

## **STAND UP TO BULLYING FROM #DAY1**

Dear Upstander,

It gives me great pleasure to highlight our <u>True Faith Doesn't Bully</u> program with this week's <u>Letter of Affirmation</u> from **Alphonso David, HRC President**, and **Michael Vazquez, HRC Director of Religion & Faith**. We are so grateful to have the support from the **Human Rights Campaign** on this project, as well as the support of so many people of faith who are **affirming of God's love for all**.

## A huge "Thank You!" to all our previous letter writers:

- Rev. Stan Mitchell Founding Pastor GracePointe Church, Nashville, Co-Founder Everybody ChurchRev.
- **David Key** Founding Pastor Lake Oconee Community Church, GA, Teacher at Emory University's Chandler School of Theology
- Daniel Karslake Film Producer, "For the Bible Tells Me So", "For They Know Not What They Do"
- Grayson Hester Student at McAfee School of Theology, Class of 2021
- Ed Oxford Business Owner Financial Services, Graduate Talbot School of Theology
- James Clementi Mental Health Counselor and Tyler's BotherRev. Danny Cortez Executive Director Estuary Space, Graduate of Biola University, MDiv.
- Rev. Jennifer Mayeaux Former Pastor and Church Planter, Graduate of Dallas Theological Seminary
- Kevin Jennings founder and former Executive Director GLSEN, CEO Lambda Legal

## **Coming soon:**

**Liz Dyer** - Founder of Serendippitydodah and Mama Bears

You can also read <u>my letter here</u>, which shares why this initiative is so very important and meaningful to me as a person of deeply held faith.

If you have a story to share I encourage you to write your own letter and email it to me, I would love to hear your story of how you overcame the harm and pain of religious dogma to be transformed into a vessel of God's love and mercy.

**Our hope** is for the **whole world** to read these beautiful, thoughtful and compelling letters of **triumph** over dogma, bias and shame; allowing everyone to hear the truth that being **Gay Is Not A Sin**.

Please **be an active Upstander and <u>share these letters</u>** widely within your social networks and on your social media platforms so all will hear and know, that.... "you are not broken, less than or somehow separated from God because of who God created you to be or who God created you love, but rather **you are beautiful...you are perfect....and you are so very precious to God and to the world."** 

May many hearts be softened and many minds be opened by these letters of hope, life and love.

We are also very excited to announce our latest numbers.... Upon careful calculations we now have slightly over 980,000 Upstanders in our <u>Million Upstander Movement!</u> We are almost there! Help us reach our goal of **1,000,000 Upstanders** by October. If you have already signed our <u>Upstander Pledge</u>, and shared it with 5 friends then the next step would be, to be a part of our <u>Upstander Challenge</u>. It's fun, it's easy and most importantly it can make a difference in someone's life.

And last but far from least, don't forget to mark your calendar for Thursday evening October 15th, for a fun filled evening at our virtual fall fundraising event. We will gather together in the digital world to celebrate our accomplishments and share our future plans with all our friends and supporters. Come share some laughs and fond memories as our moderator Thomas Roberts engages with cast members from the hit show Queer As Folk. It promises to be an amazing evening, one you won't want to miss!

Stay tune for links to purchase tickets and also coming soon are our amazing auction items. Please check out our **sponsorship opportunities** below and feel free to share with all your contacts. If you would like to be a sponsor please reach out to Victor at Victor@TylerClementi.org

Good health and peace to everyone,

Jane Clementi

CoFounder & CEO of Tyler Clementi Foundation Jane@TylerClementi.org

pronouns: she/her/hers



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The Tyler Clementi Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to end online and offline bullying in schools, workplaces, and faith communities.







