood back and watched as they looked at the exhibit. Never have I seen a group of kids so interested in looking at a photographic exhibit. They all looked intently at each photograph, and they all read every word of the narratives that accompanied the images. I understood how mesmerized they were, because I had the same reaction when I viewed the exhibit. The children and adults in the exhibit wrote about their families with such honesty and respect, with so much love and understanding that I'm certain it has had a strong, positive influence on everyone who has viewed it. I wish that it could travel to every school in our country for it truly is a strong weapon against homophobia.

Also, I want to tell you how clever you were in designing the exhibit. It was so easy to pack and unpack, so easy to mount and to arrange, so smart of you to have included shorter quotes and longer narratives, and large print captions for elementary school children. It is one of the best travelling exhibits I have seen, and we are eager to have your other exhibits at the Boston Public Library.

Sincerely,

Ellen Graf Special Projects
Librarian



AMERICAN CIVIL
LIBERTIES UNION OF
NORTHERN

January 11, 2000

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this as a letter of support for Family Diversity Projects and their exhibit entitled "Love Makes a Family." We are currently using the exhibit in our efforts to defeat Proposition 22, the Knight Initiative, which would limit the recognition of marriage to only between a man and a woman.

We have used the exhibit twice in December 1999. The first time was at our annual Bill of Rights Day Celebration in San Francisco where over 600 ACLU members attended and we received many compliments on the lovely photos and moving text. We also showed "Love Makes A Family" at an art gallery in Berkeley where the ACLLU's Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Chapter held a house party for the "No On Knight" campaign. Once again it was very well received and helped illustrate the very human dimensions in the fight for equality and fairness for all relationships.

The success of the exhibit "Love Makes a Family" is its immediacy in establishing the love and humanity in all types of families. The exhibit cuts through all the political arguments and rhetoric right to the heart of the issue by showing the love, caring and connection that are so basic to all families. By allowing children and parents to give voice to what their family means to them all of us are enriched and I think a lot of minds are opened.

We plan to get plenty of use out of the exhibit and have plans to show it at a forum in the Humboldt area as well as to collaborate with Hastings College Law Students in San Francisco and show it at a forum on same sex marriage that they are coordinating. We may also use the exhibit at other local ACLU chapter meetings.

We have found the work of the Family Diversity Projects to be a great help to us in working to expand civil liberties in Northern California. We are so lucky to have had the opportunity to use their exhibit. We hope that many other organizations will be able to enjoy the same opportunity.

Sincerely,

Lisa Maldonado ACLU Field
Director

Dick Grosboll, *Chairperson* • Quinn Delaney, Margaret Russell, Ethan P. Schulman, Michelle Welsh, *Vice Chairpersons* • David Salniker, *Treasurer*
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Cheri Bryant, *Development Director* • Elaine Elinson, *Public Information Director* • Dorothy M. Ehrlich, *Executive Director*
Stephen V. Buntse, *General Counsel*



June 4, 2004

To Whom It May Concern,

The Beaverton School District's Diversity Committee recently sponsored the exhibit, *"In Our Family."* The intent of the selection of this exhibit was to show the diversity of families, and to help build a safe, respectful and welcoming environment for all students in the Beaverton School District. The mission statement of the Diversity Committee is: to foster an educational environment that is enriched by the contributions and full participation of staff, students, their families, and community members. This exhibit supported our mission statement and provided many of the messages the Diversity Committee hoped the community would view as important.

The exhibit was displayed in February in both our Arts and Communication Magnet Academy and the District's Administration Center. Enclosed with this letter, you will find student and community member comments about the exhibit. Although there was some community conflict, everyone who viewed it was positively impacted by it.

Peggy Gillespie, Founder of the Family Diversity Projects, provided us with ongoing support in scheduling, media information, and strategies for a successful exhibit. More than anything, Ms. Gillespie was our cheerleader through the entire process.

Here is a quote from one of the most powerful messages evoked by the exhibit: "Having the same blood is perhaps the smallest of threads that binds or defines a family." The effects of this exhibit will continue. This exhibit has been a key component in Beaverton's expanding definition of community.

Sincerely,

Diversity Committee
Beaverton School District

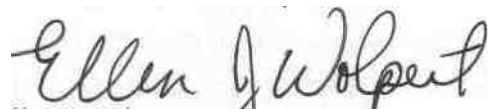
Cambridge Community Partnerships for Children
11 Inman Street Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139
Phone: 617-868-2900 Fax: 617-868-2395 Email: ejwolpertccpc@aol.com

July 10, 2006

Dear Peggy,

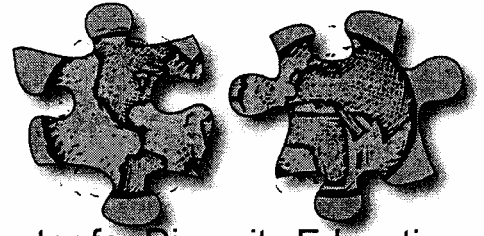
The exhibit "Love Makes a Family" was a great success!! It was on the first floor of Cambridge City Hall for three weeks!! People thought it was great!! We had a big event at City Hall on June 14th and the exhibit was a highlight. The event was held by the Massachusetts LGBT Early Childhood Education Initiative. The goals of the Initiative are to work towards greater inclusion and affirmation of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender families and individuals in early childhood education and care settings. The event included an opening by Cambridge Mayor Ken Reeves, a proclamation from Cambridge City Council, read by Councilor Denise Simmons, supporting the Initiative, comments from Senator Jarrett Barrios and Representative Alice Wolf and speeches by Dr. Valora Washington. Executive Director of the Schott Fellowship in Early Childhood Education, and Darshan Phillip Weiss of Congregation B'nai Brith of Somerville. The Cambridge Community Partnerships for Children in partnership with Wheelock College, as part of this initiative, has just offered the course "Making Room in the Circle". First run through City College in San Francisco, this course is the only one of its kind in the country and is about the importance of acknowledging, affirming, including and responding to bias about LGBT people and families in early childhood programs. The instructors of the course also spoke at the event and the photo exhibit. Love Makes a Family, served to make visible the families we are talking about.

The work of Family Diversity Projects is critical in challenging the bias and invisibility faced by LGBT people and families. For many who have been unable, because of bias and discrimination, to be visible as LGBT families, the photographs of Love Makes a Family confirm their existence, speak for them, humanize them and announce their "normalcy", establish familiarity and demand attention. The multiracial selection of photographs speaks to the diversity within our community and influences everyone who sees them. Thank you so much!!



Ellen Wolpert

Cambridge Community Partnerships for Children



The Center for Diversity Education
222 Zageir Hall
1 University Heights, CPO 1960
Asheville, NC 28804
Telephone: 828.232.5024
Fax: 828.251.6423

Dear Family Diversity Projects,

The Center for Diversity Education would like to thank you for allowing us to be involved in your touring photo and text exhibit *Of Many Colors*. We were able to create quite a bit of programming in conjunction with the exhibit at the University of North Carolina Asheville, where it was displayed in the student union gallery. Approximately 150 college students and community members attended the formal programming and countless others toured the exhibit on their own. People chose to attend for different reasons, but many attendees were able to make meaningful connections for community support with others present.

We hosted five remarkable afternoon programs for education and dialogue during the month of September. Professors, community leaders, and parents lead discussions each week about issues such as identity development in families of many colors, the role of schools and teachers for multiracial families, Hindu and Muslim intermarriage in India, and the history of law and multiracial families in the southern United States.

The opening reception *Of Many Colors* included a panel discussion lead by parents, grandparents, and children who are members of multiracial families. Community members present expressed sincere gratitude for the opportunity to learn more about the joys and challenges for multiracial families in these changing times.

We are thankful to have had the opportunity to build understanding and chip away at misconceptions about families who may not look like the ones in which we were raised.

Sincerely,

Mandy Carter
Program Director

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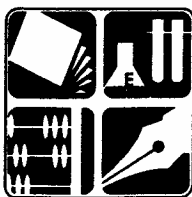
The Center for Diversity Education works to increase the ways diversity is covered in the daily life of the classroom in grades K-12 and higher education.

Email dmiles@unca.edu • World Wide Web www.diversitved.org

Ronald A. McWhirt Ph.D.
Superintendent

Marian Mentavlos Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent

Center for Advancing
Student Learning



CHARLESTON COUNTY
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Academic Development &
Enhancement
Guidance Program

Candice Bates-Quinn
75 Calhoun Street
Charleston, SC 29401
(843) 937-6590
Fax (843) 937-6595

May 8, 2000

Family Diversity Projects
Peggy Gillespie
P.O. Box 1246
Amherst, MA 01004

Dear Ms. Gillespie:

The Charleston County School District would like to thank you for bringing the "Nothing to Hide" Program to our students. This excellent program educated students, faculty, staff, and clinicians to work towards eliminating the stigma and prejudice from mental disabilities. The high school years, as reported in the Harvard University Report from the Prevot's Committee on Student Mental Services, can mark the onset of the most serious psychiatric conditions. "Accidents (often precipitated by alcohol abuse) and suicide are the first and third leading cause of death in the 15 to 24 year age group. With this understanding, we salute this outstanding program that helped us educate our school staff to, as the report indicates "create a milieu that ameliorates potential triggers of crises" and lay new understandings that lead to appropriate services when clinical care is indicated."

We look forward to you bringing this program back to our schools next school year. The benefits of bringing "Nothing To Hide": Mental Illness in Family to so many of our Charleston County Schools during October 2000 will enable us to continue educating, and most importantly work on eliminating the stigmas of this disease.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Candice Bates-Quinn".

Candice Bates-Quinn Guidance
Associate

CBQ/dn

c: Ann Birdseye
School Connection Staff

Enter to Learn - Learn to Serve



Dwight-Englewood School

315 EAST PALISADE AVENUE, ENGLEWOOD NJ 07631 • 201.569.9500 • FAX 201.568.9451 • www.d-e.org

November 20, 2015

Peggy Gillespie
Family Diversity Projects
PO Box 1246
Amherst, MA 01004-1246

Dear Peggy,

Thank you and Family Diversity Projects for the exhibit **In Our Family: Portraits of All Sorts of Families** that was just on display at Dwight-Englewood School from October 12-November 12, 2015. We primarily housed the exhibit in our Swartley Gallery, a teaching gallery in our fine arts building except for two pieces we placed in our Middle and Upper School Library and a display case in front of one of our auditoriums.

The exhibit was the first gallery show of the year and was shown in conjunction with an evening program sponsored by our Parent Association. From the beginning of school, we have been engaged in conversations about identity. Our Head of School spoke about his own identity and family story in our opening assembly of the school year and that has set the tone and access points for the conversations in our community. Our guest speaker for the Parent Association led a conversation/workshop about family identity and how parents can deepen understanding of our individual and collective identities. D-E is a very diverse school on so many levels. We are K-12 school diverse in race/ethnicity, religion, socio-economics, languages spoken at home, sexual orientation, ability and family structures. Amy Fabrikant, our speaker, urged those present to expand our perspectives beyond our own families and to challenge the concept of "normal". Her presentation "What's Your Family Story?" was tailored as a perfect companion to the exhibit and the message of Family Diversity Projects. The gallery was open for families to tour that evening with a standing invitation to also visit/revisit during the run of the exhibit.

Students toured the gallery through their art classes accompanied by art teachers who combined artistic questions with those of exploration of identity and what students were seeing of themselves and others as they viewed each photograph. Upper School advisory groups also visited the gallery which meant some students got a second chance to view with a different perspective as advisory groups are also considered to be like family groups within our school.

Family Diversity Projects

Page 2

We are pleased with our experience of bringing the exhibit to our campus. I am sure that I speak for all who saw the exhibit when I say we won't forget the beauty, vulnerability and courage of the families in these photographs.

Receiving the materials, hanging them, and returning them was easy with your skillful guidance and instructions. We hope to bring other collections to our campus in the future. Please include us as a reference to others considering bringing the exhibit to their campuses and organizations.

Many thanks and continued success with your work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Clinton L. Carbon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "C".

Clinton L. Carbon

Director, Office of Multicultural Affairs

To Whom It May Concern:

I write in support of Family Diversity Projects' photo-text exhibits which foster broader public understanding of underrepresented families of many kinds. Schools, congregations, and community groups can all benefit from the exhibition images and words that eloquently demonstrate the full humanity of their subjects: persons with disabilities, families with gay or lesbian members, families of mixed ethnicities and races, and families with mental illness. In short, the exhibits capture inclusive, respectful, celebratory images of twenty-first-century American families.

I have twice been involved in bringing the exhibit **Love Makes a Family: Portraits of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender People and their Families** to Exeter, New Hampshire, once to Phillips Exeter Academy, the school where I teach, and once to the Exeter Town Hall through the sponsorship of two local churches. The exhibit is strong in the quality of its photographs and accompanying texts, and in the continuing relevance of its focus. On each occasion of its presentation, viewers were obviously very moved by the experience.

Family Diversity Projects' decision to focus outreach of two of their exhibits: **Love Makes a Family** and **In Our Family: Portraits of All Kinds of Families** to church groups is a well-considered and promising strategy. With the exhibit as a centerpiece, and with the significant surroundings of a local church community or a regional or national church gathering, dialogue about gay families and relationships would likely advance the cause of equality for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT) people and their families within the denominations involved.

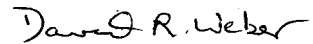
As I write this, my strongest interest in Family Diversity Projects' **proposed** outreach to faith communities stems from my experience in the past two years of having served as a board member of NH Freedom to Marry. New Hampshire has twice defeated proposed anti-gay marriage constitutional amendments. This year the state passed civil unions legislation. The active participation in legislative hearings of clergy from Jewish and Protestant congregations was essential to the achievement of these legislative victories.

Many legislators and members of the general public are still under the obsolete impression that the religious community generally is deeply invested in opposition to gay rights on scriptural and religious grounds. Gay-friendly public witness by clergy tends to be something of a revelation. It also helps legislators and others feel more comfortable about offering their support for laws and spiritual guidelines that promote GLBT recognition and acceptance. While Unitarians, Congregationalists, and Reform Jews already support equal marriage and full inclusion, there are other major denominations in which points of view are significantly divided and resolute action is hampered. A great deal of public

education and cultural good can come out of the expansion of GLBT support within these faith communities.

Thank you for your interest in these consequential issues. I hope very much that you will join with Family Diversity Projects by showing their appealing, powerful exhibits and/or funding their important work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David R. Weber". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'D' and 'W'.

David R. Weber

Fairview Elementary School
Minot Avenue
Auburn, Maine 04210

Ms. Peggy Gillespie
Family Diversity Projects
P.O. Box 1246
Amherst, MA 01004

Dear Ms. Gillespie:

Upon returning the Of Many Colors display to its sending location, I would like to tell you how pleased we were to have the experience of viewing the many thought-provoking photographs in the display. Certainly each family's story and accompanying illustration brought home the idea that it is only through understanding and appreciation of our differences that we can in fact thrive as members of our own intricate families, neighbors within a community, and stewards of our global kinship.

Of Many Colors was displayed prominently in two elementary level schools in Auburn, Maine for a period of two weeks each. Each of these schools, Fairview Elementary School and Sherwood Heights School, houses approximately 500 students in grades K-6. In addition, select students from two other schools in the Auburn School system, Lake Street School and Walton School, made a special trip to neighboring schools to view the display. Families were invited to view the display on designated evenings, as well, and seemed pleased to do so.

Much discussion was generated through the viewing of the photographs and text as part of a focus on diversity throughout the host schools. Students explored their own family backgrounds while also investigating the traditions and customs of cultures with which they were not already familiar.

The response to the display was overwhelming in terms of heightened awareness, interest, and understanding. Speaking for myself, the engaging photos and thoughtful text certainly made me aware of the contribution which my family has made toward bringing people of diverse backgrounds together in harmony. I know that the inspirational material helped all viewers to look at family composition from a fresh and encouraging perspective.

Thank you for the opportunity to receive the valuable lessons we learned from this process, lessons which are so important to our collective future.

Sincerely,



Sheryl Baker
School Counselor
Fairview School/ Sherwood Heights



Farragut Middle School

Hastings-on-Hudson, New York 10706

A National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence

Ms. Gail Kipper
Principal

Mr. Christopher Keogh
Assistant Principal

July 13, 2017

Dear Ms. Gillespie:

Thank you for the opportunity to share with our students your beautiful portraits. Our PTSA generously funded our work with your organization, and we are so happy they did. The galleries have provided a foundation upon which meaningful and impactful conversations could take place.

Over the course of the year, we displayed four different exhibits: *Of Many Colors*; *Road to Freedom*; *Love Makes a Family*; and *Pioneering Voices*. All of our students (grades 5-8) visited at least one of these exhibits. Some exhibits had content more appropriate for older students, and some of the text complexities required scaffolding for our younger students. In addition, we opened our exhibits to the community, hosting visits during special events.

The activity guide provided us with a jump-off point to plan activities that connected to our classrooms. Natural connections emerged in the areas of Language Arts, Health, Social Studies, and Art. In one lesson, our art teacher explored the connection of theme by asking students to take in the gallery before reviewing the texts. In another lesson, a language arts teacher asked students to reflect on how the texts challenged misconceptions.


We designed a space in our school to host this gallery. We had a lobby to a rarely-used auditorium that had beautiful, natural lighting, crisp, white walls, and hardwood floors. In one exhibit, a poem features a piano. This poem was displayed on a piano that we brought in from the nearby auditorium, adding additional resonance to the symbolism.

Pictures arrived promptly and with the clear directions and suggestions we were able to set them up with ease. Family Diversity Projects was a terrific partner: communicative and responsive to our needs.

We appreciated the rich and frank conversations about race, family, and experience these galleries prompted. Family Diversity Projects dovetailed work we are doing in our classrooms around race and racism, as well as work we have done with local LGBTQ advocacy organizations. We recommend your partnership to any school looking to broaden student awareness.

With appreciation,


Gail Kipper
Principal


Christopher Keogh
Assistant Principal

GLSEN - GSAC

GAY, LESBIAN, STRAIGHT EDUCATION NETWORK

GREATER SACRAMENTO CHAPTER

January 19, 2000

To Whom It May Concern:

I am the co-chair of **the Greater Sacramento (California) chapter of the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN GSAC)** and I am writing you to tell you and your organization about a beautiful exhibit entitled **"Love Makes A Family"**, which was created by Family Diversity Projects, Inc. in Amherst, MA. GLSEN is a national non-profit organization which strives to eliminate anti-gay and gender identity bias in schools. GLSEN's motto is, quite simply, "Teaching Respect for All" and we work with any organization that believes similarly. In 1999, GLSEN GSAC learned of **"Love Makes A Family"**, a compelling photo-text exhibit portraying lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people and their children. We immediately approached Family Diversity Projects, Inc. about having the exhibit displayed in Sacramento. As we all know, crimes based in discrimination and hate have become all too common across our nation. GLSEN GSAC believes that working to address anti-gay and gender identity bias in any venue, including schools, ultimately benefits youth, teachers and our society as a whole. This exhibit seemed an excellent resource for our organization to explore using and we were not disappointed! In fact, it has far exceeded our expectations in all ways.

The strength of **"Love Makes A Family"** is that it can be used a tool for addressing the larger issue of how people respond to those who are different from themselves in a pro-active and non-threatening manner. As a lesbian activist, the exhibit opened my own eyes. I was struck and drawn to it... spending half of an hour reading every line of text and gazing at every face in every photo because I couldn't believe how happy each family was despite extraordinary circumstances for some. ***The response we received from the public as well convinced us that this exhibit provides a unique and moving way to build bridges both within the LGBT community and between those who are straight and LGBT.*** With this exhibit, a viewer is permitted the personal space to experience diversity at "their own speed." The photographs and text panels which make up **"Love Makes A Family"** simply put a face with the label of gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender - and provide a vehicle for people to "meet" each other.

In California, GLSEN's advocacy for safe schools for all youth and teachers includes creating visibility for a new law signed by Governor Davis and which became effective as of January 1, 2000: **The California Student Safety and Violence Prevention Act of 2000**, The long struggle for legislators to pass a law protecting the students in California's public schools from discrimination on the basis of actual or perceived sexual orientation and gender identity is finally over. Our challenge is now assuring that this law is implemented. On the first day of January 2000, GLSEN GSAC brought **"Love Makes A Family"** to our State Capitol where it hung for two weeks as our signal to the people of California that 'respect for all' is now a mandate. The exhibit is now on a tour of local schools and GLSEN GSAC is standing before school district boards throughout our region and encouraging use of this tool as a way to demonstrate that they are in fact complying with the spirit of new law.

A secondary benefit to displaying **"Love Makes A Family"** has been the attention it has drawn to the controversial **Knight initiative** (Proposition 22), which seeks to define marriage as only being between a man and a woman. When GLSEN GSAC displayed the exhibit at the California State Capitol, local television stations covered the exhibit which had ignited strong feelings in legislators and the public... both those who loved the visibility the exhibit gives to people who are usually not seen and those who opposed it.

In closing, I recount to you what one passerby (who works in our State Capitol though not as a politician) said to me as I was dismantling the exhibit following the showing: "You know I really appreciated you having these pictures up... it was really nice. I don't know about the gay part of it, but I really liked seeing all the pictures." That gentleman's comment proved to me that education happens on a continuum and **"LOVE MAKES A FAMILY"** is one way to further that education. I enthusiastically urge you to support Family Diversity Project, Inc. This organization has continuously demonstrated their commitment to making this exhibit available to the public (despite a lack of funding at times). Their work is invaluable to educators and public policy makers alike and I know, as a small non-profit, they need financial support to continue this essential and important work.

Sincerely,


Donna Matthews, Co-Chair / GLSEN GSAC



Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network
121 W. 27th St., Suite 804
New York, NY 10001
tel: (212) 727.0135
fax: (212) 727.0254
e-mail: glsen@glsen.org
internet: <http://www.glsen.org/>

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Executive Director

Kevin Jennings

January 14, 2000

To Whom It May Concern:

The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) started in 1990 as a small group of teachers working together to eradicate homophobia in their local school communities. GLSEN is a national organization with almost 90 chapters in more than 35 states and over 500 registered Gay/Straight Alliances. GLSEN has played an integral role in winning Safe Schools legislation in both Massachusetts and California, and recently convened a coalition of national health, mental health and education organizations to create *Just the Facts*, a publication aimed at providing educators with accurate information that was sent to over 15,000 superintendents nationwide.

GLSEN's growth and accomplishments tread on the heels of many challenges, not the least of which has been lack of visibility. Until recently, images of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people have been virtually non-existent in the media in classrooms. Intolerant work and home environments have encouraged many LGBT people to conceal their identities, perpetuating the cycle of ignorance and bigotry. Many activities have come to learn that until community members come face to face with LGBT people—until they understand that these people are our sisters, uncles, neighbors, bosses, and bus drivers—meaningful change within the hearts and minds of people cannot be accomplished.

It is for this reason that *Love Makes a Family: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender People and their Families* and the work of Family Diversity Projects have been invaluable in the struggle for social change and the battle against bigotry. The simple and straightforward portrayal of LGBT families in *Love Makes a Family* celebrates the range of family structure that exists and sends the powerful messages simultaneously that *different is wonderful* and *we're not so different after all*. Whether looking at the photos and reading the interviews at an exhibit venue, perusing the new book version of *Love Makes a Family*, or exploring Family Diversity Project's online resources, students, educators, and community members are challenged to confront stereotypical understandings of LGBT people in the light of honest and moving depictions.

Love Makes a Family has been an important resource for GLSEN in delivering our mantra "Teaching respect for all" to school communities across the nation. Dozens of GLSEN chapters have sponsored the exhibit in their local schools, and have used it as a vehicle for building more accepting community atmospheres. Many chapter leaders have emphasized that the real-life images and visual power of *Love Makes a Family* impacts individuals in ways that laws, facts, and statistics cannot. GLSEN therefore considers Family Diversity Projects an essential partner in the struggle to eradicate homophobia and intolerance of any kind. GLSEN urges schools and other organizations to bring *Love Makes a Family* to their communities, and to join our efforts to increase understanding and create a safer world.

Sincerely,

Kevin Jennings
Executive Director
GLSEN



Graland

COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

TO: Peggy Gillespie c/o Family Diversity Projects
FROM: Rodney Glasgow
RE: Photo Exhibit-All Kinds of Families
DATE: May 4, 2005

Dear Peggy:

On behalf of Graland Country Day School, I want to express sincere appreciation for the use of your exhibit *In Our Family: Portraits of All Kinds of Families*. The exhibit was the centerpiece for our second annual Day of Diversity, and it gave us this year's theme, "All Kinds of Families." With the pictures as inspiration, each classroom teacher in grades K-5 developed a lesson around families and diversity, while our middle schoolers attended a series of workshops all based around the theme. The feedback from the day has been overwhelmingly positive, and the photo exhibit is cited by many as a highlight of the day's events.

As the Coordinator of Diversity Programs, I can tell you that the success of this exhibit is a key moment in the history of the school's diversity efforts. When I discovered your traveling photo exhibits years ago while watching the video *That's a Family*, I began talking with people here about the possibility of hosting such an exhibit. Discussions around diversity, particularly race, class, and sexual orientation, have kicked up some dust among some of our constituents. There were immediate questions about whether this well-intentioned but conservative Denver community was ready for *All Kinds of Families* and if the images and language used would be appropriate for our K-9 population. The amount of questions and apprehension that the idea fostered led me to take a *step* back, research further, and re-present the idea to our administration the following year. Using the materials provided in your information packet and me accompanying references from other private elementary and middle schools, I was able to get the unanimous support from our school's leadership team to bring the exhibit as the key component of this year's Day of Diversity. Their enthusiasm came from the direct connection that the exhibit had to student learning - complete with its own curriculum! - to its broad definition of diversity, and to its focus on the family as a tool for education that proved appropriate for all ages.

While hanging the pictures in our display space, I felt honored to host work of such quality. As I stood back from it, I saw a visual representation of the many types of families in our school. I thought of my own family and families I had met. I knew that this was a positive step for our community. As time drew near to tour students through the exhibit, some of our teachers got the usual cold feet. "What do I say if one of my third graders asks me what gay means?" "How do I explain a multiracial family to a kindergartner?" I assured faculty that the exhibit explains itself and it even offers two sets of narratives for each picture - one for our beginning readers and one for our older kids. I gave them permission to trust their instincts about the appropriate levels of discourse. After the day, those who were worried made a point of seeking me out to say how many important discussions it opened up, how much the kids enjoyed it, and how much it helped them to explore diversity further in the classroom. A teacher summed it up best in her comments about me exhibit "Age-appropriate, high quality, thought-provoking." Another teacher summed up the significance of the exhibit's presence for our community. "We've come a long way, baby!" he told me as he smiled.

I do a fair bit of consulting with independent schools on issues of diversity, and I must say that I have been spreading the word about the positive impact that the work of Family Diversity Projects can have on a school community. As I take *my* new position as Director of Diversity at Worcester Academy in the fall, I am already including the exhibit in my plans. Thank you for creating such a beautifully photographed, carefully written, and broadly inclusive educational tool. This is important work.

All the best,

Rodney Glasgow
Coordinator of Diversity Programs, Graland Country Day School
Co-Chair, NAIS Student Diversity Leadership Conference



GREENWICH ACADEMY

200 NORTH MAPLE AVENUE, GREENWICH, CT 06830-4799

TEL: 203-625-8990 FAX: 203-625-8912

Gloria Fernandez-Tearte
Director of Admission, Groups VII - XII
Director of Diversity

April 9, 2003

Mr. Robert Hill
Family Diversity Projects, Inc. P.O.
Box 1246 Amherst, MA 01004-1246

Dear Bob:

We had the In Our Family Exhibit for the month of February. The exhibit was placed in our art gallery allowing for everyone to see it during and after school. Prior to the exhibit's arrival we distributed the bibliography created by the Diversity Office Project along with other reading material so that faculty could understand the exhibit and incorporate wherever possible into curriculum. It also gave them information to refer to after the exhibit left.

In preparation for the exhibit, our lower-school teachers did a mini-unit on family. Students brought in family photos, which they discussed and hung on a bulletin board outside their classrooms. They spoke about differences within families and read a few books about different family structures. They then took a "field trip" to our art gallery and saw portraits of other families. We also invited parents to come with their children after school or the weekend to view the exhibit. The main focus was to see that all families have things in common AND that all families are different and special. The younger children just looked at the pictures while the teachers read some of the text to them. Our older lower school students also spoke of the concept of family before viewing the exhibit. Questions such as how can two women have a baby and where did the baby come from were asked by our fourth graders. The teachers answered questions and then asked students to have further discussion with their parents.

Among other things, our middle school diversity club visited the exhibit then wrote and shared stories about what they saw and how it related to their own families.

Timing of the event was perfect for one of our upper school French classes as they were doing presentations of their own families in French. They visited the exhibit and then made presentations of what they saw (in French of course) to the class. They had an opportunity to expand their vocabulary and practice French. Many of our upper school advisors took their groups to the exhibit and then shared their opinions. These conversations ranged from talking about how beautiful the pictures were to more serious discussion about family units and even some of the rewards/challenges these families may face.

We received wonderful feedback from our faculty about the exhibit. We had good conversation and raised the level of awareness throughout our campus. However, our experience was not without some controversy. Some of our lower school parents felt that they were not prepared to have their young children exposed to some of these family groupings, specifically gay and lesbian families.

My recommendation is to be available to parents, students and faculty that may have questions or be upset either because they feel inadequate to answer questions or they may have religious belief differences or parents who feel it should be their job to teach their children about these things. The most important thing for us to remember is why we have the exhibit in the first place. We believe that every child and family should feel safe, respected and supported in our school. Exposing children at all ages to difference is an important way to combat prejudice, stereotyping and discrimination.

I would be happy to speak to anyone considering bringing the exhibit to their school.

Best Regards,

Gloria Fernandez-Tearte



Southern Human Services Center
2501 Homestead Road
Chapel Hill, NC
27516

Maria Hitt, Coordinator
919-968-2022 Ext 291
FAX: 919-969-4777
mhitt@co.orange.nc.us

December 15, 2005

Family Diversity Projects Inc.
PO Box 1246
Amherst, MA 01004-1246

Dear Peggy and Gigi:

I want to write to you and share some of the highlights of our experience here in Orange County, North Carolina of having brought the Nothing to Hide; Mental Illness in the Family photographic exhibit to our community for two months this past fall. Once we discovered the exhibit, we built an entire project around bringing the show to our community and called it *Nothing to Hide, A Community Dialogue on Mental Illness*. We formed a committee that included representatives from our local NAMI chapter, the Mental Health Association and our public mental health program, Orange-Person-Chatham area program (OPC). We also included community agencies, interested citizens, the University of North Carolina and people living with mental illness in our planning group. These were people that had not worked together before, even though they were working on and interested in similar issues.

The exhibit gave us a catalyst to organize numerous community efforts with a focus on reducing the stigma associated with mental illness. Among our programs we brought a one-woman show "The Balancing Act" by Wambui Bahati, an amazing musical story of one woman's struggle with bi-polar disorder and her success at triumphing over it. We hosted the play at the grand opening of the photo exhibit. We organized a teen band jam and poetry slam, put together by a group of local teens where they gave information about mental health and mental illness and hosted several local bands. We worked with another community group to bring local author Virginia Holman to discuss her book *Rescuing Patty Hearst*, about her own mother's mental illness and growing up with that experience.

But best of all was the exhibit itself. We moved it around our community from place to place, increasing the numbers and kinds of people who were able to see the show. Some of the photos were placed in local restaurants and markets for a time; they were displayed in malls and at the farmers market with information booths and volunteers there to answer questions about local mental health services. They were, for a two-week period at our local ArtsCenter where they received wonderful exposure; we estimate at least 1,000 people saw it at that location. The ArtsCenter was also where we hosted the play and teen night; so all those folks saw it there, as well as many others who were coming to the center for classes or concerts during the two-week period.

I worked an information booth there one Friday night when there was a local art walk going on. I watched as people came in expecting painting or other visual art, and when I explained it was a show of portraits of families with mental illness, I saw their faces change. But I encouraged them on and watched, as they tentatively glanced at one, read the accompanying text, and before they knew, had viewed the entire 20 photos and read every bit of text and left changed by the experience I was sure.

We placed the show for 2 weeks in the human services center in Hillsborough, the smaller, more rural town in our County. It was displayed in the hallway outside the OPC Mental Health Center and below the public library. Staff from OPC told me they were bringing their clients out to see the pictures and read the stories, and share that they were not alone, that they were like so many others. And I received numerous e-mails from County employees that work in that building, who visited the show and wrote to me to comment how moving they were, or share that someone in their family suffered from a mental illness.

We then sent the show to the UNC-Chapel Hill Campus, where a few students organized discussion groups, and a film night, and many students I am sure passed those pictures and I hope took a moment to stop and consider the life of a person living with a mental illness and the effect that has on a family.

We had poetry readings, articles in the newspaper, and brown bag lunches on mental health topics. There is no way to know how many people in our community were touched by this exhibit over the 2-month period but I am certain it was several 1,000. Most of all we achieved our goal, we had a dialogue about mental illness, and we reached a lot of people that may not have gone out of their way to see this show, but by placing it in accessible locations, they may have stumbled upon it anyway and learned something.

Thank you for making this exhibit and for sharing it with us for 2 months in the fall of 2005. I believe it has changed us, changed me, and helped us better understand the work that is yet to be done. Our committee has agreed to continue to meet, to work together to continue to try and reduce stigma, and to help our community understand that mental illness is nothing to hide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Maria Hitt". The ink is dark and the signature is written in a fluid, connected style.

Maria Hitt
Senior Public Health Educator
Coordinator, Healthy Carolinians of Orange County
Co-Chair, Nothing to Hide Planning Committee

HERITAGE HJEMKOMST INTERPRETIVE CENTER

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Phone: (218) 299-5511 • Fax: (218) 299-5510

www.hjemkomst-center.com

May 3, 2007

The Heritage Hjemkomst Interpretive Center hosted the exhibit "In Our Family: Portraits of All Kinds of Families" created by Family Diversity Projects from January 2 through March 31, 2007. The exhibit drew many favorable comments.

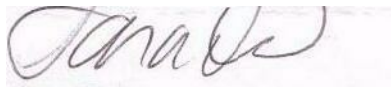
Our display of the exhibit was very welcoming. In the middle of the gallery, we set up a living room, with the photos of the exhibit hanging on the walls around it. In the exhibit we also put two kitchen tables with activities for children to do. At one table, children were encouraged to design their family's crest. At the other table, they were encouraged to create a family web, as suggested in the exhibit's accompanying educator's guide.

In conjunction with the exhibit, our programming committee put together a series of 12 workshops dealing with various family issues. This series proved helpful not only for families experiencing these issues, but also for local college students who wanted to learn more to help them in their chosen fields, (see enclosed)

Peggy Gillespie at Family Diversity Projects was extremely easy to work with; in fact, this group has been the easiest one to work with yet. Information was freely given on their website; Peggy was always a phone call away. The exhibit was packed with easy to follow instructions and it was highly adaptable to any audience.

We highly recommend working with Family Diversity Projects and their exhibits to anyone.

Sincerely,



Sara Dalen Program
Director

King & Low-Heywood Thomas School



Lynn S. Sullivan
Dean of Community Affairs
lsullivan@klht.org

1450 Newfield Avenue
Stamford, CT 06905

Tel 203.322.3496 x357

www.klht.org

Dear Peggy Gillespie & The FDP Team,

May 15, 2007

Our community is still buzzing about the three extraordinary exhibits we brought to King & Low-Heywood Thomas School long after the exhibit's departure from our school walls. Our parent diversity body (P.arents V.alue D.iversity) committee adopted this idea after hearing about its success in a neighboring school but decided to go beyond showing one exhibit. Collectively, we decided to truly honor our diversity policy by bringing in three exhibits; In Our Family, Of Many Colors and Road to Freedom. This decision spoke to the scope and intentionality, which we feel is critical to diversity work. In addition, because we are a campus with separate divisional buildings, we were able to rotate each exhibit every ten days for a month, so that all of our students were receiving this educational gift at the same time. With each rotation, came the excitement of students, parents and faculty in identifying opportunities and seizing what were inevitable teachable moments.

Our faculty used many curriculum lessons from the curriculum guide that accompanied the exhibit. A favorite was the Family Scavenger Hunt-the very definition of "family" took shape and purpose differently for each individual student. However in the end, the commonality of language used to describe "what makes a family" was equally profound. Our students took notice that while their family makeup may have been different from those in the photos, the universal thread, which hold a family together was similar. In some cases, the family makeup was quite similar and the comfort in familiarity these three exhibits offered, was a joy to see reflected in the eyes of a student who too was adopted, bi-racial or shared a family with someone with a learning difference or physical challenges.

While these exhibits provided many windows and mirrors for our students, we did not anticipate the exploration this project awarded our adult community. The pictures generated meaningful dialogue and forged our faculty and parents to pause and reflect upon their own life experiences, which in turn enabled them to have provocative conversations with their own children. The quality of the photos, were first rate and the interview text also presented beautifully. Our younger students were especially drawn to the text because of its ease to read. Our older students involved in our G.ay St.raight A.liance and U.nited C.ultures C.lub appreciated the school's direction in bringing thoughtful curriculum vehicles to the school to promote sensitivity and empathy and to undo stereotypes.

Thank you for your commitment to educating people around the globe,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "L. Sullivan".

Lynn Sullivan M.S. Ed, Dean of Community Affairs
King & Low Heywood Thomas School





November 22, 1996

Peggy Gillespie and Gigi Kaeser
Family Diversity Projects, Inc. P.O.
Box 1209 Amherst, MA 01004

Dear Peggy and Gigi,

Thank you for creating and touring such a thought-provoking exhibit! *Love Makes a Family's* insightful text and striking black and white photographs bring to life the featured families, engaging viewers until they wish they could join Ezra Fleishman's birthday party, adopt Marquita Drayton's grandfather as their own or meet award-winning novelist Dorothy Allison's young son. If the exhibit's purpose was to combat homophobia by illustrating in a visible and tangible way the existence and power of these families, you've accomplished your goal. The exhibit truly delivers a powerful message about family being a group of people who care about each other!

Love Makes a Family brought Kansas City an unparalleled opportunity for open discussion and dialogue about the lives of lesbians and gays. Our associated public programs, cosponsored by the Library, the Lesbian and Gay Community Center and Parents and Family of Lesbians and Gays, attracted a total of 90 people to the Library. A panel featuring area lesbian and gay families and a presentation by Massachusetts consultant Leslie Hoffman, sparked audience questions and lively discussion. After the first program, a young woman wrote in the comment book, "I brought my mom here. I hope she leaves feeling a little better about my life. Thanks, Rene" Someone else wrote several days later, "I am thrilled to pieces that you have been exhibiting the *Love Makes a Family* photo exhibit, both for myself and our city in general, but also for my 16-year-old, who needs to see images that counteract the homophobia encountered everyday in school and on the street..." Altogether 21 persons took the time to write comments about the exhibit and the associated programs. (Eighteen were positive and only three were negative.) In addition, a well-known Topeka, Kansas, minister and several members of his congregation picketed against the exhibit, although no one paid any attention and he received no media coverage. A few days after that, a positive "letter to the editor" appeared in *The Kansas City Star*.

Peggy, as I told you over the phone, please let us know about any future exhibits! Many of the same Library staff, customers and people who visited here because *Love Makes a Family* was on display, also appreciated your *Check Other: Portraits of Multiracial Families* which we exhibited last spring. The care you take with themes, personal interviews, photography and display guarantees thought-provoking and enjoyable exhibits. Our Library would be pleased to exhibit any project you produce. *Love Makes a Family* has been a wonderful experience and the Library's program committee, who selects exhibits, plans associated programs and promotes it all, feels as though we're telling an old friend good-bye as we pack up this particular display. Actually, we'd like to see it, or a companion piece, here again some day!

Best Wishes for the holiday season and continued success with exhibit creation,

Margaret Clark
Adult Program Services

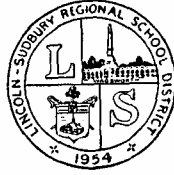
311 EAST 12TH STREET
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LINCOLN-SUDBURY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

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SUDBURY, MASSACHUSETTS 01776 - 1409

JOHN M. RITCHIE, ED. D.
SUPERINTENDENT/PRINCIPAL



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Peggy Gillespie
Co-Director
Family Diversity Projects, Inc.
P.O. Box 1246
Amherst, MA 01004-1246

May 12, 2005

Dear Peggy,

Thank you so much for allowing us to display *Love Makes a Family* here at Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School. It really added much to our Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender Awareness Day and to our drama department's production of *Laramie Project*.

As you know the Gay Straight Alliance has limited funds and we had to apply for a grant to find some of the money for the exhibit and then beg the principal for the remainder. The money was well spent. The exhibit was viewed by students, staff, and community members. We displayed it near the main entrance of the school for several weeks.

The exhibit really helped start discussion among students and faculty members about different issues in the personal stories as well as our own personal experiences. We have had a group dealing with anti-Catholic remarks and they posted a letter with their experiences near one of the stories that discussed the Catholic Church. This helped start a conversation between both groups of students and really helped them look beyond their own views.

Our Awareness Day included many different forums about gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender issues. We had students debate same sex marriage, students run discussions about homophobia here at our school, religious leaders come talk about homosexuality in religion, a privilege line and discussion of issues, members of PFLAG came, a discussion and sharing of personal experiences about civil unions versus same sex marriage and a Keynote presentation on gays in history. The exhibit helped round off the day to include more personal stories and the side of gay families we did not have anywhere else in our day.

I have heard such wonderful things and have been thanked many times for bringing the exhibit to our school. People really enjoyed having the time to read through the stories and see the photographs. I really hope this exhibit can visit more schools. We found it so beneficial to our own lives.

Thank you again for all of your work! We really appreciate all the help you gave us including the lower price so we could display the exhibit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carrie J. Embleton".

Carrie J. Embleton
GSA Co-Advisor

November 28, 2018

Family Diversity Projects
PO Box 1246
Amherst, MA 01004-1246

Dear Peggy Gillespie:

Building Bridges: Portraits of Immigrants and Refugees was the perfect exhibit for Little Rock Central High School as we commemorated the 61st Anniversary of the Integration of our historic school. Central High School was the site of forced school desegregation after the US Supreme Court ruled in 1954 that segregation of public schools was unconstitutional. The nine African-American students' persistence in attending the formerly all-white Central High School was the most prominent national example of the implementation of the May 17, 1954 Supreme Court decision *Brown v. Board of Education*.

After a month at our school, we moved the exhibit across the street to the National Park Service's Central H.S. Historic site for a continued showing open to the public.

The power and magic of the exhibit was shared with our students, teachers, staff, parents and community. We will be reaching out to Family Diversity Projects, Inc., again next year as the exhibits highlight social justice and ways to celebrate "many cultures one world." Thank you for your impactful visions. We urge all schools, colleges, libraries, workplaces, and other community venues to show Family Diversity Project's exhibits and we hope foundations and donors will support this work which continues to help us all fight against bigotry and bullying.

Nancy L. Rousseau
Principal
Little Rock Central High School
1500 South Park Street
Little Rock, AR 72202



October 29, 2014

TO: Family Diversity Projects

RE: Nothing to Hide – Mental Illness in the Family exhibit

Thanks to Family Diversity Projects for the *“Nothing to Hide: Mental Illness in the Family”* exhibit. Our community in Mobile, Alabama was able to experience a wonderful collection of the faces of people who have been diagnosed with mental illness and their families. This exhibit was a great example of how we should see people who have mental illness and it helps to dispel the myths and stereotypes that the public has about people who have mental illness. This exhibit also helps to reduce the stigma that surrounds mental illness.

The exhibit was such a success in Mobile that we shared the exhibit with other NAMI affiliates in the state. The exhibit travel throughout Alabama for a year and we appreciate Family Diversity Projects for allowing us to use it in so many venues by giving us a large scholarship to make this possible. We hope that donors and foundations will help support their important work.

“Nothing to Hide” is a must see for everyone!

Thanks,
Zina May, President



May 25, 1995

Peggy Gillespie
P.O. Box 1216
Amherst, MA 01004-1216

Dear Peggy,

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) is pleased to endorse the exhibit "Love Makes a Family: Living in Lesbian and Gay Families." At PFLAG, we find that ignorance about gay and lesbian people is the greatest barrier to strong and healthy families and communities. "Love Makes A Family" can be an important tool for overcoming ignorance and homophobia in so far as it presents truthful images of gay and lesbian people in the context of family.

PFLAG's membership consists primarily of the parents, family members and friends of lesbians and gay men. Many of our members are proud grandparents and have extended their vision of family by sharing in the family life of their gay, lesbian and bisexual children. There are, however, very few public images that represent their understanding of family.

In the words of our National President Mitzi Henderson, "It is not the configuration of the family that matters so much as the quality of the relationships between its members." "Love Makes a Family" reminds us all that the fundamentals of love and support are to be found in all types of families, including gay and lesbian families.

We have a lot to lose if we are unable to understand and embrace diversity - and everything to gain by educating ourselves and our communities. We wish you success with the exhibit and thank you for a tool in our work to educate the public about gay and lesbian people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandra Gillis".

Sandra Gillis Executive
Director



Regional Multicultural MAGNET SCHOOL

Paul Carolan
Director

Spring 2007

Dear Friends,

This letter is written from the Regional Multicultural Magnet School to thank you for the photo exhibit, "A Road to Freedom", by the Family Diversity Projects. We are a multicultural, K-5 public school of choice that serves thirteen communities in southeastern CT. In the past we have sponsored "In Our Family, Portraits of All Kinds of Families", which promoted vibrant conversation in our community about diversity and multiculturalism. "A Road to Freedom" gave our community an opportunity to continue our conversation.

In preparation for the exhibit, our staff had a four-hour professional development workshop. Two staff members shared their powerful stories; One, who suffers from MS shared her everyday life experiences as a disabled person, mother, wife and teacher. The second spoke of living in a family as the only typically developing sibling. Our staff then created lesson plans on how they might use the exhibit with their classes.

While the exhibit was displayed in the library, each class was required by the Director to visit the exhibit two times. One time with the librarian, who read the testimonies, and a second time with their teacher with follow-up lessons in the classroom. We created the program requirements to ensure that all students had access to this unique opportunity at the school.

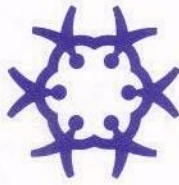
Teachers reported on many teachable moments in their classrooms as a result of the exhibit. They reported that the range of disabilities portrayed was especially valuable as so many children could relate on a personal level. Students made connections to the photos and others were stimulated by the photos and felt affirmed to share their own stories. Having the program at the school was very positive and added deep, thoughtful conversation about diversity. We have enclosed some of the curriculum developed by our teachers, please feel free to share with other schools that might find it useful. We thank the Family Diversity Projects for their unique and interesting work.

Sincerely,

Laureen Pierandi
Manager of Enrichment



LEARN RMMS is a LEARN program.



Shady Hill School

Bruce Shaw, *Director*

November 28, 2005

Peggy Gillespie, Co-Director Family
Diversity Projects PO Box 1246
Amherst, MA 01004

Dear Peggy,

We recently rented our third exhibit from Family Diversity Projects. Two years ago we hung "Love Makes a Family: Lesbian Gay, Bisexual People and Their Families." Last year we hung "In Our Family: Portraits of All Kind of Families" and this year we were very pleased to have "Of Many Colors: Portraits of Multiracial Families."

Your exhibits always prompt terrific questions and discussions that might not otherwise come up with our students so organically. Your exhibits are so designed as to offer something for everyone. Our kindergarteners can engage with the exhibit at one level and our older students in 7th and 8th grade at another. I cannot think of anything easier, more interesting or intelligent for us to do to spur conversation on these important topics of race and gender, or to so simply celebrate family and difference. We cannot thank you enough for the work you do and look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Polshek
Library Director

Diversity Committee

April 2, 2000

To Whom It May Concern:

I had the pleasure of hosting the photo-text exhibit *Nothing to Hide: Mental Illness in the Family* in my school district for the past two weeks.

For the past four years the Diversity Committee at Southwick-Tolland Regional High School has planned a Diversity Awareness Week program. I had heard about Family Diversity Projects and in 1998 had a very successful showing of the exhibit *Of Many Colors: Portraits of Multiracial Families*. When I heard about the new exhibit dealing with mental illness, I immediately knew that I wanted to bring it to the school. Over the years the Diversity Committee has done very little with mental illness/disabilities and this would be a perfect way to begin those discussions. The photo-text exhibits provide a unique opportunity to expose students to issues because they provide both a verbal and visual way to learn about a topic. It also puts a face on diversity issues we talk about but can't always see.

I am fortunate to have the support of the local cultural council which has funded both of the exhibits shown in this school district. In Massachusetts, local cultural council grant applications are due October 15. I wrote the grants to cover the majority of the cost associated with the exhibit. One reason that I feel has helped me get funding is that I rent the exhibit for two weeks and display it for one week at our middle school and one week at the high school. This allows for more people to view the exhibit, therefore helping the Cultural Council meet its goal of making their projects as widely viewed as possible.

Nothing to Hide was very powerful. Both students and staff remarked how moving and educational the stories were. Many people could see a family member, friend, peer or co-worker in the pictures and could relate to their stories. "It displayed mental illnesses in a whole new light," and "It was extremely informative and something everyone should see," were some of the student comments after viewing the exhibit. I also had the complete support of the administration and faculty in bringing the exhibit here and making sure students went to see it.

I was also able to plan programs after school and at night for in depth discussions about mental illness. The editors of the exhibit, as well as an advocate from the Alliance for the Mentally Ill were invited to speak to students, staff and community members. They spoke about the exhibit, their experiences with a family member who is mentally ill and how to educate people and break down the stigma associated with being mentally ill. I would highly recommend such discussions take place while the exhibit is on display as it helps to bring the issue to the forefront.

I can't say enough about *Nothing to Hide* and encourage its viewing in every school. It sends a powerful message and helps to make our society more tolerant and accepting.

Sincerely,



Bob Bardwell



Suncoast Center for Community Mental Health, Inc.

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Mail to: P.O. Box 10970, St. Petersburg, FL 33733-0970
(727) 327-7656 phone; (727) 323-8978 fax
TTY: (727) 321-6849
www.sccmh.org

“Solutions for Change”

April 16, 2004

To Whom It May Concern,

In October 2003, Suncoast Center for Community Mental Health, Inc. (Suncoast Center) served as the lead agency for Family Diversity Project's touring photo-text exhibit. *Nothing to Hide: Mental Illness in the Family*, at the Florida Holocaust Museum, St. Petersburg, FL.

The collaboration between Suncoast Center, the Holocaust Museum and two other area mental health organizations, Personal Enrichment through Mental Health Services (PEMHS), and Gulf Coast Jewish Family Services (Gulf Coast), proved to be a success in many aspects. Aligned with each of the collaborative organization's mission statements, the exhibit was aimed at stopping prejudice and discrimination based on mental disability.

Some outcomes of the exhibit were: educating the St. Petersburg community about how 'no family is untouched by mental illness' ... how it affects the family dynamic; a full-page article was written in the *St. Petersburg Times* about the exhibit showing; a presentation to the Pinellas County School Board was conducted at their board meeting which encouraged school officials to conduct field trips to the museum so that young children could learn the truth about mental illness ... that it is a treatable and manageable disease.

Our October 1st opening reception of the exhibit brought approximately 100+ people who listened to local families speak about how mental illness has affected them and their families, and also those who suffer from mental illness spoke about how treatment and management of their symptoms through medication has improved their lives and preserved their family units.

I encourage other mental health organizations, educational institutions and public entities to support the important work of Family Diversity Projects.

Should you have any questions, please call me at (727) 327-7656 ext. 244.

Sincerely,

Barbara E. Daire, L.C.S.W.
President and CEO



Suncoast Center is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) Corporation.

THE MASTERS SCHOOL
A T D O B B S F E R R Y

Feb. 20, 2000

Dear Head of School:

The purpose of this letter is to share with you my enthusiasm about the work of Family Diversity Projects, Inc. Its mission is to educate the public about the growing diversity of the American family. Its goal is to help eliminate prejudice, stereotyping, and harassment of those who are discriminated against due to race, sexual orientation, gender, and mental or physical disability. Family Diversity Projects creates award-winning photograph-text exhibits which travel nationwide to schools, libraries, universities, and museums.

Family Diversity Projects has created four exhibits to date: **Of Many Colors: Portraits of Multiracial Families**, **Love Makes a Family: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender People and their Families**, **Nothing to Hide: Mental Illness in the Family**, and **In Our Family: Portraits of All Kinds of Families**. Each exhibit is comprised of twenty family portraits with accompanying interviews with each family member. The visual effect of each photograph is both powerful and moving, as is the honesty and candor of each statement by the children and the adults in these families.

The Masters School recently displayed **Of Many Colors**. This exhibit was on our campus for several weeks, and our students were deeply touched by it. Our faculty used **Of Many Colors** as an opportunity to engage with their students in discussion and rich dialogue about racial diversity. The other three exhibits will certainly benefit our school to the same degree, each of them with their own special message of inclusion and acceptance.

As Heads of schools, we all share a strong commitment to diversity issues. These four exhibits offer a special opportunity to help our students understand and respect differences in others. I heartily recommend them to each and every one of you.

Sincerely,



Pamela J. Clarke
Head of School



UNITARIAN SOCIETY OF NORTHAMPTON AND FLORENCE

VICTORIA SAFFORD, MINISTER

6 September 1996

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in support of Family Diversity Projects, Inc. for the extraordinary exhibit, "Love Makes a Family."

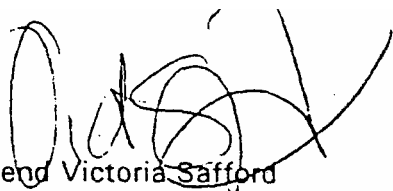
The photographs and texts were displayed in our sanctuary for a month last fall. For four weeks, at all hours, members of our congregation and people from the community at large came in to view them. Alone, in pairs, in intentional and accidental groups, they felt the power and clarity of those images and those stories. Many stopped in at my office to share the impact of the experience, or to ask questions, opening a conversation they had never attempted before. On some days, schoolteachers brought whole classes to the exhibit. Families came (gay and straight), our own Sunday school classes came, and people on their lunch hours who were curious and apprehensive, and others, with great intention and pride. Many, many people cried. And in the guest book and in person, they expressed their wholehearted gratitude that a downtown house of worship would sponsor such a show.

Within our own congregation, the exhibit sparked essential dialogue. We have long been a "welcoming congregation," full participants in our denomination's deliberate effort to be wide open to and affirming of gay, lesbian and bisexual members and friends. Still, to sit for four weeks with these images, these faces of women, children and men in our worship space, was a profound experience. People began to live out -- and to defend - their passionate belief that indeed, love makes a family.

This collection is timely, clear, powerful without being dogmatic, emotionally potent without sentimentality. Its message *is* political to the extent that all good art is political -it tells humanity's truth.

I would like to see every house of worship, every school, every library, every possible public space exhibit this show.

Sincerely,


The Reverend Victoria Safford

The Unitarian Society of Hartford

50 Bloomfield Avenue • Hartford, CT 06105
Tel. (860) 233-9897 • Fax. (860) 233-1333

THE REVEREND TERASA G. COOLEY
Senior Minister

THE REVEREND CHERYL LESHAY
Asst. Minister for Religious Education



"There are many paths approaching the truth that unites us"

July 17, 2003

Peggy Gillespie
Gigi Kaeser
Family Diversity Project, Inc.
P.O. Box 1246
Amherst, MA 01004-1246

Dear Peggy and Gigi,

The Unitarian Society of Hartford had the wonderful experience of displaying the Love Makes A Family photo exhibit during the month of May 2003. This was a project sponsored by the Welcoming Congregation Task Force.

The Welcoming Congregation Task Force is made up of a group of church members, both gay and straight allies, dedicated to providing various venues for our church community to explore the many layers of social, cultural and emotional complexity experienced by Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) people and their families. Our goal was to deepen our church community's understanding of the GLBT life experience and to develop a church community commitment to spiritual outreach and social justice support. This has been a 2-year journey for our church and on June 22, 2003 our church voted, with an overwhelming response, to become an official Welcoming Congregation.

Our choice to display the Love Makes A Family exhibit was such a moving and joyful way to reinforce all that we have done to enrich our church community's understanding of the diverse fabric of GLBT experience. Through both the wonderful photographs of these families and the sharing of life experiences the exhibit moved both our congregation and the many visitors who came to see the LMF exhibit in a humble and positive way.

As part of a month long series of events surrounding the installation of the exhibit we held a reception, open to the public, and invited members of PFLAG, CT NOW and Love Makes A Family legislative coalition to speak. The evening was truly a celebration of life and love and went a long way in deepening our church communities commitment to work at the mission of changing societal homophobia, discrimination, and social injustices that the GLBT community continues to experience with family and neighbor, in places of worship, in the workplace, and in the legal system.

Email: firstunitarian@ushartford.com • Website: www.USHartford.com
A Member of the Unitarian Universalist Association of America

The Unitarian Society of Hartford

50 Bloomfield Avenue • Hartford, CT 06105
Tel. (860) 233-9897 • Fax. (860) 233-1333

THE REVEREND TERASA G. COOLEY
Senior Minister

THE REVEREND CHERYL LESHAY
Asst. Minister for Religious Education



"There are many paths approaching the truth that unites us"

The Love Makes A Family photo exhibit sends a message, loud and clear. We must reach into our hearts and then reach out to the world with the message that we recognize the inherent dignity and worth of all types of families. When people come together to form a family, founded in love, this world in a richer place. When society supports the social and emotional inclusion of all kinds of families this world becomes a better place for all people.

Thank you.

Peg Home
Welcoming Congregation Task Force



Union WG-89
PO Box 413
Milwaukee, WI
53201-0413
414 229-4116 *phone*
414 229-4274 *fax*

October 21, 2003


Family Diversity Projects
PO Box 1246
Amherst, MA 01004

To Whom It May Concern:

We were very pleased with the exhibition "Love Makes a Family" that we displayed here at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee for Coming Out Week, (Oct 6 to 10). The display is timely because it puts a face on many of the family issues concerning LGBT parenting and adoption. These are the issues that the right wing in America uses in their campaigns of disinformation around Family Values. The exhibition is an effective refutation of these distortions with its moving and honest portrayals of everyday LGBT folks living their lives just as a "Traditional Family" would. It is also effective in portraying the diversity of family structures that is more in line with modern reality, where the stereotypical nuclear family of man, woman and children is less dominant. It is also effective in validating non-biological families that we construct as we move through life.

We set up the exhibit in the concourse of our Student Union and only had positive comments from the thousands who viewed it. I highly recommend this show to any potential exhibitors and support any funding it can receive for continued success.

Sincerely,



Yves LaPierre
Director, LGBT Resource Center at UWM

VASSAR COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND GEOGRAPHY

January 20, 2005

Peggy Gillespie
Family Diversity Projects, Inc.
P.O. Box 1246
Amherst, MA 01004-1246

Dear Peggy,

This note comes to express my thanks, on behalf of Vassar College, for sharing with us your moving and informative photo-text exhibit, "Love Makes a Family." The exhibit was held in October 2004 in the James W. Palmer gallery at Vassar College, a centrally-located exhibit space on campus. Hundreds of students, faculty and community members visited the exhibit during the two-week period in which hung in the gallery. The opening reception was very well attended and resulted in a lovely article in the Poughkeepsie Journal that called attention to unjust stereotypes of gay men and lesbians as parents and family members.

We held the exhibit as part of a fund-raiser for the College's Community Works campaign—Vassar's alternative to conducting a United Way campaign. Unlike some other United Way chapters in New York and despite our continued respectful dialogue with United Way, United Way of Dutchess County continues to support the Boy Scouts of America, an organization that fought for and through a Supreme Court ruling received the legal right to exclude gay men as scout leaders. Vassar's nondiscrimination policy includes sexual orientation and thus forbids such bias. Since it would be hypocritical for our institution to participate, even indirectly, in the discrimination practiced by the Boy Scouts of America, the College began donating funds to our community through our innovative Community Works campaign in 2002.

As director of this year's giving campaign, I along with my colleagues on the campaign committee, decided that the "Love Makes a Family" exhibit would be a perfect complement to the giving campaign. We felt that it would help combat the kind of discrimination that our local United Way chapter refused to counter. Indeed, the exhibit did just that. Along with members of the Vassar community, individuals associated with the agencies that the Community Works campaign funds enthusiastically attended the opening reception for the exhibit and later returned with co-workers to view it. Also, at least one local Gay-Straight Alliance group (from Poughkeepsie Day School) visited the exhibit. So did members of the group "Circles of Planned Parenthood"—a weekly after-school support groups where lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered (LGBT) adolescents meet in a safe space to talk about the discrimination and violence they often face—who receive funding from the Community Works campaign.

Perhaps needless to say, we were thrilled with the exhibit and the effect it had on our community. I look forward to bringing some of the other exhibits put together by your organization to Vassar and our larger local community in the future. On a personal note, it was a complete pleasure to work with you as you made all the arrangements work very smoothly.

Thank you so much for the work that you do and for this remarkable exhibit.

With Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jill". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter being a large, stylized 'J'.

Jill S. Schneiderman
Associate Dean of the Faculty
Professor and Chair, Geology & Geography Department
Director, Community Works campaign 2005

WELLESLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT
50 Kingsbury Street, Wellesley, MA 02481

Ellen McBrien Courchene, Dept. Head of Guidance/Jeffrey Williams, Dept. Head of SPED
(781) 446-6250 ext 4116 (781) 446-6250 ext 4115

June 23, 2004

Peggy Gillespie, Co-Director/Founder
Family Diversity Projects, Inc.
PO Box 1246
Amherst, MA 01004-1246

Dear Peggy,

The purpose of this letter is to acknowledge the exquisite quality of the Family Diversity Project: ***IN OUR FAMILY: Portraits of All Kinds of Families*** and to tell you of the extraordinarily positive response we received from our school community upon viewing the exhibit.

When we at Wellesley Middle School were seeking funding to bring ***IN OUR FAMILY*** our school, we wrote a grant proposal stating that the intent of presenting the exhibit was to reinforce three of the core values of the Wellesley Public Schools: respect for human differences, commitment to community and appreciation and development of cooperative and caring relationships. More specifically, we stated that the goal of presenting this program was to foster understanding, insight and respect for the many types of families in our community. By having all of our students view the exhibit, it was our hope that students living in a variety of families would begin to feel acknowledged as accepted members of our community. As a school we have been working particularly hard the last two years to create a respectful atmosphere for gay males and lesbians.

Based on feedback from all who viewed the exhibit -every student in our school, administrators, the entire faculty, some parents and community members - we are confident saying that our goal was reached. Teachers who led group discussions with students after viewing the exhibit expressed appreciation for the depth of understanding that the exhibit evoked in students. Teachers were still talking about the exhibit in June; and during the year a high school freshman, returning to our school to visit teachers and his counselor, remarked on the lasting impression that the exhibit made on him. As evidence of this success, we would like to share a representative sample of the written comments which we received from those who saw the exhibit.

I think this exhibit is amazing. It shows that families aren't based on relation or ethnic background but love, caring and friendship. Awesome, Man!

It's a wonderful thing to show how families are alike. This exhibit was a beautiful thing, too. It made me think that even if you are different than others it doesn't really mean you don't have a family. This was a great way of showing that families are not all the same.

This exhibit wonderful, and it really made me think about what it would be like to be in one of these families. I wish everyone could just accept everyone else's differences, then the world would be much better.

This exhibit made me think about what holds a family together and different types of love. I thought the exhibit was informative and set up in a creative way. It makes closed-minded people realize how they effect other people also this exhibit really brought out how different and unique every family is. Family is really whatever you say it is.

I loved this exhibit. It showed how every family is different. I connected with all of them. The perfect family isn't perfect!

Cool pictures. It made me feel like I just traveled around the world meeting new people.

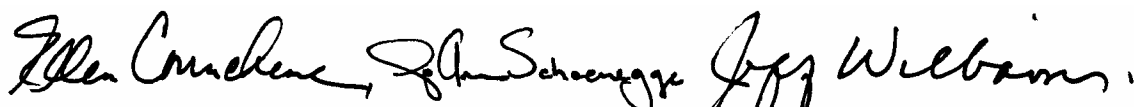
I really enjoyed this exhibit. I have a lot of respect for these families and I think that I can be more sensitive to people after reading their opinions.

I thought the exhibit was informative and set up in a very creative way. It really brought out how different and unique every family is. Family is really whatever you say it is.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if a few beautiful photographs could really change the profile of prejudice in our world? Bring your feelings inspired by these photos home with you to the dinner table.

We are enormously appreciative that this Family Diversity Project engaged our entire community across grade levels and curricula in such a positive manner and evoked powerful feelings and reactions such as was described by one of our 7th graders when he remarked that the exhibit provided a "life-impacting" experience. A number of the students and faculty who belong to some of the groups represented in the exhibit expressed appreciation for feeling acknowledged. We encourage other schools to consider sponsoring this project and would be willing to talk to any school needing further information about our experience with this wonderful exhibit.

Sincerely,

The image shows three handwritten signatures in black ink. From left to right, they are: Ellen Courchene, Jo Ann Schoenegge, and Jeff Williams. The signatures are written in a cursive style.

Ellen Courchene, Jo Ann Schoenegge and Jeff Williams'

WESLEYAN
UNIVERSITY



Office of Student Activities & Leadership Development
237 High Street, North College/Lower Level
Middletown, CT 06459-0265

May 15, 2006

Family Diversity Projects
P.O. BOX 1246
Amherst, MA 01004

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Nicole Chabot and I am the Program Coordinator for Student Activities and Leadership Development at Wesleyan University. Wesleyan recently hosted the Love Makes a Family Exhibit for a two week period and had an absolutely amazing experience.

From the beginning, Family Diversity Projects was amazingly helpful and accommodating. They were flexible with our time schedule and made the delivery and shipping process of the Love Makes a Family exhibit extremely easy.

More importantly, however, the exhibit itself was absolutely extraordinary. We displayed it in the foyer to our library which is a heavily traveled space by students, faculty and staff, and constantly had people stopping to view and read the exhibit materials. The quality of the exhibit was beyond our expectations and the range of diversity expressed within the families represented really made it something that a wide range of people could relate to.

We had a small kick-off event which was greatly attended by people from all over the campus community, and even involved one of the families from the exhibit in our event. Mr. Iaculla and Mr. Steinman were so wonderful to work with, and generously offered up their stories and experiences with their daughter Hope (a first year student at Wesleyan) to all that were in attendance. Audience members were thrilled with the experience and really boasted about how they would love to see more events like this on campus.

I am greatly looking forward to working with Family Diversity Projects again soon and would recommend this exhibit to anyone interested. It is an easy way to greatly impact a community and really get people to talk about issues that aren't always easily accessible.

Thank you again to Family Diversity Projects and please feel free to contact me at (860) 685-2143 with any questions regarding the exhibit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nicole Chabot".

Nicole Chabot
Program Coordinator, Student Activities and Leadership Development
Wesleyan University