

AS TOLD BY LGBTQ YOUTH

“I thought I was destined to a life of perversity, sickness, loneliness, and eternal damnation. I can still remember the pain that made me want to die.”

“It was the love of a totally accepting grandmother that helped teach me I was okay.”

“On TV it was always male/female. But being straight, doing what everyone else was doing; didn’t seem natural. That wasn’t what felt healthy for me.”

“Earlier, I could push off the emotions and say, ‘He’s just a good friend.’ But in sixth grade, I remember being sexually attracted to boys in my class...you can’t deny the sexual attractions.”

“I always was gay but I did everything possible to prove I was heterosexual. That was painful for everyone.”

“I went through hell because there was no one for me to talk to. I had these feelings and I couldn’t explain them...but they hurt, and I needed someone to talk to. I never got that, and I needed it.”