



June 6, 2015

First Last
Address
City, State, Zip

First,

UNSAFE SCHOOLS FOR LGBTQ YOUTH: NOT DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE

Imagine you woke up this morning and desperately wanted to stay home because you felt unsafe or uncomfortable at work. **Thirty percent of LGBTQ students missed at least one day of school in the past month** because they felt unsafe or uncomfortable at their school.

Imagine as you went about your day, you were incessantly harassed. **Eighty-five percent of LGBTQ kids were verbally harassed in the past year.**

Imagine your boss called you a 'fag' or a 'dyke' at work and there were no consequences because your company did not have a policy that protects you from discrimination.

Fifty-six percent of LGBTQ students experience discriminatory school policies and practices because their school does not have a comprehensive anti-bullying policy that includes both sexual orientation and gender identity/expression.

Sadly, these situations are **not difficult to imagine**, because they happen every day.

The good news is that it's not difficult to imagine how **you** can support thousands of LGBTQ students in K-12 schools throughout Southern Maine who feel unsafe and experience discrimination and harassment **every day at their schools.**

Your **tax-deductible donation** to GLSEN-Southern Maine today of:

- **\$2,500** supports one monthly GSTA regional youth educational and networking meetings
- **\$1,000** provides one scholarship to a local high school for one professional development training
- **\$500** supports one Students for Safe Schools Leadership Team meeting and activities
- **\$250** trains one student throughout our Youth Leadership Training Team
- **\$100** provides travel expenses for one volunteer trainer to present at on Southern Maine high school
- **\$50** provides one-scholarship and training for a youth to attend Youth Lobby Day!
- **\$25** provides registration fee for one youth at our statewide youth conference

CHAPTER TRACK RECORD OF SUPPORTING LGBTQ STUDENTS

Chapters like ours play **an important role** in bringing GLSEN's programs and visions to local communities. While some chapters have full-time or part-time staff, ours is **entirely volunteer-based**. Monthly regional GSTA meetings, school visits to address issues directly, professional development on ways to make schools **safe for all students**, coordinating our youth leadership training program – this is how GLSEN-Southern Maine addresses LGBTQ issues in schools and **make students feel safer**.

With limited resources, and thanks to the support of **generous friends like you**, we have made enormous progress in improving the lives of LGBTQ students in Southern Maine. Over the last year GLSEN-Southern Maine:

- *Held nine (9) regional GSTA evening meetings with an average of 40 people in attendance each from an average of nine (9) schools;*
- *Planned three (3) statewide LGBTQ youth conferences with over 300 attendees: two for educators, social workers, and health care professionals, and **one for youth and by youth**;*
- *Trained 11 students from nine (9) high schools through our Youth Leadership Team*
- *Coordinated educational programs in **over 75 Gay-Straight-Trans Alliances (GSTAs)** throughout the state.*

SAFE AND AFFIRMING SCHOOLS THROUGHOUT SOUTHERN MAINE

Like you, we believe **all students** deserve a safe and affirming school environment where they can learn and grow. Student programming like providing GSA support, forums, networking opportunities, presentations to students, student leadership programming, Days of Action & Days of Support has always been **our strength**, thanks to the financial support from generous friends.

Your **tax-deductible donation of \$25, \$50, \$75, \$100, \$250, \$500 or \$1,000** today provides the critical support we will need over the next year to:

- *Increase the number of high school GSTAs from 75 to 80*
- *Add three new middle schools GSTAs – an increasingly critical need*
- *Expand our communication outreach to 800 students in Southern Maine*
- *Increase youth engagement in our GSTA Youth Leadership Program*

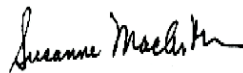
Together we are **creating safe environments** where LGBTQ students can learn. We are very grateful to have your support for this important mission.

The contributions of friends like you help GLSEN-Southern Maine make a real difference in K-12 schools throughout Southern Maine for **thousands of LGBTQ students**. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,



Sarah Holmes
Board Co-Chair



Susannah MacArthur
Board Co-Chair