

November 19, 2007

To the Child Welfare Community,

The Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute, based on its principles and research, encourages child welfare organizations and professionals to use the new materials developed by the Human Rights Campaign for recruiting and preparing GLBT individuals and couples as prospective adoptive and foster parents.

Our primary focus is on the thousands upon thousands of children who currently are free for adoption, but who continue to linger in foster care. We believe every effort must be made to recruit qualified, motivated individuals and couples who are capable of providing stable and nurturing homes for these boys and girls.

Although existing research suggests that sexual minority group members are just as able to achieve this goal as are heterosexuals, gays and lesbians continue to experience both organizational and practice barriers. "All Children-All Families: Promising Practices Guide" provides the child welfare field with important information and strategies for removing these barriers, and for creating a better atmosphere for working respectfully and effectively with prospective GLBT parents.

As more adoption agencies incorporate the information provided by this guide, it is likely that they will be increasingly successful in placing waiting children in homes headed by sexual minority group individuals and couples, which will not only reduce the length of time in foster care for these youngsters, but also will offer them the prospect of a brighter future in loving and committed families.

We believe this project is a positive step in serving the needs of children in care. It is with pleasure and confidence that we endorse its goals and guidelines.

Sincerely,

Adam Pertman, Executive Director
Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute
apertman@adoptioninstitute.org

David Brodzinsky, PhD
Research & Policy Director
dbrodzinsky@adoptioninstitute.org

