



Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Youth

National studies indicate that young people are strongly impacted by injustice toward the GLBT community:

- LGBT children and youth are five times more likely to miss school because they feel unsafe due to harassment by their classmates
- 28% of LGBT teens drop out of school due to social pressures
- More than one quarter of LGBT youth are left homeless after coming out to their families.
- LGBT youth are three times more likely to commit suicide than other American youth.

The Growing Together Initiative is making a difference in addressing the concerns of GLBT youth in San Luis Obispo County:

2002 & 2003 Parents, Family & Friends of Lesbians & Gays “Safe Schools Project” received a total of \$9,250 from GTI to train school personnel about harassment and bullying issues related to LGBT youth.

2004 Gay And Lesbian Alliance received \$6,280 from GTI to support programs for the Youth Project, community forums and utilization of the community center.

2006 EOC Health Services received \$1,000 from GTI to market LGBTQ friendly reproductive health services for youth and adults

2006 Nipomo High School received \$500 from GTI to fund a Gay Straight Alliance.

2006 San Luis Obispo County Office of Education received \$450 from GTI to fund Gay Straight Alliance Advisors and LGBTQ youth for an Asset Development Conference.

Voices of San Luis Obispo County LGBT youth impacted by GTI supported programs:

"Moving here this year was very difficult for many reasons, but one of the biggest reasons was that I didn't feel like I belonged and certainly didn't feel like I had other homosexuals that I could turn to or identify with. When I came to Queer Youth I immediately felt welcomed (and) relieved. It brought a great deal of comfort to me and I felt like I had something to look forward to every week." - R. A.

"My parents kicked me out of the house and my church said I was a sinner – all because I came out and tried to be honest about being gay – I had nowhere to turn. I found the Q-Youth support group. I'm so glad that I now have people to talk to, people that care about me." - M. M.

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.