



Social Justice for the LGBT Community

A survey conducted in 2001 by the Growing Together Initiative of over 500 heterosexual, homosexual and transgender individuals in San Luis Obispo County found the following:

- Two thirds of the respondents reported that civil rights were a serious issue facing the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender(LGBT) community in San Luis Obispo County
- 41% of the LGBT respondents surveyed indicated that they had personally experienced discrimination (limited legal rights, unequal access to housing and services, etc.), harassment or abuse in San Luis Obispo
- National studies indicate that LGBT children and youth are five times more likely to miss school because they feel unsafe due to harassment by their classmates
- A National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs report indicated that nationally 13 murders in 2004 and 10 murders in 2005 were related to anti-LGBT violence.

The Growing Together Initiative is making a difference in addressing social justice concerns in San Luis Obispo County:

2003 Women's Shelter Program of SLO County Domestic Violence Outreach received \$7,000 from GTI to work with local LGBT organizations in developing a peer education and outreach program.

2002 & 2003 Parents, Family & Friends of Lesbians & Gays "Safe Schools Project" received \$9,250 from GTI to fund training for staff, faculty and administrators of local schools to eliminate harassment of students; and to provide a resource library for staff.

2004 EOC Health Services received \$4,036 to provide LGBTQ cultural sensitivity training for staff in their reproductive health and community education programs and implement "LGBTQ friendly" program practices.

2004 San Luis Obispo Community Counseling Center received \$4,896 from GTI to provide, in collaboration with a mental health professional association, a local LGBTQ training for mental health professionals and implement three weekly support groups for LGBTQ individuals.

2006 San Luis Obispo County Bar Association received \$2,000 from GTI to conduct workshops to educate the community on Domestic Partnership laws in California.

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.