

[MUSIC PLAYING]

SUZANNE ANDERSON: Good evening. This is Suzanne Anderson for TV Montrose.

KIM SEVIER: And Kim Sevier. Welcome and thank you for joining us this week. This week we come to you from the West Gray Multipurpose Center, a fabulous facility that provides many wonderful services for our community. As you'll notice behind us, there are portions of the AIDS Quilt by the NAMES Project. These panels are from all over the country, and the world for that matter. And they're rotated in and out. You can come and see different panels on display at different times, quite beautiful.

NICHOLAS CAVALLARO: I want to welcome TV Montrose to the Metropolitan Multi-service Center. The Metropolitan Multi-service Center is a recreational, educational, cultural, and social service facility for people with disabilities. It is one of the few of its kind in the entire United States. The Metropolitan Multi-service Center offers a full-size gymnasium, which also serves as an auditorium where full-scale theater productions can take place. And as a banquet facility where we have a full-size commercial kitchen. The Metropolitan also offers a 25-meter heated swimming pool for aquatic therapy with assistive devices to help you in and out of the pool. And a wheelchair ramp for ease of accessibility.

There is room here at the Metropolitan for 18 social services to serve the community's needs. We also offer classroom space and a library to meet your training needs. Outside, the Metropolitan has lighted tennis courts, a lighted baseball diamond with wheelchair-accessible bleachers, a wheelchair-accessible jogging trail, a picnic and park area, and a very special project which is a collaborative effort with the AIDS Foundation Houston and Southwestern Bell. And that's a community garden. The produce of which goes to the Stone Soup Food Pantry. We want you to take advantage of the Metropolitan Multi-service Center. So please give us a call at area code 713-284-1973. Welcome to your Metropolitan Multi-service Center.

KIM SEVIER: Next we're going to go to Fred Walters at Stages Theater who brings us a story called Love Makes a Family. Actually, that's the title of the exhibit put on by PFLAG, Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. It's a wonderful photo exhibit. Let's take a look.

FRED WALTERS, JR.: We're here at Stages where many people have come to view a photo exhibit on its national tour about a diverse part of our population that is rarely seen. The tour is a photo tour called Love Makes a Family. And it's about 20 families who have lesbian and gay members. The group was sponsored by PFLAG, Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. PFLAG offers education, advocacy, and support to parents and friends and lesbian and gay people.

I'm here with artistic director Rob Bundy of Stages Repertory Theater. Rob, this is a beautiful space to host the PFLAG event. How did this come to occur that PFLAG is hosting their event here?

ROB BUNDY: Well, Kyle Young, who is our marketing director, is a member of PFLAG. And he suggested that I take a look at this whole exhibition and see if this was something that was appropriate for Stages. And I said, absolutely. And it's not just an art house, it's a community center. That's the way I like to think of this theater company. And it's a forum for discussion. Therefore, I think it's a perfect place to have photographs of various kinds of families.

FRED WALTERS, JR.: Now you also have children's theater during the day, right?

ROB BUNDY: That's right. We have a main stage in the evening time where we have adults coming to see adult shows. I mean, not anything x-rated, but for instance, it's Edward Albee's all over, which is on the boards right now. And then during the day, we have a family theater that children come to see Beauty and the Beast. And so they'll walk along that wall. And they will see all of these photographs, which I think is a perfect thing for children to see because it helps to define how to redefine family values. It also helps to show that there's more than one kind of family here. Children of heterosexual families will be able to define or expand their tolerance. And also, I think even more importantly, children of gay parents will be able to see themselves up on that wall and see that there is some kind of reinforcement and confirmation about that kind of family value, which I think is very important. And Stages is a perfect place for that.

FRED WALTERS, JR.: Why did you bring this photo exhibit to Houston?

GAIL RICKEY: The whole point of this exhibit is to show how natural and normal it is for families with gays and lesbians as parents that is happening more and more across our country. It's very exciting for gays and lesbians to be able to form their own families, to have children, and to nurture those children. And they're invisible to our society, and so this exhibit shows that they exist, that they have lots of love to share, and that-- our daughter has a child. Our daughter and her partner have a child, and so this represents the family that they have built and will continue to build. So it's very exciting to us.

FRED WALTERS, JR.: Well, thank you for bringing this event to Houston.

GAIL RICKEY: Thank you, Fred.

PAT RICKEY: Thank you.

FRED WALTERS, JR.: I'm here with Dave Purgason. And Dave you're a member of PFLAG, aren't you?

DAVE PURGASON: Yes.

FRED WALTERS, JR.: How did you get involved with PFLAG?

DAVE PURGASON: Well, my best friend referred me to PFLAG after I came out. And it was a great place for me to come and talk to other parents and other people going through the coming out process. And I was able to tell my parents about PFLAG up in Kansas City and they started going up there, so it's helped my whole family.

FRED WALTERS, To this event, why did y'all come tonight?

JR.:

MAN: Well, anything PFLAG does, it's going to have a style and panache. And it's got to be politically correct. And that's one of the reasons that I come out for every PFLAG event because it's always going to help somebody. The fact that they're showing families has all shapes, sizes, and colors is wonderful. This country has a tendency to kind of pigeonhole families. And we've known for centuries that families are all the colors of the rainbow in the clouds and snowflakes. And to have a good photography exhibition to show, this is great.

FRED WALTERS, I'm here with Barbara Winston and her grandson Jacob. Barbara, how did you get involved with PFLAG?

JR.:

BARBARA WINSTON: I got involved with PFLAG just immediately when my youngest son Philip came out in 1993.

FRED WALTERS, Oh, wow.

JR.:

BARBARA WINSTON: And I'd heard about it for a long time. I was a psychotherapist at that time and actually sent clients to PFLAG.

FRED WALTERS, What do you think about the exhibit going on?

JR.:

BARBARA WINSTON: Look at there. I think it's wonderful. It's perfect night, it's beautiful. Lots of friends here and we're thrilled to death.

FRED WALTERS, So Kim and Suzanne, organizers say this event was brought here to help people celebrate and bring more visibility to the gay and lesbian community. This event here was truly moving and the support here is truly outstanding. Back to you.

SUZANNE ANDERSON: Well, nothing does more to legitimize the gay and lesbian community. I don't think than Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gay. They're a big asset. And I for one truly appreciate them.

KIM SEVIER: Me too. Next, we're going to talk with Jama Shelton, who brings us a fabulous story right from the middle of Cherryhurst Park.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

JAMA SHELTON: I'm Jama Shelton with TV Montrose. We're here today at Cherryhurst Park. It's a beautiful Sunday afternoon. There's lots going on as you can tell. Everyone is seeming to enjoy the weather. If you're looking for a way to enjoy this great weather and the great outdoors while you're living in the middle of a city, try checking out one of the many parks that situated in the Montrose area.

So do you like to spend your afternoons here at Cherryhurst Park?

CHERIE AYALA: Cherryhurst Park is a very nice park. The play structure is nice. There's usually lots of people here to meet and other people with dogs and kids, so you have a good time coming here.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

JAMA SHELTON: All right. Do you come here often on the weekends, weekdays?

ANN Yeah, we come here a lot actually. Yeah. I'd say, three or four times a week maybe.

WUERTEMBERGER:

JAMA SHELTON: What does it mean to you having a park where you can bring your children and hang out and play?

ANN Well, it's nice because it gives you a place to go. It gives you another place to go. It's nice for them to get

WUERTEMBERGER: outside. This is actually a really nice little park because it's not so huge that you have to run and chase after them all the time. It's small enough that they can still run around but you can sit and relax too.

SCOTT HOWARD: Well, the park was founded in 1925 by the City of Houston when the neighborhood decided that they wanted a park. And for all these 75 years, the park has been a centerpiece of Cherryhurst. And so we've all along done lots of things like maintenance who kept the park up. We're doing a lot of landscaping. All the playground equipment is something that the neighborhood residents have basically bought. And we're going to have another big program with irrigation and lighting and that kind of thing. So it's a real important centerpiece to the neighborhood.

JAMA SHELTON: So I guess we can thank you for a lot of the work that's been done out here and how nice the place is.

SCOTT HOWARD: Well, you can thank the Cherryhurst Civic Club for all of that. I'm the current president and so we're real happy to have the park being used the way it's being used now.

JAMA SHELTON: So there you have it. If you're looking for something to do next weekend, try checking out Cherryhurst Park or any of the other parks you can find in the Montrose area. They're here for us to use. They're free and there are lots of fun. This has been Jama Shelton reporting for TV Montrose.

SUZANNE ANDERSON: Well, what an opportunity to find out who we really are. I don't think people think of Montrose as the place where mom and dad take the dog and the guys get out and play volleyball and all. But that is who our community is. That's a big part of it.

KIM SEVIER: And tennis. I want to play tennis. Will you play with me, Suzanne?

SUZANNE ANDERSON: OK. OK.

KIM SEVIER: And maybe even a little wager on the side.

SUZANNE ANDERSON: No. No wager for us betting on my tennis day.

[LAUGHS]

KIM SEVIER: Stay with us. We're going to a commercial break.

ANNOUNCER: Come out of the dark. Open your eyes. Open the Gay & Lesbian Yellow Pages. Advertisers in the Gay & Lesbian Yellow Pages want to do business with you. You'll find the phone number and address of every service product or group you need. Share the pride. Shop with our gay-friendly merchants. Use their professional services. Support them, they support you. Pick up a copy of the Gay & Lesbian Yellow Pages at locations near you.

ANNOUNCER: Some of them will be three times more likely to commit suicide than their friends. There's also a greater chance that someday some of them will be assaulted, beaten, threatened, harassed, or even murdered just because they may be lesbian or gay. But look at them, they deserve it. Don't they? A message brought to you by the Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays.

ANNOUNCER: The Texas Triangle is a free weekly newspaper reaching over 60,000 readers every week. Available every Thursday throughout Houston, Austin, San Antonio, and Dallas, and 20 other Texas cities. The Triangle offers the best in news features and entertainment. A six-time award winner, it's the only gay newspaper to receive an Outstanding Journalism Award from the National Gay and Lesbian Journalists Association. The Houston press writes, "for gay and lesbian news, by far the best is the Texas Triangle." So pick up The Triangle every week, quality makes a difference.

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[MUSIC PLAYING]

BETTY DEGENERES: Hello, my name is Betty DeGeneres. And my kid is the greatest. You know her, she's Ellen and she's gay. For too long gay Americans have suffered discrimination. As long as our sons and daughters are excluded from the basic protection of law, we must share that burden as a family. So let's not wait one child and let them reach for the stars.

KIM SEVIER: Thank you so much for staying with us.

SUZANNE ANDERSON: We're going to take you now to the Lesbian Health Initiative. And it's very rare that lesbians do anything for themselves in this community. And this is one of the big events of the year.

KIM SEVIER: Let's go check it out.

BRIDGET HOLMES: Jackie, tell us about what's going on here today.

JACKIE DOVAL: Well, first of all, I want to say thank you for being here. This is LHI, which is Lesbian Health Initiatives' 3rd Annual Health Fair. And what we're having here today is a safe and comfortable environment for lesbians to come and have health care, screening tests, mammograms, pap smears, and blood HIV, and STD testing.

BRIDGET HOLMES: So tell me about the booths and why they're set up back here. Are some of your sponsors or you?

JACKIE DOVAL: These are some of the sponsors of the health fair in the sense that they are vendor booths. And we're showing to the community or giving the opportunity for the lesbian community to demonstrate what they have to offer to other lesbians in our community. So it's lesbians helping lesbians.

BRIDGET HOLMES: So tell us about some of the services that are provided here today.

POKEY Well, the big drawing card is mammograms at low or no cost. We're offering \$10 donation for mammograms.

ANDERSON: And this is really important for women over 40 to get at least once every year or so. And then we have pap smears, blood pressure, eye testing, and probably some things that have snuck in that I don't even know about yet.

BRIDGET HOLMES: So what do you expect the attendance to be?

POKEY We usually get about 200.

ANDERSON:

BRIDGET HOLMES: That's not bad

POKEY Yeah. Well, it's a new concept, I think, to go to this particular community lesbian, bisexual, transgender

ANDERSON: women. And try to reach out and say here's information, here's a prevention stuff, here's screening, take care of yourself.

BRIDGET HOLMES: Diane, tell us about how many people this serves a month?

DIANE Between the two units that our company has, about 400 women.

MCNAMARA:

BRIDGET HOLMES: Right. And where does it roll in and roll out of?

DIANE Our main office is at North Post Oak Road at 730 North Post Oak Road. And we travel around the city of

MCNAMARA: Houston as well as different parts of Texas serving clinics and churches. And we sometimes go to Randall's, Walgreens, anywhere that'll have us. And that can serve the women that have a hard time getting into a facility.

BRIDGET HOLMES: So tell me what goes on as soon as you walk in the door from the time you get to the back?

DIANE Well, they're going to come in. They're going to fill out a little paperwork, so we can get some history on

MCNAMARA: them. They're going to have a breast exam. And then they will step to the rear and have a mammogram. It's a screening mammogram in which four pictures are done. And then we have a radiologist that reads them and we will send them the results.

BRIDGET HOLMES: OK. I'm here with Tina and Shelley. And they're going to tell me why they're here. I don't know who's going to go first, maybe they'll fight over the mic or something. Tell me why are you here today.

TINA: I came from a mammogram, my very first. I'm 38 years old and thought it was time. And it was a wonderful experience. And it didn't even pinch or hurt. That's why I'm here.

BRIDGET HOLMES: So you would encourage others to come out?

TINA: Oh, yes. I think Shelly found out something about age and mammograms. And she'll probably tell you about how old you should be.

BRIDGET HOLMES: So now we're fighting over the mic. So tell us about why you're here Shelly.

SHELLY: Well, I came along with Tina. But I just came to learn and ask questions. There are a lot of doctors that you can ask questions and talk to people and just learn lots of interesting things that you normally might not take the time to do so it's great.

BRIDGET HOLMES: Good for you. And there you have it. Now we know why they're here and why you should be here next year.

SHELLY: Come now.

BRIDGET HOLMES: Now. Well, not now it. By the time they're here, it'll be over so they'll have to come next year.

SHELLY: All right. Come next year.

TINA: It's a wonderful experience and there's lots of wonderful people here.

SHELLY: And there's entertainment, prizes.

TINA: And the mayor gave--

BRIDGET HOLMES: Prizes.

TINA: --a little for us proclaiming it was Lesbian Health Initiative day today for the city of Houston.

BRIDGET HOLMES: That's really amazing.

TINA: Thank you, Mayor.

BRIDGET HOLMES: Thank you.

ANNISE PARKER: But I'm here officially representing the city and Mayor Lee Brown. I'm going to read a proclamation on behalf of today's event. Today is Lesbian Health Awareness Day in Houston.

[CROWD CHEERING]

FRED RENNIGER: I feel it. We all feel with the pride committee that's very important to be lots of different places to be here today because it's just not lesbian Pride Week, it's not gay Pride Week, we're all a big family. And hopefully, we'll do even more to support each other. I've been real active in the HIV and AIDS fundraising, and community but it's just as important to realize that other people have other problems. And lesbian community has been very supportive of gay men. And I like to see more people in turn do more to help the whole community.

BRIDGET HOLMES: This is the 3rd Annual Lesbian Health Fair. And what they're saying is this is designed to help lesbians, transgender, bisexual women feel more comfortable about things like pap smears, mammograms, and everything. This is a great place to be. Everybody should be here next year and be a part of it. This is Bridget Holmes reporting for TV Montrose.

KIM SEVIER: Thank you Bridget for letting us know what's going on at the Lesbian Health Initiative. Next, we have a calendar to show you everything that's going on for the coming month.

**SUZANNE
ANDERSON:** So stay tuned and find out what's happening in Montrose.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

**SUZANNE
ANDERSON:** If your organization would like to be on our calendar if you have an event that you would like to promote, let us hear from you 713-523-6302.

KIM SEVIER: TV Montrose does a lot to promote events, happenings, and things around our community. We'd like your help in promoting TV Montrose. If you have any experience in public relations or would like to help by being a part of our show, please call us. Again the number is 713-523-6302. We'd like to get the word out about our show in community newsletters, organizational newsletters, emails, anything you might be able to help us with. Stay tuned. We've got one more commercial break.

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**SUZANNE
ANDERSON:** Welcome back from commercial. And remember who sponsors this and call these people up and use them.

KIM SEVIER: Next, we have a look at a documentary that was originally created in 1994 and has since been remastered. It's entitled Always My Kid, A Family Guide To Understanding Homosexuality. Let's take a look.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

PATRICIA RICKEY: And when I am on marches or go to gay events, and people who claim to be religious are the ones with signs telling us that we're not OK. It makes me really angry because they have no idea the long road that I have traveled, how much praying I've done about that, for them to say what my relationship is with God or that I have done anything wrong in the eyes of God, I think is really horrible.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

DON SINCLAIR: I wish the church would tackle this, but we haven't even begun to face the issue of homosexuality enough to look at it reasonably and without all a lot of heat and anger.

**DOUG
ENSMINGER:** I long for the day when it's possible to do a marriage for a gay couple or a lesbian couple. But until society gets a lot more open-minded, we can't do that. What we can do is within those places where there is a religious community that recognizes the legitimacy of a relationship between a gay couple or a lesbian couple. Gather that community of faith around those people and support them with prayer and witness their commitments to one another. It is less than what I and others would like to be possible. But it's a whole lot more than nothing.

DON SINCLAIR: We need, especially in an age crisis, to encourage people to a monogamous relationship. The homosexual people have nowhere to go. They have no way to be acknowledged as in love or in union or wanting serious commitments.

**DOUG
ENSMINGER:** So I think there's no question. But that a gay couple can find happiness and live a life that God would approve of. I also think there's no question, but that our society makes it very difficult for a gay couple to do that. There are people who question whether or not a gay couple can be stable and happy by pointing to studies that will say there's a high rate of promiscuity in the gay community or there aren't very many long-lived gay relationships. Seems to me you have to look at the difference between what society will do to support a straight couple and what it does to oppose a gay couple. And even with all the religious and social supports, I certainly wouldn't want to brag on the success rate of heterosexual relationships.

**SUZANNE
ANDERSON:** Thanks for being with us this evening.

KIM SEVIER: We certainly appreciate it. And remember, you can always email us with questions, comments, how many viewers are watching. We'd love to hear from you. We're at TVMontrose@AOL.com.

**SUZANNE
ANDERSON:** Good night.

KIM SEVIER: Thank you.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

**FRED WALTERS,
JR.:** I'm here with celebrity Rob Bundy.

ROB BUNDY: A celebrity? Major celebrity, major talent.

[LAUGHS]

FRED WALTERS, JR.: I'm here with board members Pat and Gail Rickey. Could you--

[LAUGHS]

Bla-bla-bla. Bla-bla-bla.

MAN: All right.

FRED WALTERS, JR.: We'll have come to view a photo exhibit on its national tour.

We're here at Stages where many people have come to view a photo exhibit on its national tour.

JACKIE DOVAL: We have a Lesbian Health Initiative as a non-profit organization that has-- oh, this is horrible. I'm sorry. What did I do?

LINDA: I'm here at the 3rd Annual Lesbian Conference to help-- oh, I don't know.

I'm encouraging all vendors and women to come here to the conference for next year.

BRIDGET HOLMES: Thank you very much, Linda. They're going to be here.

LINDA: Yeah right.

[LAUGHS]

CAMERAMAN: If I do this, more viewers will react.

[LAUGHS]

SUZANNE ANDERSON: And now we're going to talk about breast exams.

[LAUGHTER]

KIM SEVIER: Here's your mammogram.

[LAUGHS]

Thank you so much for staying with us.

SUZANNE ANDERSON: OK, I'm ready. Call us at 713-532-6302 and we'll put you on the calendar.

CAMERAMAN: It's 523.

SUZANNE ANDERSON: What did I say?

CAMERAMAN: 532.

SUZANNE Don't even tell me.

ANDERSON:

[LAUGHS]

I don't want to know.

KIM SEVIER: Welcome back and thank you for staying with us. Next up, we have the farm boys. No kidding.

SUZANNE Are they bringing their animals?

ANDERSON:

KIM SEVIER: I hope so.

[LAUGHTER]

Oh, my gosh.