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March 17, 2013



Debbie Thomas-Brown

No Straight Spouse Left Behind: Straight Spouse Awareness & Support.
Assistance for men and women in a relationship with a secretly gay spouse.
“Life was not meant to be this complicated...Period!”

Miramar, Florida: South Florida Connects, Inc. (SFC) a local Miramar community non-profit, outreach and advocacy organization provides straight spouse awareness education and support to South Florida immigrant & minority communities. The organization has been providing straight spouse awareness support since October 2010 via the organization’s website at www.southfloridaconnects.com, through radio outreach broadcasts on local WAVS1170am, and online via [BlogTalk Radio](#).

SFC recently began offering face-face group support to men and women who find themselves unknowingly in a relationship or marriage with someone who is secretly gay.

Straight spouse support group meetings are held **every 2nd and 4th Wednesday at 7:30pm at 5215 Pembroke Road, Hollywood, FL 33021**. Anyone who believes they are unwillingly in a mixed orientation relationship (a relationship with a secret gay person) and requires support to help them handle this sometimes debilitating situation, is welcome to join the group organized by SFC Founder and President Debbie Thomas-Brown, a volunteer community outreach advocate who works as a Nurse at the Miami VA Hospital.

[Debbie Thomas-Brown](#) has earned numerous community service awards for her volunteer work in the South Florida community. She was named the [A Daily Point of Light](#) by the Points of Light Institute on October 3, 2012 for demonstrating exemplary citizenship through volunteering.

Debbie was also named a Broward County [Heart of the Community Volunteer of the Year](#) by HandsOn Broward in 2011 and 2012, she was awarded the President’s Volunteer Service Award, a national honor offered in recognition for her outstanding volunteer service work with South Florida Connects, Inc. and [Family & Friends Connection, Inc.](#) two Miramar, Florida outreach organizations.

The City of Miramar and Family & Friends Connection, Inc. also conferred several Outstanding Community Volunteer awards to recognize her outstanding achievements as a community volunteer.

Through her volunteering and advocacy with her organization South Florida Connects, Inc. Debbie has been helping straight spouses in South Florida and worldwide, and was named Minority & Immigrant Liaison, for the Bonnie Kaye Straight Wives Support Network, an organization that provides three times weekly online support chats, radio outreach, yearly straight wives retreats, professional counseling, and international support to straight wives. This official recognition was announced in the January 2012 edition of the [Bonnie Kaye Straight Talk Newsletter](#), a monthly publication sent to thousands of straight spouses all over the world.

Debbie has been advocating steadfastly for the immigrant and minority straight spouses residing in South Florida and all over the USA. In 2010 she began providing telephone and email peer support to immigrant men and women of every nationality. Her background is of Jamaican descent, and as a former Jamaican High School Teacher, she understands the challenges that immigrant straight spouses face and how to reach them with the necessary support and outreach.

With that in mind the organization offers annual scholarships to a college bound Broward County High School Graduate and also to high achieving, leadership oriented, college bound students at [Green Island High School in Hanover, Jamaica W.I.](#)

SFC's Founder/President is knowledgeable concerning the family dynamics, religious, and cultural handicaps that paralyze some straight spouses, and intensify their already stressful situations. That is why with the help of her daughter, she started "**No Straight Spouse Left Behind, Straight Spouse Awareness: Assistance for men and women in a relationship with a secretly gay spouse**".

Debbie opened a telephone hotline for those in '**crisis**' to call and reach out as she knows that when a straight spouse gets in crisis, sometimes all they need at that moment is to be able to talk to another person who understands what they are going through. The hotline **954-983-9751** is unmanned, but straight spouses can leave a message and their call will be returned expeditiously.

Confidentiality is a major issue with straight spouses, so those who call the hotline can choose to remain anonymous. Correct contact info is needed, so straight spouses can be reached with support.

The organization is seeking support to help implement even more programs to help more straight spouses. Those who can help should send donations via **PayPal** from the [donations page](#) at [southfloridaconnects.com](#).

Debbie is available for interviews, workshops or seminars in churches, community groups, businesses, and organizations. She can be contacted if you need more information about the straight spouse support group via Tel: **954-815-6563** or email: sfconnects@gmail.com

“Life was not meant to be this complicated and difficult...Period!