



What Wouldn't I Do for You? Five Things My Transgender Child Taught Me About Love, Advocacy, and the Limitations That Bind Us All.

Presentation Description: As a survivor of childhood abuse, Kelsey has been determined to create a different type of home for her children: a home that gives her children agency; believes them when they say something is wrong; and most importantly, a home in which her children will know that they are loved exactly as they are.

In 2017, Kelsey's parenting goals were tested when her youngest child came out as transgender at the age of four. While she didn't know it at the time, this interaction with her child would be a defining moment in Kelsey's life. Being a parent of a transgender child led a formerly stay-at-home mother to go back to school, run for office, and become national advocate for transgender rights.

Through Kelsey's thoughtful and motivational reflection on her journey to parent a transgender child, audience members will learn what having a transgender child taught Kelsey, gain deeper understanding of how to love without limits, advocate for the things that you care about (whether it is LGBTQ related or not), and how society's gender expectations restrict us all in a variety of ways.

Kelsey's talk will provide a toolset for audience members to take with them as well as action steps that each of us can take in our own lives to create meaningful change in the world.

Why this Presentation Works: This talk works because we are all exposed to gender expectations and stereotypes, beginning at birth. Most people are unaware of how these expectations affect their everyday lives, including their relationships with their children and even themselves. Recognizing your own gender expectations about yourself and others is an important step forward.

Over the last decade, there has been an increasing awareness of the existence of transgender people. This is particularly true of transgender children. In the current political climate, raising a transgender child can feel incredibly scary. Hearing how to face these fears, live authentically, and support one another can be incredibly inspiring to audience members who will walk away thinking about their own life's challenges. But this talk is about more than about how the mom of a transgender child found her way. Audience members will walk away thinking about their own life challenges: Kelsey's story will provide useful tools for facing those challenges.

"What Wouldn't I Do For You" is an essential motivational presentation for employers, educators, and nonprofits that are seeking to create inclusive spaces as they approach life's challenges.

Learning Objectives:

1. Gain an understanding of terms such as: non-binary, transgender, cisgender, gender inclusive, gender expansive, gender creative.
2. Understand how societal gender expectations impact everyone.
3. Reflect on how your own practices can evolve to be more gender inclusive.
4. Learn the importance of support and inclusivity for gender expansive individuals.
5. Consider how to begin advocating for issues that are important to you.
6. Learn the importance of setting boundaries.
7. Reflect on action steps that audience members can take in our own lives, understanding that creating change will require action from each of us.

Technical Needs: This presentation requires a podium as well as some space for Kelsey to “roam” as she engages with the audience. The presentation also requires a lapel microphone as well as a screen to display slides.

Duration: 60 minutes at a minimum; up to 90 minutes depending on the Sponsor’s goals.

For additional information contact:

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