



# Advocacy Update

Sent November 1, 2011

## **Show the RAC's "It Gets Better" Video at a Sisterhood Meeting**

The internet-based "It Gets Better" project was established last year to prevent suicide among LGBT teenagers who experience bullying by their peers. Its original approach was to communicate with beleaguered youth by having gay adults convey video messages that the lives of gay teens would improve. Within the first week more than 200 videos were uploaded onto the project's YouTube site and since then the number of videos has grown rapidly. It Gets Better now has its own website. The project is now organized on its own website, the It Gets Better Project, and includes video entries from individuals of all sexual orientations. As part of the It Gets Better Project, President Obama shared a message of hope and support for LGBT youth harassed by bullying.

Last month, the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism released its "It Gets Better" video. In relation to the video's release, Rabbi David Saperstein, Director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, issued the following statement: "We are proud to join countless others, including President Obama, celebrities, athletes, religious leaders and individuals across the nation, who have participated in the It Gets Better campaign to provide messages of hope to LGBT youth."

Reform congregations have also sought to let LGBT teenagers know that "it gets better" and to foster a more accepting environment. Read Rabbi Linder's (Temple Solel, Paradise Valley, AZ) Kol Nidre message.

Rabbi Saperstein tells us: "As human beings, we have a responsibility to ensure that the spark of the Divine presence in each individual is respected. To that end, we hope that our participation in the It Gets Better campaign will remind LGBT youth who are struggling that they are valued and loved."

**Circulate the link to Rabbi Lindner's Kol Nidre message and plan a sisterhood meeting to show the RAC's "It Gets Better" video.**