

MEDIA RELEASE

Transceptance and CTYS Partner to enhance services for the families of trans youth.

“Families in TRANSition” Group to provide early support and assistance to parents who are coming to terms with their child’s gender identity.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Toronto, Ontario – September 22, 2008 – Only months after releasing its groundbreaking publication “Families in TRANSition: A guide for the families of trans youth”, Central Toronto Youth Services announced a new partnership with Transceptance, a peer-support group for the parents of trans youth.

The partnership, which provides space and resources to support the ongoing operation of the Transceptance group, also includes the creation of a new service – the Families in TRANSition Group. Based in the content of the Families in TRANSition (FIT) Guide, the program will provide short-term support and education to parents who are just starting to come to terms with their child’s gender.

“It became obvious to us that ‘new’ parents initially have particular needs. This program will prepare them for the next step, and may be a bridge to the Transceptance group” shares Catherine, Founder and past Facilitator of Transceptance, “The partnership with CTYS will ensure all parents have the support and assistance they need”.

As a Children’s Mental Health Centre, the partnership is a natural fit with the CTYS mandate. As Executive Director Heather Sproule explains “Sometimes, the best way to support a young person is to support their parents. Our family work program is one example of that philosophy and I’m proud that CTYS is providing this kind of innovative support and partnership to the parents and families involved in Transceptance.”

The demand for services which target the trans community is growing, according to CTYS Researcher and Psychologist Nicola Brown. “We have seen a large increase in referrals of trans youth to our programs” explains Dr. Brown, “one-on-one counseling, the FIT Guide, our Y-GAP Research Project Partnership and this new partnership are some of the ways CTYS is able to contribute to the community. We will continue to look for new and innovative ways to support our young people.”

The Families in TRANSition Group will run Tuesdays from 7:00pm to 8:30 pm.

For more information, contact:

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BACKGROUND

Transceptance and CTYS Partner to enhance services for the families of trans youth.

“Families in TRANSition” Group to provide early support and assistance to parents who are coming to terms with their child’s gender identity.

Central Toronto Youth Services (CTYS)

CTYS is a community-based children’s mental health centre located at the corner of Church and Wellesley in downtown Toronto. For 35 years, Central Toronto Youth Services has been providing innovative, transformational programming to many of the hardest to serve, most at-risk youth through the Greater Toronto Area, and their families.

In 1985, CTYS’ Pride and Prejudice Program became the first organization in Canada to offer counseling services to LGBT youth. Since that time, the Program has offered consulting, training, counseling, group therapy and arts-based programs for queer and trans youth, all free of charge.

Transceptance

Transceptance is a peer-based support group for parents of transgendered and transsexual children. By sharing unique experiences, information and resources we can help our children transition safely. Formed by the mother of a transchild in 2003, Transceptance is a safe space for parents to share information and support regarding the unique experiences and challenges they face, no matter where they are in the ‘acceptance’ of their children.

Families in TRANSition Guide

Families In TRANSition: A Resource Guide for Parents of Trans Youth is the first comprehensive Canadian publication to address the needs of parents and families supporting their trans children. Families in TRANSition summarizes the experiences, strategies, and successes of a working group of community consultants – researchers, counsellors, parents, advocates as well as trans youth themselves. Families in TRANSition provides the stories of parents and youth along with practical and sensitive parent-to-parent and professional therapeutic advice. This guide was written and published by CTYS (Central Toronto Youth Services) with the support and collaboration of many community members and organizations, especially P-FLAG Toronto (Parents Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) and Transceptance (a Toronto support group for parents of trans youth).