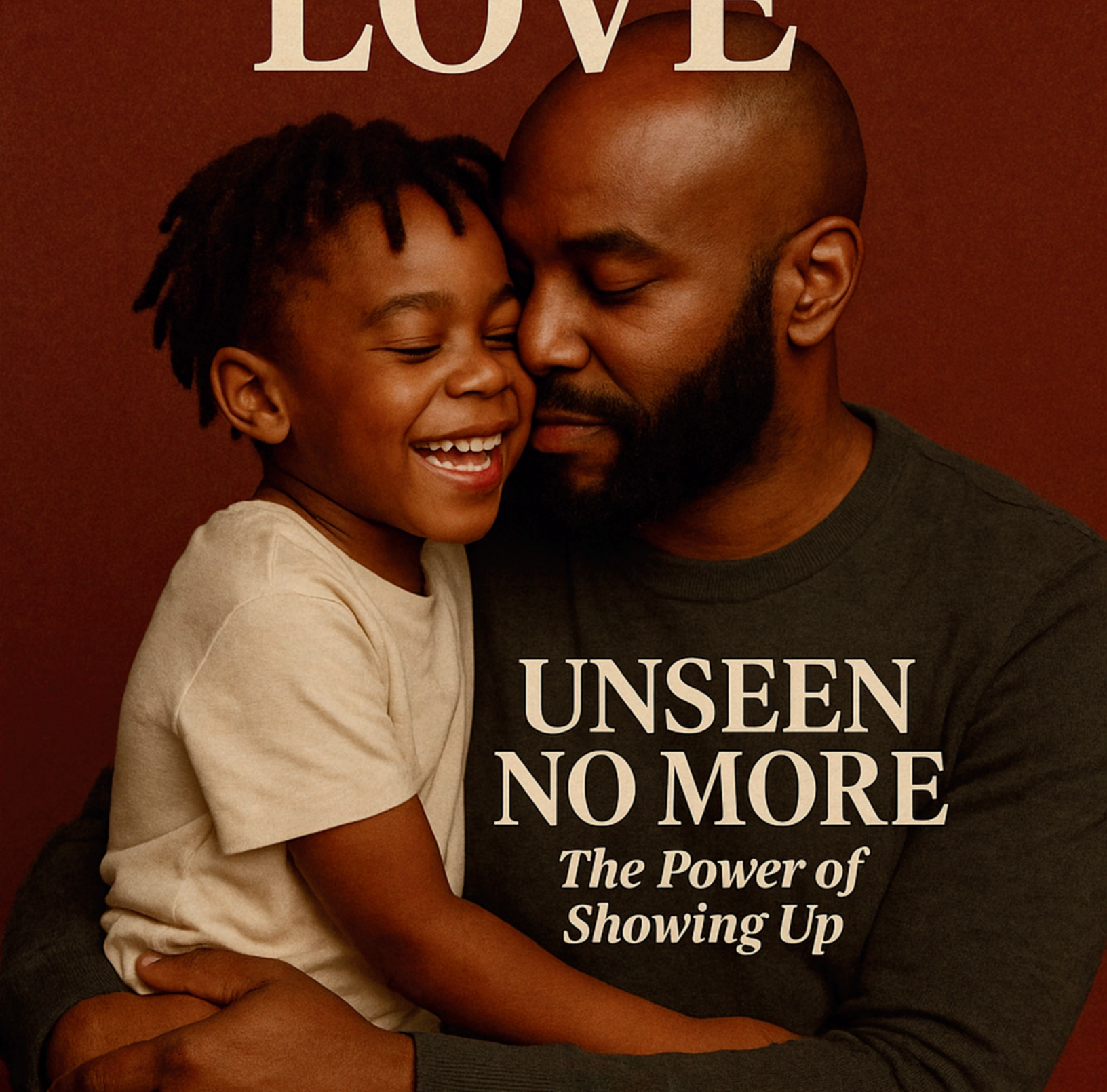
WHERE HEALING MEETS POWER, WHERE LOVE BREAKS RULES — AND BUILDS LEGACY.

COURAGEOUS LOVE



UNSEEN NO MORE

The Power of Showing Up

COURAGEOUS LOVE COLLECTIVE

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COURAGEOUS LOVE COLLECTIVE

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COURAGEOUS LOVE COLLECTIVE

WHAT'S INSIDE

01 EDITOR
02 TABLE OF CONTENTS
03 A MOVEMENT IN PRINT
04 LETTER FROM THE AUTHOR
05 QUEER DADS SPEAK
06 RAISING JOY: PARENTING AS RESISTENCE
08 RECLAIMING STRENGTH: WHY EMOTIONAL ISNT A WEAKNESS FOR FATHERS
09 CULTURE
10 ESSAY: MY GRANDMA'S CORNBREAD AND THE STORIES IT TOLD
13 FINANCIAL PLANNING FOR FATHERS WHO FEEL OVERWHELMED
15 P.R.O.U.D. INC.
17 COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT
19 P.R.O.U.D. ACADEMY: BUILDING A SANCTUARY FOR THE NEXT GENERATION
23 LETTERS
28 RESOURCES

COURAGEOUS LOVE COLLECTIVE





Courageous Love Collective

COURAGEOUS LOVE COLLECTIVE: A MOVEMENT IN PRINT

In a world where silence still carries too much weight, Courageous Love Collective arrives as more than a magazine—it is a gathering, a declaration, and a lifeline.

Founded with the vision to give voice to fathers, families, and communities too often pushed to the margins, the Collective is storytelling with purpose. Each page holds space for truth, healing, and visibility. It is not glossy paper for the sake of appearances; it is a canvas for lives that deserve to be seen.

At its core, Courageous Love Collective is about transformation. The stories are raw: fathers who found freedom after years of silence, families who are redefining legacy, individuals who have turned shame into strength. It is also about tools—practical resources, workshops, recipes, and community wisdom that anchor readers not just in hope but in action.

What sets the Collective apart is its refusal to separate the personal from the cultural. Healing is never just about the individual—it ripples outward, shaping households, neighborhoods, and generations. The magazine recognizes that courageous love is both deeply intimate and radically public. It insists that visibility is not optional; it is survival.

To read Courageous Love Collective is to step into a room where vulnerability is honored, fathers are uplifted, and families of every form are celebrated. It is a reminder that courage isn't the absence of fear—it's the choice to love out loud, even when the world would prefer silence.

This is more than content. This is culture-making.
This is legacy.
This is Courageous Love Collective.

LETTER FROM THE AUTHOR



AWARD- WINNING AUTHOR TYSON PETE

For much of my life, I believed silence was survival. I thought if I kept my truth tucked in, if I stayed invisible, I would avoid judgment. Silence became my armor. But armor is heavy, and eventually, it sinks you.

It wasn't until I became a father that I understood silence is its own kind of abandonment. My children didn't need me to be flawless. They needed me to be present. They needed to see the real me — the man who laughs too loudly, who sometimes cries in the shower, who is Black, queer, complicated, and worthy.

I created Courageous Love for anyone who has ever felt invisible. For the fathers raising kids while carrying secrets. For the mothers holding households together in the absence of support. For the children wondering if their family could ever look like the ones they see on TV. This is your mirror.

Inside these pages, you'll find essays, interviews, recipes, and resources — but more importantly, you'll find proof that love can be radical, healing, and courageous. This magazine is a record of resilience, and an invitation: show up, fully. That's all your children want. That's all this world needs.

With courageous love,

Q WHY I STARTED COURAGEOUS LOVE COLLECTIVE MAGAZINE?

I started Courageous Love Collective because I knew silence was no longer an option. For too long, stories like mine, stories of fathers, of queerness, of resilience were pushed to the margins. This magazine was born to make space where truth doesn't just survive, it thrives. It's a platform to give language to pain, permission to heal, and a collective voice to those who've been told to hide.

Q WHAT DOES COURAGEOUS LOVE MEAN TO ME?

Courageous love isn't soft or easy. It's not the kind of love that waits for the world to approve. It is raw, defiant, and steady. It's the choice to love yourself when shame says you shouldn't. To love your family when the world misunderstands it. To love your truth even when it costs you comfort. For me, courageous love has been a rebellion and a refuge all at once.

Q HOW DOES COURAGEOUS LOVE HEAL?

Healing doesn't happen in silence. When we love with courage, we strip away the masks that keep us fractured. We create room for honesty, forgiveness, and reconciliation with ourselves and with others. Courageous love dismantles stigma. It turns wounds into wisdom. It teaches us that our scars don't disqualify us, they qualify us to guide someone else out of the dark.

Q HOW COURAGE HAS HELPED ME?

Being courageous saved me. It taught me to stand in rooms where I once shrank. It gave me the strength to write my story, to father openly, to lead a movement when fear told me to disappear. Courage didn't erase the struggle, but it reframed it. Every time I've chosen courage over silence, I've found more of myself and more people who needed me to speak.

Q WHAT IT CAN DO FOR SOMEONE ELSE?

For someone reading this magazine, courage may be the spark that changes everything. It might be the nudge to finally come out, the strength to leave a toxic relationship, or the confidence to step into leadership. Courageous love offers a mirror: proof that they are not alone, and that choosing truth will never ruin them it will free them.

Q WHY IT MATTERS IN CULTURE?

In a culture quick to shame, divide, and cancel, courageous love is revolutionary. It challenges the narrative that vulnerability is weakness. It insists that authenticity belongs at the table. It redefines strength—not as domination, but as the audacity to be fully human. Our culture needs courageous love because without it, we keep repeating cycles of silence, stigma, and separation. With it, we can reimagine family, redefine success, and reclaim belonging.



"Grace showed up when I stopped asking for permission."

ROUNDTABLE INTERVIEW
PARTICIPANTS:

ANDRE – TRANS FATHER, ORGANIZER, EARLY 30S

LUIS – BISEXUAL FATHER, DIVORCED, LATE 40S

JAMES – GAY ADOPTIVE DAD, EARLY 50S

MARCUS – QUEER BLACK FATHER, RAISING THREE KIDS, MID 30S

MODERATOR (TYSON PETE)



Queer Dads Speak: Shame, Grace & Belonging

FATHERHOOD IS OFTEN PORTRAYED AS A SINGLE STORY: STRAIGHT, MIDDLE-CLASS, MARRIED. BUT QUEER DADS ARE REWRITING THAT NARRATIVE IN REAL TIME, SOMETIMES WITH LITTLE BLUEPRINT TO FOLLOW. IN THIS CONVERSATION, FIVE FATHERS SPEAK CANDIDLY ABOUT SHAME, GRACE, AND THE ONGOING SEARCH FOR BELONGING.

"Belonging meant finally hearing my kids call me 'Dad' without hesitation."

Question 1: What did shame look like in your journey?

Andre: "Shame showed up in the hospital room when my son was born. The nurse kept asking who I was. She didn't want to write my name on the paperwork. My partner had to say over and over, 'This is the father.' And still, I felt invisible. For years, I carried that moment like proof that I didn't belong. Shame whispered, you'll never be enough."

Luis: "For me, shame was pretending. Pretending to be the straight husband, the perfect Christian man, the guy at work who never slipped up. Every room I entered, I was acting. And when my son was little, he knew. Kids know when you're lying. He'd ask, 'Why do you look sad?' and I'd deny it. Shame was heavy like armor, and it nearly crushed me."

James: "Shame crept in through the legal system. When my husband and I adopted our daughter, we were grilled: Are you stable? Are you safe? Meanwhile, I'd watched straight couples adopt with half the scrutiny. I felt like the world was asking me to prove my worthiness to be a dad, as if my love came with an asterisk."

Marcus: "Shame was inherited. I grew up being told 'a man is this, a man is that.' A man doesn't cry. A man marries a woman. A man provides. I internalized all of it. So when I looked in the mirror and saw a queer Black father, I thought, I'm a contradiction. It took years to untangle what was mine and what was just noise I'd been taught to carry."

Question 2: Where did you find grace?

Andre: "Grace found me in my son's laugh. He didn't care what the nurse said. He didn't care about paperwork. When he looked at me and said 'Daddy,' all the shame dissolved. Kids don't give you grace in theory — they give it in real time."

Luis: "My grace came in a living room moment. I finally told my teenage son the truth about me. I said, 'I'm bisexual. I've been scared to say that.' He shrugged and said, 'Cool, Dad. Can we play Xbox now?' That's grace. That's unconditional love."

James: "Grace came from community. I started meeting other gay fathers, men who had also fought courts, families, churches. In those circles, I didn't have to translate myself. I could just be. My daughter saw that too. She saw her dad laughing and alive with men like him, and she felt the belonging by extension."

Marcus: "Grace came when I let go of proving myself. I used to think I had to be both mom and dad, both provider and nurturer, both strong and soft. Now I realize I'm just me. My kids don't need a perfect archetype. They need Marcus, in all my contradictions. That realization was grace."

Question 3: What does belonging mean to you now?

Andre: "Belonging isn't about being invited to every table. It's about building a table with people who see you fully. For me, belonging is my son reaching for my hand in public without hesitation."

Luis: "Belonging is being out loud. It's not flinching when someone asks about my ex-wife. It's being able to say, 'Yes, I'm bisexual. Yes, I'm a dad.' And not apologizing for either."

James: "Belonging is watching my daughter thrive in school plays and sports, and knowing she never has to question if her family is valid. She's growing up seeing love in all its forms. That's belonging."

Marcus: "Belonging is legacy. It's raising my sons to know they can cry, they can dance, they can be gentle and still be men. It's knowing I've broken silence so they don't have to."

Closing Reflection By Moderator (Tyson):

Listening to each of you, I hear the same thread: belonging doesn't come from the world's approval. It comes from choosing to live in truth, and from the love of our children. Shame may whisper, but love speaks louder.





RAISING JOY

PARENTING AS RESISTANCE

I used to think resistance meant protest signs and chants in the street. And sometimes it does. But when I watch my children run through sprinklers in the front yard, laughing so hard they can't catch their breath, I know this too is resistance.

Joy is not accidental. It's cultivated, protected, passed down like family recipes. It's our refusal to be defined only by struggle. It is memory and medicine.

When I teach my kids how to make greens the way my grandmother did, I'm doing more than cooking — I'm handing them a story. When I blast old-school soul music on a Saturday morning while folding laundry, I'm reminding them we come from rhythm, from celebration, from beauty that endures.



For many of us—especially those of us from communities historically denied safety, dignity, and freedom—joy has always been revolutionary. History tried to erase it. Through displacement, through violence, through silence. And yet here we are: dancing in living rooms, braiding hair on porches, celebrating birthdays with too much cake. Joy is how we've survived.

As a parent, I want my children to know that their joy is sacred. That who they are—in every shade, every gender, every body—is not a burden, but a blessing. That the world may try to shrink them, but their laughter can expand the room.

Parenting as resistance means creating spaces where our children's joy is safe. It means rejecting narratives that define us only by our pain. It means letting our kids be loud, silly, and free—because freedom isn't only what we march for in the streets. It's also what we model at home.

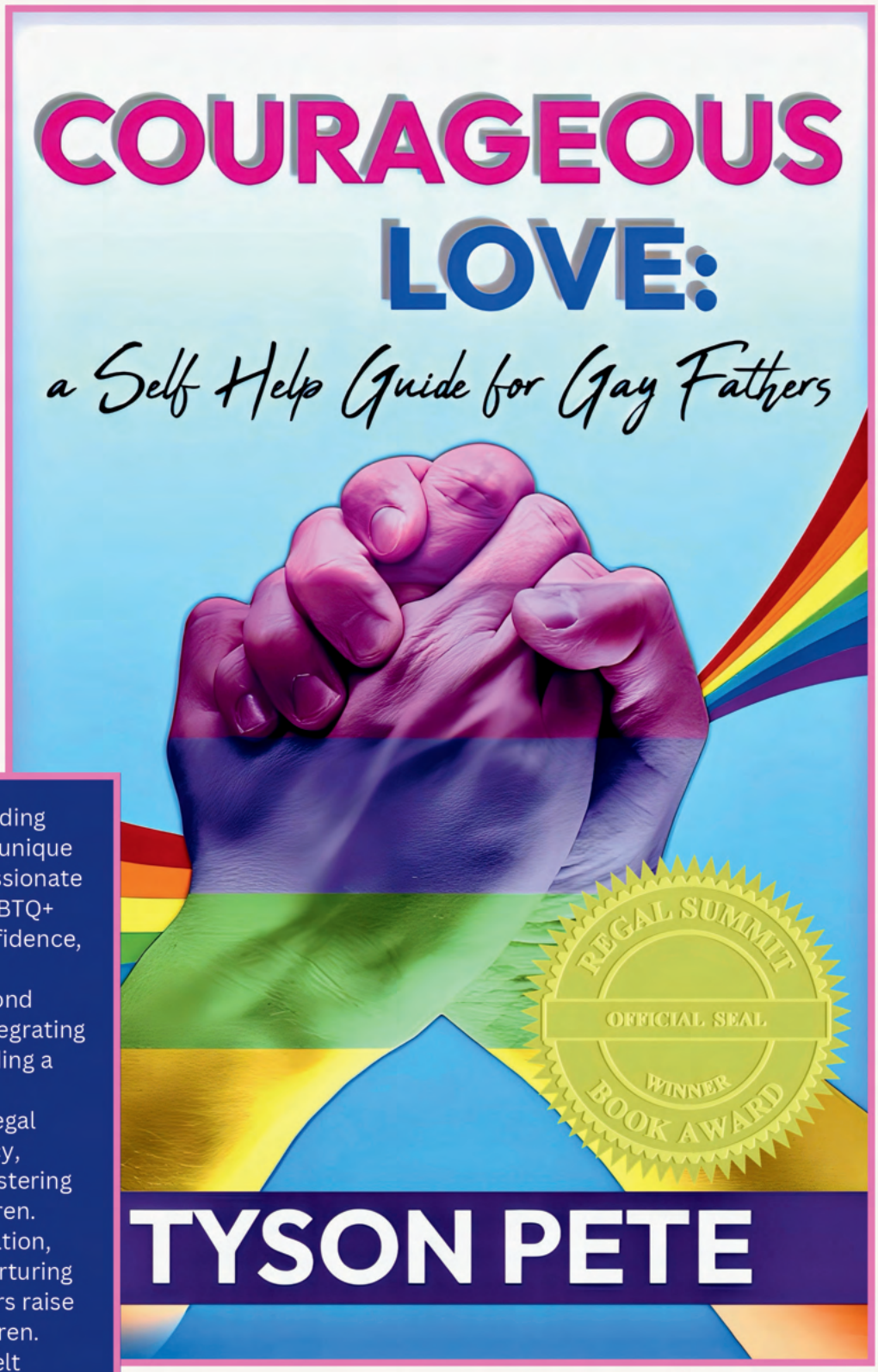
So when my child belly-laughs until they fall over, I don't hush them. I laugh with them. Because in that moment, we are practicing liberation.

Journal Prompts

- **What joy did you inherit from your parents, caregivers, or elders?**
- **What joy was denied to you that you now want to give your children—or your younger self?**
- **Write down three ways you can protect a child's laughter this week.**
- **How do you celebrate your child's identity — their name, their skin, their story, their spirit?**

WINNER OF THE 2025 REGAL SUMMIT BOOK AWARDS BEST PARENTING

Courageous Love: A Self Help Guide For Gay Fathers



Fatherhood is a profound and rewarding journey, but for gay dads, it comes with unique challenges. Courageous Love is a compassionate and practical guide that empowers LGBTQ+ fathers to navigate parenthood with confidence, resilience, and pride.

This book redefines fatherhood beyond traditional roles, offering guidance on integrating identity, finding acceptance, and building a supportive community.

It covers essential topics such as legal protections, adoption and surrogacy, maintaining strong relationships, and fostering open communication with your children.

With strategies to combat discrimination, prioritize mental health, and create a nurturing home, Courageous Love helps gay fathers raise happy, confident, and inclusive children.

Through expert insights and heartfelt encouragement, this book is a celebration of love, family, and the strength it takes to be a Proud Gay Dad.

OUT NOW!

WWW.TYSONPETE.COM

Reclaiming Strength: Why Emotional Support Isn't a Weakness for Fathers



Growing up, I never heard my mother say the word therapy. What I did hear were words like strength, hustle, and keep it moving. In our house, emotional struggles weren't talked about, they were pushed through. Therapy? That was for "other people."

Now, in my work as a certified life coach supporting Black fathers and men of color, I hear variations of the same story. And often, the same three myths come up again and again.

Every father deserves a space to be honest.
Not perfect. Just honest.



MYTH 1: "Therapy or coaching is weakness."
Truth: Emotional support is not weakness — it's maintenance. Just like you take your car in for regular service or check your blood pressure, your mind and emotions deserve that same care. Real strength is knowing when the engine light is on and choosing to check it before something breaks down.

MYTH 2: "That kind of help isn't for us."
Truth: This belief is deeply rooted in generational distrust — and for good reason. But healing doesn't have to come from systems that don't see you. Whether it's a Black coach, a queer therapist, a faith-based mentor, or a healing circle in your community, support can and should reflect your culture, your values, and your truth.

MYTH 3: "It won't change anything."
Truth: Change is rarely instant — but that doesn't mean it's not working. Coaching and therapy won't erase life's challenges, but they do give you tools:

- Tools to pause before reacting.
- Tools to see your child's need beneath their behavior.
- Tools to untangle the pain you've carried since you were their age.

That's not weakness. That's growth. That's legacy work.



Practice Tool: 4-7-8 Breathwork for Stress

This simple breathwork practice supports nervous system regulation and models emotional presence for your children.
Here's how to do it:

- **Inhale through your nose for 4 seconds.**
- **Hold that breath for 7 seconds.**
- **Exhale slowly through your mouth for 8 seconds.**
- **Repeat 4 times.**

Try it during tough moments, transitions, or before responding to your child. You're not just calming yourself , you're teaching them how to do the same.

Affirmations to Carry with You

Repeat these aloud or silently during your day:

- **I am allowed to be soft.**
- **I am allowed to be strong.**
- **I am not alone in this journey.**
- **My children need my presence, not my perfection.**



On My Bookshelf

All Boys Aren't Blue by George M. Johnson
A powerful memoir-manifesto exploring identity, queerness, and resilience through a Black, queer lens.

Heavy by Kiese Laymon
A raw and lyrical reflection on family, survival, shame, and the weight of truth.

Courageous Love: A Self-Help Guide for Gay Fathers by Tyson Pete
A compassionate guide for fathers navigating parenting, identity, and healing — because every dad deserves a mirror.

The Prophets by Robert Jones Jr.
A poetic and heart-wrenching novel about Black queer love, spirituality, and resistance in the face of historical erasure.

We Should All Be Feminists by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
A concise and accessible invitation into rethinking gender, power, and how we raise our children — applicable to every parent.

CULTURE

Music That Holds Space

Frank Ocean – Blonde
An atmospheric, emotionally rich album that explores love, longing, a**nd self-discovery.**

Solange – A Seat at the Table
A soulful expression of Black womanhood, healing, and resistance — perfect for reflective listening.

Childish Gambino – Awaken, My Love!
Funky, futuristic, and full of cultural commentary — great for family dance breaks and deeper reflection.



Films to Watch as a Family

Moonlight (2016)
A tender, visually stunning exploration of masculinity, queerness, and vulnerability across three stages of life**.**

Pariah (2011)
A coming-of-age story about a young Black woman discovering her identity and voice amidst family and cultural expectations.

Raising Dion (Netflix Series)
A sci-fi series featuring a young Black boy with superpowers, a beautiful metaphor for nurturing difference, wonder, and potential.

The Mitchells vs. The Machines (2021)
A funny, heartwarming animated film about embracing family weirdness, generational disconnect, and chosen identity.

Podcast Spotlight

Daddy Squared: The Gay Dads Podcast
Honest, humorous, and insightful conversations on parenting, relationships, visibility, and what it means to show up as a queer father.

Therapy for Black Men
Centered on mental health, masculinity, and healing in the Black male community — with practical insights and real talk.

QueerWOC (Queer Women of Color)
A podcast by and for queer people of color, exploring mental health, politics, joy, and love from a deeply affirming space.

The Mash-Up Americans
For multicultural, multiracial, and intersectional families — real conversations about parenting across blended identities.

Art & Inspiration

The Black Joy Project (Instagram & Website)
A digital and real-world platform dedicated to centering Black joy as resistance and healing. A powerful reminder that joy is revolutionary.

Parenting is Political (Instagram & Podcast)
Exploring how family, justice, and identity intersect — through the lens of radical love and community care.

The Nap Ministry
Founded by Tricia Hersey, this movement reclaims rest as a form of resistance — especially for Black and marginalized communities.

Essay: My Grandma's Cornbread and the Stories It Told

By: Tyson Pete



My grandmother never needed a recipe card. She cooked the way elders pray, with instinct, with memory, with the quiet authority of someone who has lived enough life to trust her own hands. A pinch was never just a pinch. It was yesterday's lessons folded into today's hunger. Her cornbread wasn't simply food; it was love pretending to be something golden and warm, a small sun rising in a cast-iron skillet.

Every Sunday, like clockwork, that skillet took center stage. And every Sunday, her voice did too. She'd lean against the counter and talk while the house filled with that unmistakable scent — cornmeal, butter, heat, and history. Stories tumbled out of her like blessings: how she fed neighbors when her cupboards were thin; how she worked the fields until her palms hardened; how her own mother showed her the miracle of stretching a simple meal with cornbread, greens, and faith.



"My grandmother never needed a recipe card."

Those stories weren't entertainment. They were instruction manuals for survival, community-building, and grace. They were the blueprint for everything she believed in: share what you have, feed who you can, and let no one leave your table hungry in body or in spirit.

CONT. ESSAY

My Grandma's Cornbread and the Stories It Told

"Every Sunday, like clockwork, that skillet took center stage."

"Those stories weren't entertainment. They were instruction manuals for survival"

"They were the blueprint for everything she believed in"

Now, when I bake cornbread, my children stand right beside me — loud, messy, beautifully themselves. They stir the batter with more enthusiasm than skill. They spill flour like an offering. They crowd around the stove, their laughter rising with the smell of butter melting and edges crisping. And in those moments, I feel the years collapse into each other. Her kitchen becomes my kitchen. Her hands become my hands. I tell my children what she told me without ever saying it outright: food is memory. Food is inheritance. Food is one of the oldest love letters we write without pen or paper. Every time we cook, we say, I love you. You belong. You are part of something that started long before you, and it will continue long after you.

This is how traditions survive — not in neat binders or printed recipe cards, but in the rhythm of hands stirring batter, in stories retold over a warm stove, in the way a simple slice of cornbread can hold a whole family's



ESSAY: MY GRANDMA'S CORNBREAD AND THE STORIES IT TOLD, CONTINUED

"I'm honoring a woman who taught me that love doesn't always speak in words — sometimes it shows up golden"

history inside it.
And as the skillet crackles and the house fills with that familiar warmth, I know I'm not just baking. I'm carrying forward a lineage. I'm honoring a woman who taught me that love doesn't always speak in words — sometimes it shows up golden, steaming, and ready to share.





Family Recipe Box

Healing Soup
- 1 whole chicken (cut)
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 knob ginger, sliced
- 1 tsp turmeric
- Salt, pepper to taste
- Simmer 2–3 hours. Serve hot.

Sunday Peach Cobbler
- 6 peaches, sliced
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 stick butter
- 1 cup flour + 1 tsp baking powder
- Bake 45 minutes at 375°F. Serve with vanilla ice cream.

Financial Planning for Fathers Who Feel Overwhelmed

'Discipline your money instead of letting your money discipline you.'

BY TYSON PETE | PHOTOGRAPHY BY TYSON PETE

Money carries a weight most fathers don't talk about out loud. It's the invisible load slung across our backs — the bills, the expectations, the emergencies waiting in the shadows, the quiet fear that one misstep could ripple through our children's lives. Fatherhood sharpens every dollar. Suddenly the math isn't just numbers; it's safety, dignity, and future.
But here's the good news: financial security doesn't start with having a lot. It starts with rhythm, with slow steady steps that build into something unshakeable. Stability grows the way a tree does — from consistency, not speed.



Step One: Start Small

Open a savings account and commit to putting away $10 a week. Yes, ten. The point isn't the size; it's the habit. Ten dollars becomes fifty-two weeks, becomes $520 plus interest, becomes proof that you can discipline your money instead of letting your money discipline you.
Starting small removes the shame and gets the gears turning. That first deposit? That's momentum.

Step Two: Protect Your Family

Next, think of a compelling feature for your cover story. This will be what draws your audience in. Make sure that you have accompanying visual content that immediately catches the eye. Include photos, illustrations, and other graphics to match.

Step Three: Seek Support

This will be what draws your audience in. Make sure that you have accompanying visual content that immediately catches the eye. Include photos, illustrations, and other graphics to match.

Financial Planning for Fathers Who Feel Overwhelmed, CONT.

"MONEY DOESN'T HAVE TO BE A MONSTER LURKING IN THE HALLWAY. IT CAN BECOME A TOOL — A RHYTHM."

Tip Box

- **Automate savings.** Let technology remove the temptation to skip a week.
- **Teach your kids early.** Allowances, jars, envelopes — simple systems shape lifelong habits.
- **Track everything** for one week. Every coffee, every snack, every swipe. Awareness is the first step toward power.

Money doesn't have to be a monster lurking in the hallway. It can become a tool — a rhythm. One choice at a time. One week at a time. One small act of discipline that tells your children, We're going to be okay. I'm building something sturdy beneath your feet.

And that steadiness, that quiet confidence, becomes the inheritance they feel every day.



TYSON PETE PRESENTS

P.R.O.U.D. INC

P.R.O.U.D. ACADEMY

COURAGEOUS LOVE

P.R.O.U.D. INC. P.R.O.U.D. ACADEMY. AND THE COURAGEOUS LOVE SERIES AREN'T SEPARATE PROJECTS THEY'RE THREE ARMS OF THE SAME MISSION.
P.R.O.U.D. INC. IS THE ENGINE.
P.R.O.U.D. ACADEMY IS THE BLUEPRINT.
COURAGEOUS LOVE IS THE HEARTBEAT.

TOGETHER, THEY FORM A FULL ECOSYSTEM BUILT AROUND HEALING, FATHERHOOD, VISIBILITY, AND GENERATIONAL STABILITY — ESPECIALLY FOR LGBTQ+ FAMILIES WHO'VE HAD TO NAVIGATE THE WORLD WITH LESS SUPPORT AND MORE SILENCE.

WHAT TO EXPECT MOVING FORWARD
YOU'RE BUILDING AN ECOSYSTEM —
NOT A PROGRAM, NOT A SCHOOL, NOT JUST A BOOK. AN ECOSYSTEM THAT:

- SUPPORTS FATHERS EMOTIONALLY, LEGALLY, AND SPIRITUALLY
- EDUCATES CHILDREN WITH DIGNITY AND EXCELLENCE
- CREATES REPRESENTATION AND VISIBILITY WHERE IT'S BEEN MISSING
- BUILDS GENERATIONAL WEALTH, STABILITY, AND HEALING
- OFFERS REAL TOOLS: CURRICULA, RESOURCES, STORYTELLING, COMMUNITY HUBS

PEOPLE WILL SEE THAT THIS ISN'T A BRAND — IT'S A LEGACY INFRASTRUCTURE.
YOU'RE TEACHING FATHERS HOW TO STAND STRONG.
TEACHING CHILDREN HOW TO RISE HIGHER.
AND SHOWING FAMILIES WHAT LOVE LOOKS LIKE
WHEN IT GROWS UP AND BECOMES ARCHITECTURE.
THAT'S THE EXPECTATION:
A MOVEMENT THAT LIFTS FAMILIES, HONORS IDENTITY, AND HANDS THE

HOW THEY CONNECT?

The books are the message. The Nonprofit is the Community and the Academy is the FUTURE. Each one feeds the next.



P.R.O.U.D. P.R.O.U.D. P.R.O.U.D.

This is the umbrella.
The 501 C nonprofit
that holds the vision.
It exists to empower gay fathers,
build community,
and create the resources
you wish existed when you were
coming up.
Advocacy, support, programming,
AND outreach,
this is the movement.

P.R.O.U.D. ACADEMY

P.R.O.U.D. ACADEMY
EST. 2025

This is the practical application of that movement. A private homeschool built to give children stability, identity, academic strength, and a sense of belonging. The Academy reflects the same values of P.R.O.U.D. Inc: family-centered, legacy-driven, designed for real-world success. It puts love into structure.

COURAGEOUS LOVE

The books are the narrative backbone. They teach the emotional and spiritual work that gay fathers are rarely handed. These pages give language to the healing, the parenting, the identity work, and the generational repair.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

THE OKRA PROJECT



Food has always carried its own language — a language older than words, older than any policy or promise. In our communities, a hot meal has meant survival, dignity, connection. It has meant I see you when the world looks away.

The Okra Project understands that truth at its core. Born from the simple, radical belief that Black trans and queer people deserve nourishment beyond scraps, the organization delivers more than dinner. It delivers affirmation.

Founded by organizers who understood the quiet hunger — not just for food, but for care — The Okra Project hires Black trans chefs to prepare home-cooked meals and bring them directly into the kitchens, living rooms, and lives of those who need it most. It's intimate work. Tender work. It's service rooted in tradition: we take care of our own.

When I spoke to Daniel, a father raising two kids while navigating his own transition, he told me, "That meal was the first time in months I didn't feel like I was fighting alone."

He paused. Then added,

"When that hot meal came to our door, it wasn't just food. It was proof we mattered."

That's the quiet miracle of The Okra Project. They aren't just feeding bodies — they're feeding identity, honoring community, and reminding Black trans families that their lives deserve softness, joy, and plenty.

Their work reaches beyond home delivery. The organization also funds mental health support, community events, and emergency aid, stepping into gaps that institutions consistently overlook. They show up where others step back. They build where others abandon.

And the impact? You feel it. In kitchens where laughter returns. In parents who suddenly have one less burden to carry. In children who see someone who looks like them at the door with a warm plate and a warm smile.

Supporting The Okra Project is supporting visibility. Stability. Humanity.

Every donation helps a chef get paid.

Every volunteer hour extends the table a little wider.

Every shared link, every check written, every conversation sparked — it all multiplies.

If you want to help keep this work alive, visit theokraproject.com. Give if you can. Volunteer if you're able, by cooking, delivering, fundraising, or simply spreading the word.

Because in a world that still tries to starve some of us of dignity, the act of feeding becomes revolutionary.

And every plate, truly, makes a difference.

COURAGEOUS LOVE COLLECTIVE MAGAZINE

Dear Fathers,

The Courageous Love Collective Magazine was built for you, your stories, your wisdom, your questions, your presence. This isn't a publication that talks about fathers. It's one that speaks with you.
We invite you to write in. Ask the questions you've been carrying. Share the moments you're proud of, the ones that broke you open, the ones that shaped you.

If you feel called, contribute to our Letters to Your Children section — a space where fathers leave written legacy, truth, and tenderness for the next generation. And if you'd like to sit down for a conversation, we'd be honored to feature your voice in an upcoming interview or roundtable.

For those who want to support our work further, we also offer advertising and placement opportunities within the magazine. Your business, your brand, or your project can sit alongside a mission-driven publication that uplifts families and builds community. Your support helps us continue creating spaces where fathers are seen, honored, and heard.

Your story matters here. Your fatherhood matters here.
Let's keep building this community together.

With respect and solidarity,

The Courageous Love Collective Team



COURAGEOUS LOVE

P.R.O.U.D. ACADEMY: BUILDING A SANCTUARY FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

FEATURE ARTICLE

WHEN I FIRST IMAGINED P.R.O.U.D. INC., THE DREAM WAS HEALING FATHERS. BUT THE MORE I BUILT, THE CLEARER IT BECAME: HEALING DOESN'T STOP WITH US. IT HAS TO EXTEND TO OUR CHILDREN. THAT'S WHY WE'VE CREATED P.R.O.U.D. ACADEMY, A PRIVATE K-12 SCHOOL DESIGNED TO BE THE FIRST OF ITS KIND —



The Vision

Every child deserves to walk into a classroom where their family is celebrated, not explained. P.R.O.U.D. Academy will be that space. A sanctuary where LGBTQ+ families — so often sidelined — are centered, honored, and woven into the fabric of education.

This isn't just about books and tests. It's about raising leaders who understand truth, resilience, and community from day one.

What Makes P.R.O.U.D. Academy Different?

- **Curriculum Rooted in Excellence and Equity**
- **Traditional academics:** math, science, literature — taught alongside cultural history, life skills, and social justice. Students won't just learn facts; they'll learn how to think critically and lead boldly.
- **Holistic Support**
- **On-campus** mental health counselors, peer mentoring, and fatherhood/parent workshops. We recognize that thriving children come from thriving families.
- **Visibility in Action**
- **Family diversity** woven into textbooks, assemblies, and everyday conversation. No child will ever have to ask if their family counts.
- **Community Partnerships**
- **Collaborations** with nonprofits, local artists, and activists to bring real-world knowledge into the classroom.
- **Safe & Affirming Campus**
- **Policies** that protect every student's identity, plus a school culture that celebrates authenticity.

P.R.O.U.D. ACADEMY
EST. 2025

P.R.O.U.D. ACADEMY

COURAGEOUS LOVE COLLECTIVE

COURAGEOUS LOVE

A Day at P.R.O.U.D. Academy

Morning begins with affirmations in homeroom: "I am seen. I am safe. I am strong."
Math lessons integrate stories of innovators of color and queer trailblazers.
Lunch is fresh, family-style, where teachers sit among students.
Afternoons bring mentorship sessions, art programs, and clubs anywhere from robotics to spoken word poetry.
Evenings sometimes include community dinners, inviting parents, guardians, and allies to the table.

The Long Game: Building Legacy

P.R.O.U.D. Academy is not just a school — it's a legacy project. A pipeline of love and leadership. A model that other cities can replicate. A declaration that children of LGBTQ+ families deserve more than survival; they deserve sanctuaries where they can flourish. We see a future where our graduates walk into universities, boardrooms, classrooms, or community spaces unapologetically whole. Where they are not just included but empowered.



"I am seen. I am safe. I am strong."

How We'll Get There

Phase One: Planning & Infrastructure

- Secure facilities and accreditation.
- Develop curriculum with educators, therapists, and cultural leaders.

Phase Two: Launch (Grades K–5)

- Smaller class sizes to foster intimacy and care.
- Build strong community partnerships.

Phase Three: Expansion (Grades 6–12)

- Introduce advanced programs: leadership labs, STEM partnerships, global exchange.

PHASE FOUR: REPLICATION

- SHARE THE MODEL NATIONWIDE, PLANTING SEEDS OF P.R.O.U.D. ACADEMIES IN OTHER CITIES.

WHY IT MATTERS

BECAUSE TOO MANY CHILDREN SIT IN CLASSROOMS WHERE THEIR FAMILIES ARE INVISIBLE. TOO MANY FATHERS WALK INTO PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES BRACING FOR JUDGMENT. TOO MANY LEGACIES ARE CUT SHORT BY SILENCE.

P.R.O.U.D. ACADEMY SAYS: NO MORE. THIS IS WHERE WE RAISE A GENERATION THAT KNOWS LOVE AS COURAGE, EDUCATION AS LIBERATION, AND FAMILY AS EXPANSIVE AND UNBREAKABLE.



P.R.O.U.D. ACADEMY

Vision Statement

P.R.O.U.D. Academy will be the nation's first K–12 private school designed to center and celebrate LGBTQ+ families while delivering rigorous academics, holistic support, and community-rooted leadership development.

Why Now

- LGBTQ+ families are growing, yet many students still face discrimination and invisibility in schools.
- Parents often feel unsafe or unseen in traditional education systems.
- Mental health struggles among LGBTQ+ youth and children of queer families are rising.
- There is no existing K–12 model that fully integrates inclusion, academic excellence, and family empowerment.

P.R.O.U.D. Academy is designed to fill that gap.

Core Differentiators

1. **Academics with Excellence + Equity**
   - Traditional subjects delivered at the highest standard.
   - Integrated curriculum highlighting diverse innovators, histories, and cultural contributions.
2. **Holistic Family Support**
   - On-site mental health resources.
   - Fatherhood/parenting workshops run through P.R.O.U.D. Inc.
   - After-school mentorship programs.
3. **Inclusion at the Core**
   - Family diversity reflected in classroom materials, events, and policies.
   - LGBTQ+ affirming policies baked into governance and staff training.
4. **Community Integration**
   - Partnerships with nonprofits, local businesses, and artists.
   - School as a hub for retreats, events, and cultural celebrations.

Phased Development Plan

Phase 1: Planning & Infrastructure (Year 1)

- Secure campus and accreditation.
- Develop curriculum with education and cultural experts.
- Hire leadership team and initial faculty.

Phase 2: Launch (Year 2)

- Open Grades K–5 with intimate class sizes (max 15–20 students per class).
- Establish after-school programs and mental health services.

We believe every child deserves a sanctuary where they are seen, where their families are affirmed, and where education becomes liberation.

Phase 3: Expansion (Years 3–5)

- Add middle school (Grades 6–8) and high school (Grades 9–12).
- Launch specialized tracks in STEM, arts, and leadership.

Phase 4: Replication (Years 6+)

- Document and scale model for replication in other cities.
- Partner with national organizations to expand the P.R.O.U.D. Academy blueprint.



"EVERY CHILD DESERVES TO WALK INTO A CLASSROOM WHERE THEIR FAMILY IS CELEBRATED, NOT EXPLAINED."

Projected Impact (First 5 Years)

- 300+ students enrolled across K–12.
- 90%+ parental engagement through workshops, community dinners, and retreats.
- Improved student outcomes in academic achievement and emotional well-being compared to district averages.
- A replicable model of LGBTQ+-centered education to be shared nationwide.

Funding Needs

Initial Capital (Phase 1–2):

- Facilities acquisition/lease and build-out: $3.5M
- Curriculum development + accreditation: $500K
- Staffing (administration, teachers, counselors): $1.5M
- Technology + materials: $500K
- Launch reserve fund: $1M
- Total Phase 1–2 Need: $7M

"Education as Liberation. Family as Foundation. Legacy as Future."

Revenue Model

- Tuition (sliding scale + scholarships to ensure accessibility).
- Grants from educational foundations.
- Philanthropic donations from individuals and corporations.
- Endowment campaign for long-term sustainability.

The Ask

We are seeking $7M in seed funding to launch P.R.O.U.D. Academy in its first two years. This includes facilities, curriculum development, staffing, and scholarships to guarantee accessibility.

P.R.O.U.D. Academy is more than a school. It's a movement in brick and mortar. It's a promise that children of LGBTQ+ families will never again have to shrink themselves in order to learn.

By funding this vision, you are not just supporting a school. You are investing in liberation, leadership, and legacy.



LETTERS

To Our Children Written by YOU



Dear Malik,

When I was your age, I thought being a man meant being silent.
I watched men hold their pain in like fists.
I tried to do the same. But you — you laugh freely,
you dance without apology, you cry when you're hurt.
And I see in you the man I wish I had been brave enough to be.

I want you to know:
I will never punish your softness.
I will never shame your truth.
You are teaching me as much as I am teaching you.

Keep laughing, son.
That laughter is your crown.

Forever proud,

Dad

Dear Maya.

When you were born, I didn't know who to was yet.
I was a man dvided — trying be what she the world
wanted, therld wrcsion wanted, hiding what I truly felt.
But then ask opensiod my finger. You asked for me.
Every day since, you've taught me how to be whole.
You remind me that love doesn't wait hot you be perfection.
It shows up, even trembling, even ablely, even afraid.
Brave enough Maya, you made me say orlud who am.
Brave enough to love openly. Bouild to love without fear.
I pray you always know: Your joy is life matters.
And monter where you go, you carry my love with with.

Love always,
Dad

from Tyson Pete,

To my children,

You are my reason. You are my courage. Every word I write, every speech I give, every risk I take — I do it knowing your eyes are watching.

I want you to inherit more than money. I want you to inherit freedom. Freedom to love who you love. Freedom to walk in your skin without apology. Freedom to build families rooted in truth.

If you remember nothing else, remember this: love is not fragile. Love is fire. Carry it boldly.

With all of me,

Daddy

To my daughter,

You have a strength that amazes me. I see it in the way you speak your mind, the way you hold your head high, the way you trust your heart.

But I know the world tests you, and there are days that feel heavy with doubt and fear. On those days especilly. I hope you see yourself the way I see you: capable, brilliant, worthy.

I'm so proud of the woman you are becoming. Don't ever forget how loved you are.

With all my heart,

Dad

RESOURCES FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

P.R.O.U.D. INC. ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 278, SURFSIDE, CA 90743 · PHONE: 877-783-6804
EMAILS: PR@TYSONPETE.COM, ADMIN@PROUDINC.ORG, SUPPORT@PROUDINC.ORG

FAMILY EQUALITY
475 PARK AVE S, STE 2100, NEW YORK, NY 10016 · (646) 880-3005 · COMMUNICATIONS@FAMILYEQUALITY.ORG · CONTACT FORM ON SITE.

PFLAG NATIONAL
1625 K ST NW, STE 700, WASHINGTON, DC 20006 · (202) 467-8180 · INFO@PFLAG.ORG PFLAG

GAYS WITH KIDS (GWK)
CONTACT FORM (PROGRAM/PRESS/GENERAL) · SITE: GAYSWITHKIDS.COM / GWKACADEMY.ORG.

RAINBOW FAMILIES (DC)

5614 CONNECTICUT AVE NW #309, WASHINGTON, DC 20015-2604 · (202) 747-0407 · INFO@RAINBOWFAMILIES.ORG.

COLAGE (FOR KIDS OF LGBTQ+ PARENTS)

PO BOX 29295, PROVIDENCE, RI 02909 · INFO@COLAGE.ORG (MEDIA/RESEARCH EMAILS ALSO LISTED).

THE TREVOR PROJECT

CRISIS LINE 866-488-7386 (24/7) · MAIL: PO BOX 69232, WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA 90069 · GEN. PHONE (ORG): (212) 695-8650.

HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN (HRC) — FAMILY RESOURCES

FRONT DESK (202) 628-4160 · TTY (202) 216-1572 · TOLL-FREE (800) 777-4723.

NATIONAL LGBTQ TASK FORCE

1050 CONNECTICUT AVE NW, PO BOX 65500, WASHINGTON, DC 20035 · (202) 393-5177.

LAMBDA LEGAL

HQ: 120 WALL ST, 19TH FL, NEW YORK, NY 10005 · (212) 809-8585 · REGIONAL NUMBERS LISTED (LA 213-382-7600, ETC.). HELP DESK VIA SITE.

MEN HAVING BABIES

GEN. INQUIRIES VIA CONTACT FORM; ORG PHONE LISTED AS (646) 461-6112; EMAIL: RON@MENHAVINGBABIES.ORG.

GROWING GENERATIONS (SURROGACY/IVF)

5900 WILSHIRE BLVD #550, LOS ANGELES, CA 90036 · (323) 965-7500 · FAMILY@GROWINGGENERATIONS.COM.

CREATING A FAMILY (ADOPTION/INFERTILITY EDUCATION)

CONTACT FORM · EMAIL: INFO@CREATINGAFAMILY.ORG.

FOSTERCLUB (YOUTH/FAMILY FOSTER RESOURCES)

PHONE (503) 717-1552 · EMAIL INFO@FOSTERCLUB.COM

LGBT NATIONAL HELP CENTER

HOTLINES: 888-843-4564 (NATIONAL), 800-246-7743 (YOUTH), 888-234-7243 (SENIOR).

Q CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP (FAITH & FAMILY SUPPORT)
PO BOX 409357, CHICAGO, IL 60640 · (888) 203-7798.

GENDER SPECTRUM (PARENT GROUPS & SCHOOL GUIDANCE)
EMAIL: INFO@GENDERSPECTRUM.ORG; PARENT SUPPORT/INFO VIA SITE.

GLSEN (K-12 SCHOOL CLIMATE)
MAIL: 244 MADISON AVE #108, NEW YORK, NY 10016 · (212) 727-0135 · DEVELOPMENT@GLSEN.ORG.

NATIONAL PTA (FOR SCHOOL ADVOCACY)
1250 N. PITT ST, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314 · (703) 518-1200 · INFO@PTA.ORG (TOLL-FREE 800-307-4782).

SAGE (LGBTQ+ ELDERS)
HOTLINE 877-360-5428; MAIN INFO VIA SAGE SITE (NYC HQ LISTED ON PARTNER PAGES).

XHOOD (BLACK QUEER PARENTS & CAREGIVERS)

EMAIL SUPPORT@PARENTXHOOD.COM. PARENTXHOOD.COM

GAY FATHERS WORLDWIDE (PEER SUPPORT COMMUNITY)

INFO PAGE & PRIVATE GROUP

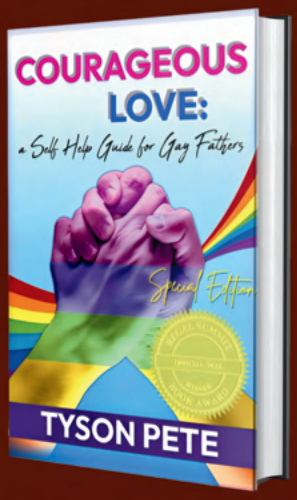
PSYCHOLOGY TODAY – LGBTQ+ THERAPIST DIRECTORY

NATIONAL DIRECTORY TO FIND AFFIRMING THERAPISTS (FILTER BY "LGBTQ+ / GAY").

CEREBRAL PALSY GUIDE (FOR FAMILIES WITH DISABLED KIDS)

CONTACT FORM VIA SITE; ADVOCACY CONTACT: AMIE.KROESSIG@CEREBRALPALSYGUIDE.COM, (866) 882-9284.

Available NOW!







New Book Available November 21st

TYSON PETE

P.R.O.U.D. INC

P.R.O.U.D. ACADEMY
EST. 2025

COURAGEOUS LOVE COLLECTIVE

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