

MARRIAGE—IT MAKES A DIFFERENCE.

Love. Commitment. Protecting your family. These values, shared by all Oregon families, find their expression through marriage. But right now, the law prevents committed same-sex couples from being able to marry—and it makes a real difference.

Courtesy of monAmour Photography



Jeanne Fitzpatrick & Yolanda Lozano

Jeanne is an emergency room physician in a small, rural Oregon hospital and Yolanda helps the elderly navigate the health and elder care system. They have been together for 15 years.

“We see so many examples of the importance of families, and how marriage says ‘we’re family’ in a unique and special way.

We hope to get married so we can express our lifetime commitment to each other, just as our friends and neighbors do.”

Christopher Rodriguez & Patrick Halloran

You may have seen the story in the news: even though Patrick and his partner Christopher were registered Domestic Partners in Oregon, they were not provided with the protection we would all want and expect in a crisis.

“When Christopher was gravely ill in the hospital, and the nurse said he might be dying, I was told that I couldn’t be at his bedside to hold his hand. The hospital said I wasn’t ‘family’ at a time when he needed me most.



No one should ever be denied the right to be there for the person they love, and only marriage can provide the legal certainty that gay and lesbian couples need.”



The Edwards Family

Antoinette and Keith Edwards have five great kids, but only four of them can get married. Because their son Khalil is gay, the current law excludes him from marriage.

“It’s hard to think that one of your children will be denied the same opportunities as the rest of your family. We raised all our kids to believe that it is important to make a real commitment to honor and protect the person you love.

When our son Khalil makes this commitment to someone, we will welcome his partner into our family. But marriage laws prevent us from making our son an equal part of our family tree.”

MARRIAGE MATTERS.



www.MarriageMattersOregon.org

Real People. Real Stories.



Courtesy of monAmour Photography



This is why Marriage Matters.