

# **STRONG FAMILY ALLIANCE**

SAVING LIVES. PRESERVING FAMILIES.

## **Parents of LGBTQ Youth Face Their Own “Coming Out” Challenges**

*Panel Event on Oct. 5 to Address How Parents Can Navigate a New Reality with an LGBTQ Child—In Celebration of National Parents Coming Out Day*

**AUSTIN, TEXAS** – Sept. 20, 2017 – For many youth in the LGBTQ community, the #1 predictor of their overall well-being hinges on whether they are accepted or rejected by their families. Yet, far too often, parents must face their own fears, as they determine how to support their child—but these parents must also “come out” to friends, other family, work colleagues and church members.

**As a resource for parents of LGBTQ youth, Austin-based nonprofit, Strong Family Alliance, is hosting a panel discussion about the challenges parents face when a child comes out on Thursday, October 5, 2017 at the Departure Lounge (701 S Capital of Texas Highway, Suite D420, West Lake Hills, TX 78746).**

The panel event will include parents of LGBTQ children discussing different aspects of the coming out experience—from acceptance to finding an open and affirming church community.

“Coming out doesn’t just happen to the child, it happens to the family. Parents often worry whether to tell their friends and family that their child is LGBTQ. It’s our goal to help parents see the coming out as a process for both the parent and child,” said Janet Duke, Founder of Strong Family Alliance. “There are many ways for parents to support their child, ranging from being a good listener and serving as an ally to be an activist. It’s important that parents choose actions they and their child are comfortable with.”

The event will also serve as a precursor to the kick off of Strong Family Alliance’s inaugural “National Parents Coming Out Day” on October 12. Held the day after National Coming Out Day, this day is for parents to come out as an ally to support their LGBTQ children.

To learn more about Strong Family Alliance and the Oct. 5 panel, please visit: [strongfamilyalliance.org](http://strongfamilyalliance.org).

### **About Strong Family Alliance:**

Strong Family Alliance is a non-profit organization with a simple mission: to save lives and preserve families by supporting parents of children in the LGBTQ community. Strong Family Alliance gives parents

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accurate information, insights into family dynamics, ways to keep their child safe and healthy, and tools to help them lead with love and solve problems over time. For more information, please visit [strongfamilyalliance.org](http://strongfamilyalliance.org).

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