

Mission Statement: Join The Impact

In an effort to make a positive impact in the lives of our community, our allies, and even our opposition, JoinTheImpact.com emerged. Our movement seeks to encourage the LGBTQ community not to look towards the past and place blame, but instead to look forward toward what needs to be done now to achieve one goal: Full equality for ALL. We stand for reaching out across all communities. We do not stand for bigotry, for scapegoating, or using anger as our driving force. Our mission is to encourage our community to engage our opposition in a conversation about full equality and to do this with respect, dignity, and an attitude of outreach and education. JoinTheImpact, as an entity, will not encourage divisiveness, violence, or disrespect of others and we do not approve of this. We do not stand for pointing the finger at one group and placing blame. The LGBTQ community comes in all different colors, creeds, religious beliefs, and political parties. If we allow ourselves to place blame on one community or another, then we are no better than those who oppose us. We will not pit one community against another. At JoinTheImpact, we are all inclusive. As such, we will continue to encourage debate from all sides of the conversation provided it is civil and respectful. We will encourage our community to not let anger steer the conversation, but with an understanding that anger is a human reaction and we hope that it can be used as a catalyst toward positive change. Finally, we stand for national unity in the face of opposing forces that have steered the conversation into a state by state issue. We will celebrate our state by state wins, but work as one large entity to help gain these wins and will unite in the conversation against us to plant the seed of change and community.

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Early Numbers Show Join The Impact's Light Up the Night Illuminates 1 Million Lives!

NATIONAL – On December 20th, thousands of volunteers from around the country organized national candlelight vigils in honor of the many rights lost on November 4th for gay and lesbian couples across the country. [Light up the Night for Equal Rights](#) brought attention to the lack of rights afforded to one in every ten citizens of the U.S. and to the recent brief submitted by the Yes on 8 Campaign, which asked that 18,000 same-sex marriages be revoked in California.

“The Yes on 8 Campaign said they wanted to protect marriage and families, yet now they are trying to force the divorce of 18,000 families. How could this possibly protect anyone?” Asks Amy Balliett, co-founder of [JoinTheImpact.com](#). “Today we shed light on this hypocrisy while also educating the masses about our struggle. Tonight’s vigils helped to show the honest side of the LGBTQ community and the truth of our struggle.”

With huge success, hundreds of cities held vigils in heavily trafficked shopping areas with the goal of reaching 1 million people with the message of equality during the holiday season. Members of Join The Impact created “[5 Rights Holiday Cards](#)” that shed light on just five of the many rights that the LGBTQ Community do not receive. Along with passing out these cards, attendees wore shirts and signs declaring “2nd Class Citizen,” which is the symbolic status that many community members feel exists, resulting from the lack of equal rights.

“Tonight, our volunteers gave 1 million people an opportunity to understand who the LGBTQ community really is and put the struggle into a new context,” says Willow Witte co-founder of Join The Impact. “Our volunteers helped put a face on the movement and awoke people to the fact that ten percent of U.S. citizens are denied equal protections under the law.”

Like the November 15th National Day of protest that Join The Impact orchestrated, Light up the Night was an opportunity to turn the negative affects of Proposition 8 into something positive. “This movement will not end until full equality is achieved,” Balliett says. “Proposition 8 awoke a sleeping beast. Our community is more united than ever as our base and allies continue to grow.”

“It doesn’t stop here,” Witte says. “November 15th was the beginning, and was about visibility. Light up the Night was about reach-ability. Wait until you see what have in store for 2009!” Balliett concludes.

Upcoming events for Join The Impact include a national DOMA protest on January 10th and the national demonstrations during Freedom to Marry Week in February. To get involved, join “[The Impact](#),” (<http://jointheimpact.wetpaint.com>) the social organizing tool that helps volunteers from around the country come together and make an impact!