

“Love Makes A Family: Portraits of LGBT People and Their Families” is a touring photo-text exhibit created by the award-winning Family Diversity Projects. Photos by Gigi Kaeser and interviews edited by Peggy Gillespie. Learn more at www.familydiv.org.

Gigi Kaeser is an early childhood educator and photographer. She is cofounder/director of Family Diversity Projects and the photographer for all of their projects. She has had photographs published in *Teaching Tolerance Magazine*, *The NAMI Advocate*, *Rethinking Schools*, *The New York Times*, and *The Boston Globe*, among others.

Peggy Gillespie is the cofounder/director of Family Diversity Projects. She is a certified social worker and was the first assistant director of the Mindfulness-based Stress Reduction Program at UMass Medical Center. A graduate of Smith College with a master’s degree from the University of Oklahoma, Ms. Gillespie has worked as a freelance journalist for the past 15 years. She has written major feature articles for *The Boston Globe*, *Sunday Magazine*, *Redbook*, *Yoga Journal*, and *New Woman*. She is the Editor-in-Chief of all of Family Diversity Project’s exhibits and books. In addition she is the coauthor of *Less Stress* (Signet) and the autobiography of choreographer/dancer Bill T. Jones entitled *Last Night on Earth* (Pantheon).



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Western New England University makes its Art Gallery space available at no charge to area artists for art shows. All proceeds from these exhibits are given directly to the artists.

WESTERN NEW ENGLAND UNIVERSITY

P R E S E N T S

LOVE MAKES A FAMILY: PORTRAITS OF LGBT PEOPLE AND THEIR FAMILIES

**Special photography exhibition
created by Family Diversity Projects**



January 26 – February 27, 2014

Opening Reception: Sunday, Jan. 26, 2014, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Gallery Talk: Thursday, Jan. 30, 2014, 7:00 p.m.

THE ART GALLERY
AT WESTERN NEW ENGLAND UNIVERSITY
St. Germain Campus Center

“A family is a bunch of people, or not so many, who love each other.”

Liza Styles, age 7

Family Diversity Projects (FDP) is a nonprofit organization devoted to educating people of all ages about the full range of diversity. Family Diversity Projects creates traveling photo-text exhibits, books, and curriculum to help eliminate prejudice, stereotyping, bullying, and harassment of people who are discriminated against due to sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, race, national origin, religion, and disabilities of all kinds.

Family Diversity Projects has created seven award-winning traveling photo-text exhibits, including “Love Makes A Family: Portraits of LGBT People and Their Families.”

“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.”

Lisa Maldonado, ACLU Field Director



“Many people have commented that each exhibit has brought so much information and a face to very important topics to our community. Having the exhibit for a period of time in our library allowed so many people an opportunity to view it and return a number of times. I cannot even count how many students have said that they could relate to someone that they read about in one of the exhibits. Many faculty utilized the exhibits to further educate students about subject matter being discussed in their classes.”

Gregory M. Clement
Assistant Dean of Students
Mount Wachusett
Community College

“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.”

Ellen Graf, Special Projects Librarian
Boston Public Library



“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.”

Ellen Wolpert, Cambridge Community Partnerships for Children

“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.”

Margaret Clark
Adult Program Services
Kansas City Public Library

