

Crossdressing

& the
Transgender Community



This brochure was developed to present some basic information about crossdressing and the transgendered community. It will also give you information about our local organization, "*City of Lakes Crossgender Community*," also known as "CLCC."

If you would like more information on crossdressing or the transgenderd community, or are interested in our local organization, feel free to contact us, either through our Post Office Box or Voice Mail Phone. We'll get back to you.

If you are interested in joining our organization, be sure to give us a call. We look forward to having new CLCC members and hope that you become an active participant.

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CLCC

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Crossdressers - who are we?

Crossdressers are men or women who have a desire to dress in the clothing normally reserved for the opposite sex.

Crossdressers are probably one of the most misunderstood minority groups in the world. As with other minorities, ignorance often fosters prejudice against crossdressers. Many of us live in fear of discovery by a scornful public. We've kept our crossdressing a secret from our closest loved ones. While in the closet, many of us think we are the only ones in the world who have these feelings. We may think that maybe I'm sick to want to wear women's clothing & go out in public dressed that way. Or, if I'm not sick, why do I feel so guilty to want to dress this way.

It is not surprising that many crossdressers feel this way. Guilt, shame & confusion are the products of a non-accepting & very uninformed public. There is no "cure" for the desire to crossdress & we feel the best "treatment" is self-acceptance & the creation of a more knowledgeable & understanding public. Crossdressers can - and indeed, many do - live happy, well-adjusted lives.

The male crossdresser is a lover of the feminine. To us, feeling, looking, & acting feminine is delightful, rather than humiliating. We strive to cultivate a complete feminine image and even adopt a "feminine" name.

For most crossdressers, such dressing is an end to itself. Being free to act and move in a more feminine way, being treated as a woman, being free to adorn one's self & feel the caressing touch of the many soft fabrics available to women - these feelings are satisfying in and of themselves.

We do not know why we have a desire to crossdress, we only know that it exists within each one of us, in varying degrees. Regardless of when or how we crossdress, the impact is usually the same. It feels nice, both emotionally, sensually & perhaps even spiritually. Whatever the feeling, it is a potent magnet, drawing the crossdresser back, time & time again.

In the final analysis, crossdressers virtually worship femininity, and perhaps the only way we can enjoy feminine pleasure to the fullest extent is to create the illusion of it and to act it out in our own behavior. We are trying to express a feminine side of ourself, deep within our psyche.

Unlocking the doors

For crossdressers, finding peace & tranquility begins with self-recognition. Admitting that we do like to crossdress and have liked doing it for a long time, and that these are our desires and they are a special part of us, is the beginning of self-recognition. We must also accept the fact that it is all right to *want* to crossdress and all right to *do* it. For many of us, the decision to join CLCC was the first firm statement of self-recognition.

For the emerging crossdresser, there are few, if any, more powerful experiences than meeting and talking with other crossdressers who are at peace with themselves. To find that other crossdressers can live happy, well adjusted lives with friends and families who accept and understand them; to actually meet a crossdresser's accepting wife; to see and feel first hand that crossdressers like us really are as likable and respectable as anyone else; to feel companionship, encouragement and compassion towards people like "themselves" - all such experiences are emotionally uplifting and heart-warming to the emerging crossdresser.

For most of us, joining the CLCC has unlocked the doors to these kinds of experiences - our first contact with another crossdresser, our first attendance at a CLCC party or gathering - many of us mark these as turning points in the development of our feminine self.

Best estimates are that 1 to 5% of the population are "dressers" or have these feelings, but only a fraction of us have learned to accept this special part of our lives. (That means, with a population of almost two and a half million people in the Twin Cities metro area and assuming half of these to be male, there could be as many as 12,000 to 60,000 crossdressers in the Twin Cities area alone!) We have no idea how many female crossdressers there might be. Women can dress in male clothing and no one gives it a second thought. In fact, many times it is quite fashionable to do so.

CLCC, General Information

CLCC, City of Lakes Crossgender Community, is a local organization for crossdressers, transsexuals, androgynous and bigendered individuals and their partners. We are a social organization, and NOT a dating club or counseling service. Our club was started in 1984 when a few crossdressers who were involved with the University of Minnesota's program in human sexuality decided to start their own support and social group. This initial group of 5 crossdressers has grown and developed into an organization of almost 150 members. Almost half of our membership consists of married couples. We are slightly older than the general population, although we have many younger members. We are highly educated, with more than half of our membership being college graduates and more than 3/4 having some post-high school education.

Virtually every kind of occupation can be found among our members. The overwhelming majority of our members are male, crossdressers. We use the word crossdresser because we feel it is more descriptive than the older term "transvestite."

The vast majority of our members are private crossdressers. That is, they limit their dressing to the privacy of their homes and socialize "en-femme" only at CLCC events or private gatherings with other club members.

Our social gatherings give members an outlet - a chance to crossdress among understanding sisters. Some of our members travel hundreds of miles to take advantage of these gatherings. These gatherings are places where friendships are created that can last a lifetime.

CLCC Club Activities

Our club meets once a month for a party but also organizes other activities including support groups for couples, wives, singles & TS's, workshops on fashion, make-up & hair styling, etc., "Ladies Night Out" to local clubs, a monthly news letter for our members, weekend retreats, workshops for local "helping professionals," and presentations at colleges & universities & for other interested organizations, etc. We are also active in local volunteer & civic organizations.

Couples Club

The "Couples Club" is an informal support group for club members who are in meaningful relationships with their wives, women-friends, or partners, etc. It deals with informal discussions on gender issues as they affect couples and family relationships. We also organize social gatherings in both "dressed" and "non-dressed" situations.

Many a crossdresser's wife has had her fears put to rest at the monthly party or couples club event. Often, one such gathering can be worth thousands of books, articles and countless counseling sessions. In the presence of other understanding females, wives & partners find emotional support, wisdom and friendship.

Single Crossdressers & Transsexual Support Groups

These groups were organized to offer an informal setting for open discussion of issues involving our members. The meetings take place monthly and offer a valuable, informal support system for members.

Newsletter

Our newsletter is our primary source of information about club activities. It is written, edited & produced entirely by our members. Articles and columns are informative & insightful and many times just plain fun. We encourage all members to contribute.

Shopping guide

We also have a shopping guide available for our members, with information about where to shop & the stores & businesses that enjoy doing business with crossdressers. Many times a crossdressers first experience shopping "en-femme" is as frightening as it is exhilarating. Our guide gives information about "safe" & "accepting" stores & services.

Educational Outreach

One of the primary goals of CLCC is to educate and inform others about crossdressing and the transgendered community. We have an active *Educational Outreach* program that is responsible for all outreach initiatives initiated by the organization. This is the vehicle by which we educate others outside our "community," about us. We have many members willing to participate in presentations, seminars & workshops involving crossgender issues. Please contact the club for more information.

Now is the time!

The question you must now ask yourself, is CLCC for me?

Are you a crossdresser or transgendered person or are you a partner of such a person? Are you looking for a crossdressing "home" that emphasis friendship, respect and mutual support? Are you concerned about your privacy and willing to respect the privacy of others? If you can sincerely say yes to these questions, then we invite you to join with us.

Also, membership is open to anyone involved in or interested in transgender issues such as crossdressing, bigenderism, transsexualism, and androgyny.

Remember, we are a social organization, and NOT a dating club or counseling service.

We hope you will contact us if you are interested in this opportunity to express yourself and meet with others like you. CLCC was formed for exactly this purpose.

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