



HUMAN
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All Children - All Families Initiative Helping Illinois

Guest contribution provided by Justin Metzler, HRC Chicago Steering Committee, Web Content Coordinator.

May is national foster care month and a reminder to recognize the work and dedication of everyone involved in helping children in need. The process of becoming foster and adoptive parents is no doubt a challenging experience for any family, but for LGBT parents it can be seemingly insurmountable. The work of the Human Rights Campaign [All Children - All Families](#) initiative seeks to change that stigma by creating a culture within agencies that welcomes LGBT families as a resource for youth in out-of-home care. Currently no agencies in Illinois have attained the All Children – All Families Seal of Recognition, but as the Windy City Times [reported](#) earlier this month a number of them are ‘moving towards obtaining an HRC seal.’

Adoptee and current State Representative of the 12th District, Sara Feigenholtz, applauded the work of HRC in a letter to the editor of Go Pride. In her [letter](#) she noted the things it takes to create an environment with the “best interests of the child” in mind and mentioned that gender identity and sexual orientation does not pre-determine a family’s ability to provide them. This month PNC Bank is hosting a family planning panel discussion on adoption and surrogacy for Chicago area HRC [Federal Club](#) members. Now is a great time to join the Federal Club and enjoy the exclusive membership benefits of being a champion of equality.

No matter how each of our individual families comes to be the undeniably rewarding part is being able to choose our own paths to sharing our love.