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Brian Rosenberg [IN WHITET-SHIRT] and family

Path to Parenthood

GAYS WITH KIDS ACADEMY GUIDES LGBTQ+ FAMILIES THROUGH OPTIONS & OBSTACLES

Brian Rosenberg and his husband's journey to becoming dads had been overwhelming and needlessly difficult.

The couple found a lack of information, guidance and support available for the LGBTQ+ community about the possible paths to parenthood. Inspired by their personal experience, Rosenberg launched Gays With Kids in March of 2014 with one goal in mind: to share stories and build community around the many ways gay men become dads. A few years later, that launch expanded to all letters of the LGBTQ+ community.

Creating visibility is inspiring—and where hope formed, questions followed. Out of the options available for family building—adoption, surrogacy, intrauterine insemination and more—choosing the path that best aligns with priorities, resources and personalities can be daunting.

“Who are the professionals you’re gonna work with?” says Rosenberg. “How much is it going to cost?”

Rosenberg decided to go a step further in answering the questions that came from gay men hoping to become parents. He launched Gays with Kids Academy (aka GWK Academy) in February 2022. The plan was to give “gay and queer dads-to-be” the knowledge and confidence to successfully become parents. By October 2024, they celebrated the milestone of 10 babies and children arriving successfully to GWK Academy families.

In early 2025, the organization applied for 501(c)(3) public charity status after Rosenberg decided to make the Academy's services free. They were approved as a nonprofit in November 2025. They also began expanding their resources in 2025 to serve the entire LGBTQ+ community, including transgender people and queer women.

“I’m not doing my job if I’m not making sure that anyone who calls themselves LGBTQ+ can come to our site, join for free, understand the different family-building paths, and get educated in the one they want to move forward with,” says Rosenberg.

Rosenberg himself coaches gay men, as well as anyone interested in adoption, including from the foster care system. GWK Academy's team also includes a queer midwife who talks to queer women hoping to build families, a trans coach who speaks with trans folks on the way to parenthood and a strong group of medical, legal and adoption advisors.

“I’m trying now to raise money to ensure that any trans person or queer woman knows about our resources as well [as gay men],” Rosenberg says.

LGBTQ+ people are often more prone to facing obstacles in becoming parents than their heterosexual counterparts. Beyond the difficulties surrounding practicalities, expensive payments and a lack of support, there is also discrimination to contend with.

When Rosenberg launched GWK Academy, the first two couples he spoke with were gay men living in red states. One couple wanted to adopt, and the

other wanted to adopt through the foster care system. They had each been waiting over three years.

“They reached out to me because they were annoyed that so much time had gone by and they hadn’t made any progress,” says Rosenberg. “The first thing I did was ask which agency they were using. They both said the same thing. They were using neighborhood agencies. The problem with that is that not all agencies are interested in working with the LGBTQ+ community.”

Except in the case of some religious-based organizations, denying prospective parents adoption services due to their sexuality is illegal—and yet, many gay couples find themselves waiting forever, Rosenberg explains. “They can’t turn you away because they’ll get sued. But what they can do,” he says, “is completely railroad you.”

Rosenberg considers it his job to help couples like these find functional and affirming paths to parenthood. He lives in New England, and notes that his local community is “very lucky” when it comes to LGBTQ+ family building.

“That’s not the way it is in the rest of the country,” he says, noting that an accurate, positive portrayal of LGBTQ+ families is especially important in less progressive cities and states.

While GWK Academy supports the queer community across the US through free online education and coaching, their Path to Parenthood Roadshow travels to different states, giving attendees in-person guidance and understanding. All the while, that online presence is an accessible place where any LGBTQ+ person can start their journey to parenthood.

“Education is super important,” says Rosenberg. “It’s all the ways we can create our families, all in one place, with trusted, vetted experts who share my passion for family-building.” ■

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