

nity. It is the most comprehensive quality publication dealing with gender related issues available in the world today. Written for transvestites, transsexuals, significant others, educators, researchers, and the general public, it contains a broad spectrum of articles, editorials, updates on events world wide, and a large personal listings section in every issue. The Tapestry has won universal acclaim for the professional quality of its presentation and its positive approach. It is an invaluable resource for information, inspiration, and affirmation.

SPECIAL TOPIC PUBLICATIONS:

We have publications on special topics such as wives and significant others, religion, hormones, etc. We publish transcripts from the annual conventions (which includes such topics as 'how to form an organization', 'counseling techniques', and 'peer support'. We have publications for public speaking, counseling, understanding cross-dressing, how to be a woman though male, and much more.

'COMING TOGETHER' CONVENTION:

Our annual convention is a public declaration of our dignity and freedom. It brings together leaders, members, significant others, professionals, commercial interests, and the general public. The convention is the primary forum for presentation of research results, organizational achievements, and for election of officers.

SPEAKERS BUREAU:

The speakers bureau is an extensive listing of qualified speakers on gender issues. These speakers are experienced and have appeared on television, spoken on radio and to schools,

law enforcement agencies, newspapers, and other groups. We also sponsor an instructional program for persons wishing to become public speakers.

LIBRARY:

The information and research library contains hundreds of books, archives, tapes, and materials available to researchers and any persons who wish to expand their knowledge of our community.

RESEARCH AND EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS:

We are currently engaged in a number of projects including the development of a bibliography of the collective information available in our community, and two research projects ("Gender Issues and Young People", and "Cross-dressing and Alcohol and Substance Abuse").

MEMBERSHIP:

Foundation members are benefactors who support our work with donations and are recognized according to the amount of their donation. Regardless of the amount, all members have equal voting privileges. Members can be anyone with an interest in transvestism, transsexualism, and other gender related issues. (A subscription to Tapestry is entirely separate from IFGE membership.)

FUTURE:

We are only at the beginning. Tapestry alone has a growth potential estimated at over 250,000 circulation. In addition are developing directories, 'how to' books and other informational materials. We are producing a bibliography of relevant books and

articles on the study of transvestism and transsexuals. We are developing outlines for educational workshops and seminars. IFGE is helping to coordinate national media campaigns to foster good press for the TV/TS population and focus our reaction to bad press when it occurs. (Although IFGE will not engage in any political activities, we will support the political efforts of other organizations who work to better people's lives). To that end we will offer limited legal assistance, support, and information to those defending our rights. Through "positive action" seminars at the annual IFGE convention, we will share our achievements with each other.

The future is what we make it. The International Foundation for Gender Education is determined to make the future a better one for the Transvestite/Transsexual Community and for all who are affected by it or who serve it.

THE INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR GENDER EDUCATION, Post Office Box 367 Wayland, Massachusetts 01778 or: 6 Cushing Street, Second Floor, Waltham, Massachusetts 02154 617-894-8340 Copyright 1988 by IFGE

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DEFINITION:

The International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE) is a benevolent foundation serving the Transvestite / Transsexual Community, those persons affected by that Community, and those persons who serve that Community. Our chief asset is the synergism we generate through working together and sharing together. We serve all persons regardless of race, religion, sex, age, politics, financial status, sexual orientation, gender, mode or degree of gender expression, and all sincere persons who respect themselves and who respect others. We serve all groups who offer a valid and honest service to the Transvestite / Transsexual Community.

IFGE is a non-profit organization within the meaning of Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

PURPOSE:

IFGE is a communications medium, an outreach and educational tool, and a unifying factor for the TV/TS Community. It is a source of support and a way to channel funds and information to other organizations. Our goal is to bring together the talents and the energies of individuals involved with transvestite and transsexual issues to work together to accomplish international objectives. IFGE provides educational information on the subjects of transvestism and transsexuality to individuals living these lifestyles, to persons directly affected by them, to the professional community and to the general public. We provide assistance for transvestites and transsexuals to more fully understand and accept their lifestyles.

HISTORY:

In 1978 the Tiffany Club was founded on a dream and a lofty objective. The dream was to help thousands of gender-conflicted people and the people who loved them. The objective was to form an organization that was of actual and effective service to the entire TV/TS Community and to the people affected by and serving that community. By 1985 the dream outgrew the Tiffany Club and on November 14, 1986 **the International Foundation for Gender Education** was founded. IFGE took over the international services and the Tiffany Club was reformed into a local support group serving the New England area. The newly formed IFGE then elected a board of directors which took office at our first international convention held in Chicago in March 1987.

That first convention was more successful than we could have dreamed. The energy and enthusiasm that was generated there has carried over into subsequent conventions and into other activities. Our new headquarters in Waltham, Massachusetts is another exciting development in the evolution of our long term objectives.

By cooperative action we can accomplish much more than we each could separately. IFGE offers us the potential of achieving our goals on an international scale - to share the victories of some for the benefit of all and to dissipate defeats through our united strength.

ORGANIZATION:

IFGE is managed by an board of 21 members plus a number of alternates elected from the TV/TS Community at large. Members of

the board serve as officers or coordinators on IFGE committees. Each committee in turn works with local organizations on specific projects.

IFGE also maintains an administrative staff at its headquarters in Waltham, MA. The staff coordinates operations, publications, and information processing. Extraordinary tasks such as journal distribution and convention marketing are often contracted out. Both administrative and contract staff report to the Board of Directors selected at the annual convention.

The relationship of IFGE to the local transvestite and transsexual organizations is one of symbiotic synergism, different groups and individuals working together for the benefit of all. IFGE provides services of a national scope while the local groups provide services to their immediate communities.

IFGE provides a way for the various organizations to work together while maintaining their autonomy. The local groups are not chapters of IFGE and are not subject to IFGE's constitution, decisions, or scrutiny, nor do they pay any fees or dues to IFGE. IFGE in turn answers only to its own Board of Directors (who are often also leaders in their own local groups). Seeking "member" organizations is not a goal of IFGE. However, IFGE realizes its special dependence upon the local groups for support, outreach, and volunteers to staff its many activities. Without these organizations IFGE could not accomplish its mission.

IFGE can not and will not attempt to compete with local groups or offer services that

can be more effectively and more economically provided by them. Rather, IFGE works with the organizations to help them be more effective. This is done by way of a variety of means including, but not limited to our rebate program which provides financial assistance to local organizations, the Tapestry which is our primary communications medium and outreach tool, our information distribution network, research and other projects which require a collective effort, and our convention which brings all organizations together to work together for the benefit of all. In addition, IFGE reviews the credentials of all organizations before they are listed to insure all information is accurate and up to date.

SERVICES:

IFGE provides a multitude of services to universities, gender clinics, law and government agencies, researchers and therapists, and individual transvestites and transsexuals, without discrimination, to be used toward positive ends. Most services are available for free or for a nominal point-of-sale charge.

COMMUNICATIONS:

IFGE provides a communications network to over 200 organizations serving our community. Through these organizations we offer a balanced program of education, friendship and support.

THE TV-TS TAPESTRY JOURNAL:

Our primary publication, the TV-TS Tapestry Journal, has a current circulation exceeding 10,000, and is growing with each new issue. The Tapestry is the primary communications medium for the TV/TS Commu-