

December 23, 2015

Dear Friend,

When you think of the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles, our annual holiday concert is probably the first memory that comes to mind. For 37 years, we have been performing on stage, adding our own special sparkle to our concerts.

You may not be as aware of our vital outreach programs that help transform schools and communities so **our LGBT youth can shine and live their true, authentic lives.**

For the last 8 years, we have been going into Los Angeles middle and high schools with our Alive Music Project. We do more than just perform for the students, we share our personal stories so students who "are different" know that they are not alone. **Over 43,000 students, parents and teachers have heard our message of acceptance and equality and about the importance of all playing a part in ending bullying.**

We know we are making a difference. Students are telling us that they will stand up for each other to end bullying and "show up" for each other to support who everyone truly is.

"Be You!

Honestly... I completely see the confidence and hear the self acceptance you've gained through your stories. Me, myself, am learning how to love myself, accept who I am because the light bulb come on early. **Now my motto is 'I'm me, I'll be me forever no matter the weather.'**

You guys have inspired me even more. Thank you!"

- student from Wright Middle School

We hope that you will help us **reach more schools and LGBT youth.** If you give before December 31, **your gift in any amount will be doubled – up to \$20,000!** Help us continue our important work with young people by making a tax-deductible donation to GMCLA today.

Over the past three years, our *it gets better* Tour has traveled to 20 small cities across the country working with students, local leaders and politicians to transform their communities to make it better for all youth. **Especially for LGBT youth struggling with bullying, the *it gets better* Tour provides a message of hope and acceptance.**

"I was that gay 18 year old sitting in row C of the orchestra section, wiping his eyes of the tears with his sweater sleeve for most of the show.

I just wanted to let you know that **you have made such a difference in my life, and it means so much to me.** I want to say thank you to the cast, to the organization, and to my friends who brought me, but **tonight was definitely a life changing experience.**

Thank you."

– a student in Appleton, Wisconsin from the *it gets better* Tour

From the 250 members of the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles, we want to express our thanks and gratitude for all of your support over the past year. From our concerts, community performances, and youth outreach programs, we are blessed to have your on this journey with us.

Please make a donation today and double the impact for LGBT kids across the country. Please mail in the enclosed donation form or donate at www.gmcla.org. **We have a special opportunity to double any donation before December 31. If you make a donation now, in any amount, it will be doubled up to \$20,000.**

Help us continue our vital work with young people in Los Angeles and in small towns across the country.

Yours in song,



Christopher Verdugo

Please mail in the enclosed donation form or donate online at www.gmcla.org.