

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

Tremendous appreciation goes to Executive Director of CAYR, Marie Morton, for her commitment to learning and growing in her own journey. I'm grateful that she saw the potential of what this book could be—much like the other volumes in this series—a meaningful opportunity to tell more stories of incredible human spirit, courage, and living on one's own terms as everyone deserves to do.

Peer Links is a dynamic team of thoughtful, caring, and experienced individuals. They lead the charge to reduce the stigma and the lack of understanding around HIV/AIDS, substance use, and identifying as 2SLGBTQ+ through sharing their lived experience, increasing public awareness, and encouraging compassion for all.

I truly admire the story contributors for baring their soul each in their own way, because they were ready, and because they knew it could inspire someone else who might be walking a similar path.

Feeling a sense of community and belonging is an innate human need and right. Period. Sincere congratu-

lations to CAYR for being a stellar example of community and for providing a safe place for these stories to be told. And warmest thanks for entrusting my team and I to facilitate the gentle editing and publishing of them in this fifth edition of the Hearts Linked by Courage series.

Best wishes to all,

Sheri Andrunyk

Publisher, Senior Writer, Author, Mentor
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