



Family Diversity Projects

Family Diversity Projects is a non-profit 501c(3) organization devoted to educating the public about issues related to the diversity of family life. Family Diversity Projects creates touring photo-text exhibits, books, and related educational materials and curriculum to help eliminate prejudice, stereotyping, name-calling, and harassment of people who are discriminated against due to race, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, size, and disabilities of all kinds.

Family Diversity Projects currently distributes four other photo-text exhibits that they created: *Of Many Colors: Portraits of Multiracial Families*, *Love Makes A Family: Portraits of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender People and their Families*, *In Our Family: Portraits of All Kinds of Families*, and *Nothing To Hide: Mental Illness in the Family*.

Founded by two of the artists who created these exhibits—photographer, Gigi Kaeser and interviewer/editor, Peggy Gillespie—Family Diversity Projects also provides speakers and workshop leaders for conferences, schools, colleges, workplaces, and other exhibit venues.

“In The Road To Freedom, we meet people whose stories are not about overcoming their disabilities, but about overcoming discrimination. They tell of hard won achievements, wide-ranging interests, meaningful hobbies, bodily differences, innovative problem-solving, frustrating barriers and complicated balancing acts, but above all, of living full lives as friends, family members and participants in their communities.”

Gail Landsman, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Anthropology, SUNY-Albany

‘normal’ includes everyone

“My definition of ‘normal’ includes everyone, no matter what disability anyone has. Disability is just a part of the flavor that makes us people. To me, disabilities are normal. Society says that ‘normal’ means people who fit within clearly defined lines. I see the lines as being way out there and nobody is on the outside.”

—Juan Dixon, technical assistant, Office of Students with Disabilities, Holyoke Community College, MA

nobody is on the outside

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FAMILY DIVERSITY PROJECTS



THE ROAD TO FREEDOM: *Portraits of People with Disabilities*

**A Photo-Text Exhibit
You Can Bring to Your Community**



What Is The Road To Freedom?

The Road To Freedom is a traveling photo-text exhibit that can come to your community. It includes twenty color photographs by Gigi Kaeser and text edited from interviews conducted by journalist Peggy Gillespie and students at the Four Rivers Charter School. This powerful exhibit documents the experiences, lives, and families of children, teens, and adults whose lives are affected by the full spectrum of physical, sensory, learning, and mental disabilities including cerebral palsy, polio, cystic fibrosis, learning disabilities, bipolar disorder, post-traumatic stress syndrome, quadriplegia, blindness, deafness, stroke, multiple sclerosis, Asperger's syndrome, autism, Down syndrome and congenital heart disease.

The Road To Freedom gives people with disabilities the opportunity to tell their stories and share glimpses of their everyday lives in order to help challenge stereotypes and reduce prejudice and discrimination. Carmen Rosa Rosada, a woman in the exhibit who has quadriplegia, recently received her master's degree in mathematics. She said, "Many people stare at me and I would like them to treat me as a human being. After all, each person has their own limitations in one way or another. People with disabilities are just like everybody else."

Use The Road To Freedom

in your school (K—12), college, library, workplace, conference, health center, and community

- ¥ to present positive, realistic images of people who have all types of disabilities
- ¥ to be a centerpiece for your diversity weeks and other celebrations at schools, campuses, or workplaces
- ¥ to bring public awareness to people with disabilities and to reduce stigma in your community
- ¥ to educate people of all ages about the disability rights movement
- ¥ to get media attention for your programs by having a public exhibit opening event

last frontier of civil rights

"I wish we could be loved for all of our abilities, our quirks, our spirit, our unique ways in this world. Despite improvements, people with disabilities are routinely denied access to many places. Disability rights are the last frontier of civil rights."

The resa Vincent, *poet and mother of a daughter in the exhibit*

loved for all of our abilities



You Can Bring This Exhibit To Your Community

The Road To Freedom can travel worldwide to your school (K—12), college, library, health center, place of worship, museum, corporate headquarters, and conference. This exhibit can be used by educators, disability advocates, people with disabilities and their family members, and all people interested in educating the public about the experiences of individuals and their families who live with all kinds of disabilities.

The exhibit consists of twenty museum-quality framed color photographs accompanied by interview text panels.

Family Diversity Projects circulates multiple copies of **The Road To Freedom** and can work with you to make this exhibit an educational and enlightening artistic event in your community.

For exhibit rental information, please contact:

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Visit our Website:

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