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For Immediate Release

New children's coloring book showcases family diversity

(Richmond, VA) - February 19, 2020 - Mark Loewen knows what it's like to look around and not see anyone who feels the way you do. Growing up in Paraguay, he never met anyone who was openly gay; which led him to try everything to change his reality, including undergoing so-called conversion therapy.

The journey brought him to the realization that he couldn't hide who he was, that he needed to embrace himself, and live life as he was meant to. Loewen moved to the US for graduate school, and found love. Several years after, he and his partner adopted a baby girl.

"My daughter loved reading about families and little girls like her. While we could find books about LGBTQ families like ours, finding coloring books was a challenge. The pictures usually had mommies and daddies but never two dads or two moms. I wanted my daughter to know that each family was normal, no matter their make-up," explains Loewen.

Loewen's mission is to empower children to feel fully accepted for who they are, and who their family is. In 2018, he published his first picture book, '*What Does a Princess Really Look Like*,' an empowering story about a girl with two dads.

Now, Loewen is releasing the '*Celebrating LGBT Families*' coloring books. The series features coloring pages of families with two moms, two dads, single parents, and even childless families. "The parents and children in each coloring page are having fun doing things that all people enjoy, regardless of family make-up," Loewen explains.

"Growing up, I would have never thought that I could be as happy as I am today. That I'd find lasting love, that I'd live as an openly gay man, that my husband and I would raise a beautiful, intelligent little girl. These were ideas I never thought possible, and that's tragic. I never want another child to feel that they're alone or that their future can't be everything they hope for."

The first volume of the '*Celebrating LGBT Families*' coloring book, titled, '*The True Colors Of Family*' releases on March 23, 2020, and is available for pre-order everywhere books are sold.

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