

# YOUR EXPERIENCE CAN SUPPORT YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE



“Too many LGBTQ youth come out to family members **only to face rejection, hatred, and violence**. Those facing the most extreme levels... are often forced out of their homes, or will run away, becoming homeless or entering the foster care system.”

– THE HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN

**30%** of youth in the child welfare system identify as LGBTQ+ compared to **11%** of youth not in foster care.

**ONCE IN THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM**, LGBTQ+ youth also experience worse outcomes:

- Intensified bias, discrimination and harassment
- Increased physical and sexual violence
- Poorer school functioning
- Heightened health risks
- Elevated probability of depression and substance use
- Greater likelihood to be placed in a group room or unaccepting foster homes leading to a higher risk of running away and homelessness

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

**AS A CASA VOLUNTEER**, you will advocate for the unique needs of youth in the child welfare system by:

- **SUPPORTING** youth through tough moments and challenging experiences
- **SUGGESTING** safe and affirming foster placements
- **MAKING** sure physical and mental health assessments are completed and any health care needs are understood and met
- **ESTABLISHING** supportive connections including family, friends and community organizations
- **INCREASING** their sense of safety and belonging by recognizing their whole self and validating their experiences
- **VERIFYING** educational supports are in place

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## LEARN MORE OR SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER

Take the first step to making a difference in the life of a youth in foster care by visiting  
**[WWW.BECOMEACASA.ORG](http://WWW.BECOMEACASA.ORG)**.

**EVERY CHILD HAS A CHANCE –  
IT'S YOU®**

