

About "It Gets Better" in Mansfield, Texas

Galileo Church sponsors the "It Gets Better" group in Mansfield. Galileo is a progressive Christian community that is committed, among other things, to "doing justice for LGBTQ humans." Galileo believes that God creates people perfectly, no matter what their orientation, and that the church should get busy breaking down barriers that keep people from being the whole people God created them to be. Galileo does not seek to change anyone's sexual orientation or gender identity. "It Gets Better" is not a religiously themed group. The church does not interfere in its meetings or recruit for our faith tradition from its membership. See more: galileochurch.org. Email info@galileochurch.org. Phone 817-773-3147.

To make truly safe space for everyone, the "It Gets Better" group keeps this covenant:

- **What we say here stays here.** Privacy is hugely important for people working through their sexual orientation or gender identity. We have to trust each other to keep our mouths shut outside of the meetings.
- **Our presence here is private.** We don't tell anyone else who we saw here.
- **There is room for disagreement.** We won't always have the same ideas about what should happen next, in the group or in life. That's okay. We can agree to disagree.
- **You can feel all the feels.** It's okay to feel nervous or sad or excited or angry or anything else, and to express it. Don't try to make anyone else feel something different than they are feeling.

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- **Bad feelings are no excuse for bad behavior.** Don't make someone else feel bad just because you feel bad.
- **The leaders guide; the group decides.** Ros and Travis are here to help. Respect them, please. The group makes decisions about how meetings should go. The group can decide to ask someone to leave, temporarily or permanently, if they're taking away from the emotional or physical safety of the meeting.

Contact Us

Galileo Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
www.galileochurch.org, click "It Gets Better"
email info@galileochurch.org. 817-773-3147.

Our Group Leaders

Rosalind Evans earned her BSW and MSW at the University of Oklahoma. She worked in the OKC public schools with youth at risk in areas of poverty, delinquency, truancy, substance abuse, and teen pregnancy. Her Ph.D. research at UTA focuses on LGBTQA topics, with an emphasis on risk, resilience, and empowerment among youth and young adults. Ros' passion provides her the courage and strength to advocate for acceptance and understanding for the LGBTQA community. Email altus.gary@gmail.com.

Travis A. Weber earned his BA at Pepperdine University and his M.Div. at Yale Divinity School. He has volunteered with a rape crisis center in Connecticut, coordinated student chaplaincy on a university campus in California, and served two years in the Peace Corps among Amerindians in South America. He continues his pastoral work as a hospital chaplain in Fort Worth. His Ph.D. research at TCU focuses on sexualized violence and gender. Travis and his spouse Harmony have a baby daughter. Email travisaweber@gmail.com.

It
Gets
Better

RESOURCE GUIDE

(a list of resources for teens and young adults seeking information about LGBTQ identities)

What's a RESOURCE GUIDE?

The "It Gets Better" team doesn't claim to have all the answers. But there's so much good help out there for answering your most difficult questions. We want to help you **find your way to the answers you need**.

We didn't invent these resources, and we can't say that they're all perfect. But you gotta' start somewhere. All the resources we list here are websites, and they almost always include links to even more information.

We hope you'll **share resources with us** when you find them, so we can share them with more people.

What are you looking for?

tclga.org. The Tarrant County Lesbian & Gay Alliance started as a political organization to fight for the rights of lgbtq+ people, and they list lots of basic helps for you. Check out the Gay Teen Project, which you can read about on tclga.org or call directly at 817-334-0203.

lgbtqsaves.org. This Fort Worth-based group works for LGBTQ+ students and staff in public schools. Their site includes links to lots of other good resources. This is a youth-specific site.

rcdallas.org. The Resource Center offers a wide range of services for LGBTQ+ people in and around Dallas. From counseling to community groups, in every age group, you can find help here.

dfwtranscendence.com. This group sponsors several DFW-area group for trans people, the families who love them, and people who are exploring trans identity. There are resources and meetings specifically for teens and young adults.

dfwtkf.com. DFW Trans Kids and Families is a kids-and-families support group that provides healthy social fun for kids from 6 years old through college. Parents or guardians of trans kids are welcome for support and friendship.

glsen.org. The Gay-Lesbian-Straight Education Network wants to make sure that every student in every school is valued and respected. Gay-Straight Alliances are often listed here, and there's information about how to form a GSA in your school.

glbthotline.org. There's more than one way to get personal help here: you can call a hotline and talk to someone who understands, or you can ask for an IM chat with someone who's about your age and understands your issues. 1-800-246-7743 is the specific number for young people up to age 25.

pflag.org. This is a group for parents, family, and friends of LGBTQ+ people. They work together all across the country to fight for LGBTQ+ rights and provide support to each other and the family members they love.

soberrecovery.com. This site includes a special section for gay/lesbian addiction recovery issues and lgbtq+ friendly recovery/sobriety programs.

homelesshelterdirectory.org. Click on Texas on the map, then put in your city. You'll find all the organizations nearby that help homeless people find temporary shelter, and how to contact them.

uta.edu/lgbtqa/ UTA students and friends can use this website to find links to lots of resources. The LGBTQA (A is for Ally) provides training for allies on creating safe space, and works with the office of multicultural affairs to extend a wide welcome to international students who identify as LGBTQA.

uta.edu/caps/ UTA students can expect open-hearted help from the counselors on staff in the Counseling and Psychological Services department. You can make appointments directly by calling 817-272-2771.

itgetsbetter.org. We took our group name from this terrific project that encourages young people who identify as LGBTQ+. The message is simple: even if you are suffering right now, it gets better! Short videos feature lots of people, famous and unfamous, telling their own story.

gaychurch.org. This site helps you locate a religious group that loves and supports LGBTQ+ people and their families.

notallikethat.org. This is an online project dedicated to sharing the truth that not all Christians condemn LGBTQ+ people. Some religious people honor diversity and would love to welcome you.