

We Are LGBTQ

by Thu Huynh

March 2011

We are open-minded, not hesitant to accept something different. We are courageous, not afraid to be the beautiful people we were meant to be. We are more than a community, we are a family. We are LGBTQ. Many can't see past the clouds of opinions that often rain over being LGBTQ so they never see the marvelous rainbow that is in front of them. Every cloud has a silver lining though and through hardship and prejudice, stronger relationships form. Besides being part of a whole that accepts and supports each other, LGBTQ can give a different perspective on life – exploring one's life by wandering along a one-way street versus unlimited roads, journeys, paths. Different paths that are meant for each and every individual because the population as a whole cannot grow if we walk along the same path. LGBTQ is not intimidated to journey across all paths because it is a feeling within every member that holds true to them.

Being able to trust yourself is an act not easily done in our society because we have the media, the trends, and even those close to us that *try* to dictate what they think is right and wrong. LGBTQ doesn't let them, LGBTQ doesn't waver in the wind of inclinations. We follow our hearts and what we know to be true. LGBTQ is asking for what every being also longs for, acceptance. But only if it is given in that we are truly ourselves, why would one ask another to change if that is who they think is the best version of themselves? Maybe the questioners never stop to think that that is really what they ask and attack when they refuse to switch shoes.

The benefits of LGBTQ resides in every member having a place that one can call 'home' or finally feeling the euphoria of being free to be who they are. Being a part of LGBTQ, a family that is found is like finding gold – makes one feel like they matter in the world. Many leadership opportunities arise in that anyone can inform all those around of LGBTQ, have them become a

Cougar Ally, and eventually one day connect everyone into the same puzzle that welcomes all walks of life. One day there won't be a 'we' and 'them' because we never wanted that in the first place – we just wanted to make a difference and change minds from negativity to dreams. It is something to feel honored about to come from a group that only has the best intentions at heart, one can't quantify the experiences received.

Faith untested doesn't hold much character so the strength gained from past trials only invigorates our thoughts and beliefs to solidify. At the end of the day, there is no better association to name yourself apart of if you seek progression, peace, and happiness for not only yourself and all of LGBTQ, but everybody. We are LGBTQ and we are proud.