

Dear Friend,

At the IFGE Convention in Minneapolis, the Board of Directors formed a new committee - the Youth Information Committee - which will be chaired by Dr. Sheila Kirk ~~and~~ in collaboration with Dr. Sandra Cole. The purpose of this committee is to develop for the Internet a multi-media, interactive program to reach children who are transgender.

Currently, transgender children are excluded from the community because we have no way of reaching them. The only way outreach is available is if a parent or helping professional contacts IFGE on the child's behalf. Most transgender children are closeted just as we were, ~~as children~~. They are feeling the same pain and the same fear we felt. They probably think as we did, that they are unique and alone and afraid to tell anyone for fear of total rejection.

Imagine how much less painful your childhood would have been if you could have communicated with others just like you. Imagine the impact knowing "you're okay" would have had on you as you grew up and became an adult.

In the past, there was no effective and quick way to reach children. To ~~depend on~~ educating parents, teachers, and helping professionals will take years. But now we have a way. We can reach children through the Internet through an informative, non-threatening program about growing up transgender. All children will be computer literate as they learn it in school. Children are surfing the Internet for fun, information, communication, and education.

We need your help in developing this program. Sheila Kirk, Sandra Cole and their committee will need money to do the necessary research and then have a multi-media expert design the program. This will cost thousands of dollars, but imagine the end result. Together we will save the lives of many children or lessen the pain and suffering of many ~~children~~ others.

We need you to help us help children. We need to make a "stand for children" that goes beyond the "Stand for Children" rally in Washington, DC, ~~on June 1st~~ and improve the quality of life for those children who suffer in silence.

Please reach into your pocket and give as much as you can to this extraordinary project. Enclosed is a donation card. Please complete it and send your money today.

Also - please, if you haven't already, join IFGE. It's a small amount of money to pay to insure that projects such of this take place. Without IFGE conceiving and promoting these projects, the community would not have as powerful a voice as it does today.

By next year's IFGE's Convention in California, we would like to present to our members a preview of this program, but we can't do it without your help.