



The official newsletter of Parents & Friends of Ex-Gays and Gays

Fall 2011

Parent Talk

Matthew 11:28
 “Come to me, all of you who are tired from carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest.”

Do you ever feel lonely in a crowded room? Long to talk to someone who understands and shares your values and views? I do. That’s why I am inviting you to join our wonderful speakers and me for a PFOX Family Ties Retreat, March 16-17, 2012. I look forward to our spending time together. Details are on page 4.

PFOX thanks board member Peter Sprigg for his ongoing dedication and service. Peter served for six years on the Montgomery County (Maryland) Schools Citizens Advisory Committee. Normally a maximum

4-year volunteer position, Peter served an additional two years at the approval of the school board. Peter provided fact-based educational resources to the committee, hoping to provide additional resources to the students. See page 2 for more details.

September brought about multiple opportunities for PFOX to reach out.

Board member Christopher Doyle represented PFOX at the Federal Partners In Bullying Summit. As one of 175 recognized organizations concerned about Bullying in Americas schools, PFOX - through Chris - was able to hand out our bully brochure, network and address our position on bullying. Page 3 has details.

This past October PFOX hosted a

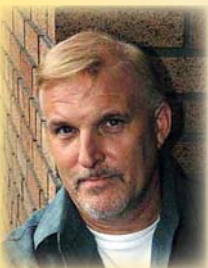
booth at the Value Voters Conference. Quinlan went to prove changing sexual orientation is possible and present information to numerous organizations and candidates for elections next year. I spoke about how we can unconditionally love homosexuals while upholding the facts that sexual orientation is not innate and changeable.

PFOX believes now more than at any other time we must take action. You cannot assume that people of faith or those who profess to be conservative and pro-family know the facts about sexual orientation and gender confusion. Most have never met or heard of an ex-gay or former transgender.

Please donate so we can continue to provide hope and resources to those in need. PFOX is an all-volunteer organization: We pay no salaries and receive no donations from any organization or church. It is you, our family and friends, that enable us to reach out.

Regina

Save the Dates! PFOX Family First Retreat March 16-17, 2012 - DC Metro Area - Seating Limited!



Joe Dallas’ ministry in sexual addiction recovery and homosexuality is nationally recognized. He is the author of *The Game Plan* and *The Men’s 30-Day Strategy for Attaining Sexual Integrity*, and Program Director of Genesis Counseling in Tustin, Calif., a counseling ministry for men dealing with sexual addiction, homosexuality and other sexual/relational problems. He is a pastoral counselor, a popular conference speaker and author of five books on human sexuality from the Christian perspective.

Main Speaker
 Joe Dallas
 joedallas.com

See December PFOX
 newsletter for more details
 & full list of speakers!

Register by
 1/31/12 & save!

\$100 single
 \$165

2 family members

\$125 single
 \$175 2 family members
 after 1/31/12

Cost includes breakfast, lunch
 & dinner on Saturday

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PFOX director thanked for local public school service



Peter Sprigg

Montgomery County, MD - Peter Sprigg, a Parents and Friends of Ex-Gays & Gays (PFOX) director, was recognized by Joshua P. Starr, Montgomery County, Md. superintendent of schools, for his years of service to the local public school system.

As a PFOX representative, Sprigg served on the school board's Citizens Advisory Committee on Family Life and Human Development (CAC) for the

last six years. The committee reviews and makes recommendations about the student sex education curriculum.

Sprigg, whose own child was in private school throughout his service, deserves our praise.

Sprigg joined the committee in 2005 as a PFOX representative. This happened after the county's previous sex education curriculum was thrown out as a result of a lawsuit in which PFOX was one of the plaintiffs.

Although committee members usually are limited to two two-year terms, Sprigg was granted special permission to serve a third term from 2009 to 2011.

In his letter to Sprigg, Starr said, "The committee often deals with issues that evoke strong emotions and your thoughtful participation in the committee's work helped create a collaborative environment."

At his last meeting as a CAC member, Sprigg won committee approval for a resolution recommending that teachers be given a statement from the American Psychological Association as a resource to use in answer to student questions about what causes sexual orientation. The APA statement calls into question the widespread belief that science has shown there is a "gay gene" or that people are "born gay."

It reads, in part:

There is no consensus among scientists about the exact reasons that an individual develops a heterosexual, bisexual, gay, or lesbian orientation. Although much research has examined the possible genetic, hormonal, developmental, social, and cultural influences on sexual orientation, no findings have emerged that permit scientists to conclude that sexual orientation is determined by any particular factor or factors.

Regina Griggs, PFOX executive director, said, "Peter's love and concern for the safety and education of all children made him the perfect choice to represent PFOX as a CAC board member for six years. The CAC whose majority were gay-affirming and pro-choice, rejecting all information about ex-gays and equal access, was a wake up call for what is being presented to students across the country.

"Peter was professional, presented accurate information and planted seeds to board members who did not share his beliefs.

"I believe that Peter's influence made a lasting impression and in time will bring others to accept the truth.

"Peter spoke out in favor of including former homosexuals in the county's 'Respect for Differences in Human Sexuality' school lessons, which promote tolerance of homosexuals, lesbians, bisexuals, transgenders, crossdressers, and the intersexed, yet fail to include ex-gays - the only disfavored group within the public school system," Griggs said.

"Peter also enabled public schools to promote a diverse learning environment by participating in PFOX's flyer distribution program, where PFOX members distribute flyers to highschool students urging the elimination of bias and prejudice against former homosexuals and their supporters."

Sprigg is scheduled to speak at the upcoming PFOX Family Ties Retreat in March.

Parents and Friends of Ex-Gays & Gays (PFOX) promotes an inclusive environment for the ex-gay community, and educates youth with factual information about same-sex attractions.

"I Chose To Change."

I make choices everyday...
 Where to eat. What to wear. Who to see.
 But as a gay man I never thought
 I could change WHO I was.
 Until I realized change was a choice...
 and I chose to change from gay to straight.
 It may not be a decision
 you want to make,
 but you should know
 thousands of us already have.
 Please respect our choice.

Chris - Tennessee

PFOX: PARENTS AND FRIENDS OF GAYS CHOOSING CHANGE
 FOR MORE INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS ABOUT CHANGE CALL 703-360-2225 WWW.PFOX.ORG

CFC #7582
 PARENTS AND FRIENDS OF GAYS CHOOSING CHANGE
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PFOX Attends Federal Partners in Bullying Summit Distributes "Safe Schools for Everyone" Flyer

In September, PFOX board member Christopher Doyle attended the Federal Partners in Bullying Summit in Washington, D.C., held by the federal Department of Education. As only 175 attendees around the country were invited, PFOX was among the leaders in the field of bullying prevention invited to convene with the federal government and other national leaders to help solve the bullying crisis in the United States. PFOX opposes the bullying of young people who experience same-sex attractions (SSA), regardless of whether they choose to embrace a gay identity. In fact, many young people are targeted simply because they are perceived to be lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning (LGBTQ) their sexuality.

Along with government officials and national bullying prevention leaders, many high school students attended the summit, so distributing the PFOX bullying prevention flyer *Safe Schools for Everyone* was important, especially since some youth with unwanted SSA may not be embraced by national organizations who support gay and lesbian youth. While the LGBTQ community has made incredible progress with school clubs such as the Gay-Straight Alliance, there has been very little done for students who have homosexual feelings but do not want to adopt a lesbian or gay identity. These students may also be targeted due to their gender non-conforming behavior or perceived sexual orientation, and may actually be more vulnerable for depression, anxiety, and suicide because they have little to no support in the school system.

Being at the summit was invaluable, as Christopher was able to attend a discussion group with teenagers who



D.C. youth present a musical drama about five victims of bullying who committed suicide as part of the Bullycide campaign.

provided much insight as to how young people think and react to bullying in their schools. He learned from the students that while many programs in their schools try to stop bullying, there is very little emphasis on why bullying behavior

by Congresswoman Sanchez (D-CA).

Speaking at the summit to the Congresswoman, Christopher said: "I think both republicans and democrats can come together to solve this bullying crisis in schools; it's a worthwhile goal.

However, how do you distinguish between bullying and religious expression? For example, what if a student disagrees with homosexual behavior because of their religious views? Is there protection for students in the bill due to religious expression?"

The Congresswoman acknowledged that disagreeing with homosexuality is separate from bullying, which is usually considered "persistent harassment that causes harm." She also expressed a need for a uniform definition of bullying, which still does not exist.

While at the summit, Christopher also communicated with gay-identified students, as well as a representative of the gay-advocacy Human Rights Campaign, in the continuing effort to bridge the gap between gays and ex-gays. While gays and ex-gays may not see eye-to-eye on all issues, they can come together to agree that protecting our students against bullying and harassment is an important cause that transcends sexual orientation.

“

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Christopher Doyle

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begins. One of the more touching moments was a youth campaign called "Bullycide" who presented a musical drama about five victims of bullying who committed suicide.

An important concern that was brought up at the conference was proposed federal law against bullying

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"The best and most beautiful things in this world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart."

Helen Keller

Celebrate With Us

November:

Aviation History Month

* Child Safety Protection Month

* National Adoption Awareness Month

* National Epilepsy Month

* National Model Railroad Month

* Native American Heritage Month

November 15 America Recycles Day

November 15 National Philanthropy Day

November 16 Have a Party With Your

Bear Day

November 17 Great American Smokeout -

third Thursday in November

November 19 National Adoption Day - Saturday

before Thanksgiving

November 20 Universal Children's Day

November 24 Thanksgiving - Eat, drink, and be thankful.

November 25 Black Friday

November 25 Buy Nothing Day - always the day after Thanksgiving

November 30 Stay At Home Because You Are Well Day

December:

* Write a Friend Month

1 World Aids Awareness Day

December 4 Santas' List Day 6 St. Nicholas Day

December 6 Mitten Tree Day

December 7 Pearl Harbor Day

December 9 Christmas Card Day

December 10 Human Rights Day

December 12 International Children's Day - Second Sunday in December

December 12 Poinsettia Day

December 15 Bill of Rights Day

December 25 Christmas Day

December 26 Boxing Day

December 27 Make Cut Out Snowflakes Day

December 27 National Fruitcake Day

December 30 National Bicarbonate of Soda Day

December 31 Make Up Your Mind Day

December 31 New Year's Eve



Current address

Please note our address: PFOX,
PO Box 510, Reedville VA 22539.
You can also reach us by telephone
at 804-453-4737. Thank you.

Family and Friends Prayer List

Mary Beth, Tom, Sean, Stan, Christopher,
Lucas, Beth, Elaine, Joshua, Benjamin,
Hampton, Cheryl, Stacy, Carol, Mattie, Nicole,
David, Bob, Rose, Steve, Ronald, James,
Madeline, Jesus, Rick, Gary, April, Maureen,
Jen, Michael, Eric, Allen, Sara, Damon, Sam,
Matthew, Deborah, Corey, James, Jeffery,
Melanie,

Stan, Brooke, Lisa, Emily, Tyler, Jim, Chad,
Brett, Charles, Brian, Jerome, Pamela, Kelly,
Tim, Roger, Gaetano, Christian, Judy, Michael,
Monte, Gary, Karen, Hillary, Stephan, Brooke,
Terri, Elise, Joseph, Vickie, Tricia, Paul, Tobby,
Sandy,

Brian, Larry, Alan, Christian Tom, Delores,
Mark, Tara, Angela, Jessica, Dawn, Alicia,
Jason, Frank, Paul, Edward, Maria, Mario,
Michelle, Connor, Angela, Carl Jr., Marcus,
Brandon, Gaylon, Edmond,

Kesha, Shannon, Paige, Melissa, Donny,
William, Wendall, Leno, Mandy, Andy, E.,
Erik, Lauren, Chris, Todd, Jayson, Carl III,
Steve, Zachary, Kelly, Toby, Cody, Dylan,
Wayne, Tom, Jeff, Walt, Cayce, Tim,

David, Charles, Edward, Matt, Marc,
Heather, Gary, Bill., John, Jeremy, Jen R, Cindy,
Karen, Brian, Shellie, Pattie, Emily, Carrie,
Alicia, Michelle, Bruce, Rebecca, Suhmin,
Phil, Bryce, Ethan,

Doug, Tom, Nick, Harold, Kent, Glenn,
Rob and Heath, Angela, Julia, Wess, Christine,
Catherine, Jeremy, Katie, David, Troy, Mike,
Lisa, Alex, Asia, Bruce, James, Mary, Samantha,
Victoria and Buddy, Christopher A., Jeramie
C., Adam C., Christopher K., Perry N., Eric,
Missy, Nathan, Michelle, Linda, Miranda
Marie, Sarah, and Joe and Idario.

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