

# GAY NEIGHBOR

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Friday, July 10, 2009

Open Letter – For Immediate Release

## ***Wisconsin Teen, Daughter of Gay Parents Emphasizes Tolerance and Fairness for All People.***

Hanna, 15, of Waukesha, WI wrote this piece as a letter to the editor for the Waukesha Freeman. It was in response to a man who claimed gay people only have children in order to molest them. Hanna's family is a part of Cream City Foundation's Gay Neighbor Project. The project uses photographs of real families from the local gay and transgender community on billboards and bus shelters in Milwaukee, Racine, Ozaukee, and Waukesha Counties as well as on the website [GayNeighbor.org](http://GayNeighbor.org)

"My choice is what I choose to do, and if I'm causing no harm, it shouldn't bother you." -Ben Harper said. When the world looks at homosexual vs. heterosexual marriages what do many people see? As a student at Waukesha South High School, I receive my education with both gay and straight people sitting among me as classmates. I understand that people are entitled to have whatever opinion of gay and straight people they want, however I also know that it doesn't make a person any different than another except for their sexuality. At South, most students are very kind and welcoming to all kinds of people, no matter what their differences are.

If a high school can be so understanding of such things, then why can't an entire community do the same? Gay people like to go shopping or go to the movies just as straight, Hispanic, African American, disabled, tall, short, young, and old people do. What is so horrible for them to want to have a family, too? I myself live under a roof with two mothers, two brothers, and a sister. I'm not going to say that my family is perfect and happy all the time; I doubt any family can make that claim. What I will say is that, even having two moms, I do not feel like I'm getting less nurturing, love or support than a family with straight parents could offer me. In some cases, I feel like I have more than some of my friends can say they have. I am living with two extremely respected and intelligent women whom I can talk to about social, academic, and athletic issues. It is no different for my brothers who have father figures and family friends who they can look up to for guidance.

The type of love gay parents can offer is no different than the type straight parents do. If someone were to look at the big picture, they would see no difference except two parents of the same sex. Some would say that that is different enough, but it really isn't. Gay couples obviously can love their children in the same way, as I, and my siblings, are firsthand witnesses of such situations. If this community cannot accept a family like mine, then why accept families with elderly parents or families with single parents raising children. As a community and as a country we need to learn to welcome gay families, for it is a changing world and, sooner or later, those against not only gay families, but also any family that is different than those of straight parents, will have a prejudice for more people than they can imagine.

I thought I needed to share this, after a man wrote in and accused my moms of being child molesters behind closed doors. They instead, have taught me to tolerate and pray for prejudiced and hateful people— hopefully God will not judge them too harshly.

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Gay Neighbor is a project of the Cream City Foundation. Cream City Foundation serves as a catalyst for social change on behalf of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender communities in southeastern Wisconsin. Their work includes strategic grant making, education, and media outreach.

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[www.creamcityfoundation.org](http://www.creamcityfoundation.org)

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