



Matthew
Shepard
Foundation
Erasing Hate for 20 years

MATTHEW SHEPARD

FOUNDATION

The Matthew Shepard Foundation empowers individuals to embrace human dignity and diversity through outreach, advocacy and resource programs. We strive to replace hate with understanding, compassion and acceptance.

We share Matt's story and embody his vigor for civil rights to change the hearts and minds of others to accept everyone as they are through our programs:



Matthew's Place



Laramie Project



Speaking
Engagements



Hate Crimes
Reporting





Hate Crimes Reporting

Our work to improve hate crime reporting includes:

- Conducting trainings on state and federal hate crimes laws for law enforcement agencies
- Creating and partnering with local, citizen-led coalitions that directly address issues of hate crimes reporting and awareness
- Building relationships between community leaders and law enforcement officials
- Developing and encouraging policy reform in hate crimes reporting practices



Laramie Project

The Matthew Shepard Foundation offers support to the productions of The Laramie Project. After Matthew's murder in 1998, members of the NYC-based Tectonic Theatre Company traveled to Laramie, WY, to interview residents about how the brutal hate had affected the town. These transcripts were transformed into The Laramie Project, which remains one of the most performed plays in America.



Speaking Engagements

Since the death of their son Matthew in 1998, Judy and Dennis Shepard have been determined to prevent others from experiencing similar tragedies. By sharing Matt's story and their experience as a family of a hate crime victim, the Shepard family is able to carry on Matt's legacy and help change the minds and hearts of others to create a more understanding, accepting, and compassionate community.



Matthew's Place

MatthewsPlace.com is a website designed to provide young people with resources they need to thrive in this world, make a difference, and gain tools to lead healthy, productive, hate-free lives. The site features a list of shelters, outreach centers, and empowerment programs that are welcoming to youth regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.