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**FEATURE STORY**

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**Save a life, save a people, save yourself**

EAST SAINT LOUIS, Ill.– Ran out my house, nowhere to go, no one to call. Scared and feeling alone in the world. Have to save myself, but with no one to call, what am I supposed to do? How did I find myself in this situation? Why me?

All of these questions run through a young man’s head as he panics to tell his family the truth about his sexual orientation. Writers, Planners and Trainers,- WPT a safe haven for youth of the LGBT community, offers just that. “WPT is a confidential and safe shelter for individuals whom are questions their sexual orientation or are living an alter lifestyle,” said Harold Lawary, executive director of Writers, Planners, Trainers Inc.

WPT is a nonprofit organization founded in 2003 and located in the East St. Louis, Ill., community. Lawary said WPT was a dream of a community member that’s ask me to help bring a center where the transgender youth would be able to be educated, as well as a safe haven to engage with young men and women whom are living the same lifestyle.

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This is no ordinary center though. This center is a home and a sanctuary for youth in need. It is always open for youth or young adult in trouble. This center can house up to a total of 10 youth or young adult. There are allowed to reside at WPT for a maximum of 6 months.

Youth and young adults are provided with most of their needs such as food, clothes, personal items, resume building sessions and counseling, and there are a number of ways for community members help. This center is always in need of donations for food, clothing and personal items. Many professionals companies also offer their services free of charge to help with resume writing, interviewing and any other counseling needs.

Lawary says it is these services that help our youth to be successful once they leave WPT center. “I want to empower them, give them I different outlook on life and as well as give them the fundamentals they need to do it for themselves”, said Lawary.

Don’t turn your back, get involved and help save a life. Be a part of this movement in stopping outlaw of our LGBT youth and young adult. To learn more about WPT center, go to [www.](http://www.)wptcares.org.

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