

F₂M

10-1

Hello; My name is John A. I am the founder of "F₂M", a newly-formed support organization created by and for female-to-male transsexuals/crossdressers. This is our first mailing. This letter is only being sent to F.M. transsexuals/crossdressers, and selected helping professionals.

"F₂M" is a self-help group. Our aim is to provide out-reach, networking, information, counseling and referrals at minimum cost. We do not capitalize on the fact that our members suffer from gender-dysphoria. We are non-profit, and members are encouraged to volunteer in whatever capacity they can. We are always striving to meet the needs of the F.M.T/S. community. We are currently planning social events in the New York area; compiling a confidential contact list; and a newsletter will be forthcoming.

We understand that confidentiality, and often anonymity, are critical issues for transsexuals. Some of us use our real names but many of us use first names, pseudonyms or just initials.

There are those of us who do "come-out" as T/S, but it is far more common for us to just blend in with the general male population and remain undetected. Even though we want to keep a low profile, however, we should not isolate ourselves from our fellow F.M.T/S's. We can learn so much from each other; and gain strength through our interaction.

Gender-reassignment is a long and lonely road. Each of us is an explorer in unknown territory. But we are men who share a unique common experience. Let us be bound by brotherhood like mountain-climbers linked by a lifeline. We all need such support in our quest for gender congruity.

NO MAN IS AN ISLAND - BELIEVE IT!

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Knowledge is the key to the door of gender-reassignment. Up-to-date information is essential to the complex decision-making process that faces us. If we can network by feeding our collective knowledge into a central database, the information will be available to all who need it.

Write to us. Tell us whatever is on your mind; ask us questions. We are here for you, use us; keep in touch. Whenever you do write, please let us know if we may put your letter (or any part of it) in the newsletter. All of your communications are considered confidential, unless you tell us otherwise in writing.

If you would like to be included in our confidential contact list, tell us EXACTLY how you would like to be listed (under what name).

So, that's all for now, hoping to hear from you soon, looking forward to sharing and growing with you.

Sincerely,

c/o S.G.
P.O. Box 615
Tenafly NJ 07670

John A.

P.S. The premier issue of our newsletter, RITES OF PASSAGE, is now ready to be xeroxed, but we can not do so because of lack of funds. It's 16 pages, packed full of interesting info, **so, if** you would like a copy, just send a small donation (at least \$3.00 please) and we will xerox one just for you.

Thanks again, J.A.



OUR FINANCIAL POLICY

We are totally non-profit. We exist on the donations of sympathetic individuals. We have not yet received any grants or major contributions. We have only been in existence for a few months. Quite frankly, we are struggling financially and we need all the help we can get.

Our organization is open to all female-to-male transsexuals/cross-dressers regardless of financial ability. There is no specific membership fee. In fact, there is NO CHARGE TO BECOME A MEMBER. But xeroxing and postage, etc. are not free; and we're all in the same boat here. If, by some miracle, each member gave \$50 or more, we could certainly reach many, and do a lot more for everyone; we ask only, that you do give SOMETHING (whatever you can afford).

We do realize, however, that the prohibitively high cost of gender reassignment seriously limits the resources of all of our members. Perhaps, if you stop and think of all the dollars that have flown from your hands into the pockets of medical practitioners, you'll be as generous as possible. We will not profit from your donation...YOU will.

But please don't get the wrong idea. Despite all the begging, our "bottom line" is not money. What is important to us, is your personal presence in our private fraternity.

Join us. Help us expand our network and widen your own circle of contacts; let us teach and learn from each other, through meaningful interpersonal communication.

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CONFIDENTIAL CONTACT LIST

This list will only be shared with fellow members who are FEMALE-TO-MALE transsexuals or "serious" crossdressers.

It is distributed with the understanding that it will not be revealed, reproduced, or distributed in any way to anyone who is not a bonafide member of our peer-support-group. Non-members may be listed if they provide an appropriate justification for inclusion (ie.- supportive helping professionals/gender-specialists) but they will not receive the list.

We strongly suggest that you use a pseudonym, initials, or your first name and last initial. It is a good policy to wait until you know someone is trustworthy, before revealing your real name to them.

As far as including your phone number, the pros and cons should be weighed carefully. If you are the only one who ever answers your phone and you have an answering machine, and you don't mind screening your calls; then you'll probably get some great calls from wonderful people just like you with a lot of important information to share. BUT, thanks to Murphy's Law, all kinds of complications can arise, if you don't have telephone privacy, if you're TOO trusting, or if you can't say "No" to collect calls... SO... consider it carefully!

If you don't have a P.O. Box or other discrete mail-drop, we urge you to get one (at least one). Because of our precarious gender status, we MUST protect our privacy to avoid many potential problems. If necessary you may use our address,* but please bear in mind, the time-lag involved in the forwarding process. All of your mail will be forwarded, unopened.

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MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME: _____ PSEUDONYM _____ AGE: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE #: () _____

GENDER STATUS:

() TRANSSEXUAL () PRE-HORMONE () PRE-OP () POST-OP () Hysterectomy
() Mastectomy
() Phalloplasty
() Other _____

() CROSSDRESSER () PART-TIME () FULL-TIME

OTHER (explain) _____

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND: _____

INTERESTS: _____

WOULD YOU LIKE THIS INFORMATION INCLUDED IN OUR CONFIDENTIAL CONTACT LIST?

() YES () NO

AMOUNT OF DONATION ENCLOSED: \$ _____

MAIL TO: S.G.; P.O. Box 615; Tenafly, N.J. 07670

Please share with us ANY feelings or questions you may have concerning your gender-identity, here and on the back of this sheet.

We would also like to receive any original writing, for our confidential archives; or for inclusion in our newsletter.

2/16/89

Dear Lou:

JUST A BRIEF NOTE TO SAY THANKS FOR EVERYTHING. I'M SENDING YOU THIS COPY OF OUR PRELIMINARY MAILING. I'LL BE SENDING YOU THE NEWSLETTER IN THE NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS.

COULD YOU SEND ME ANOTHER COPY OF THAT LAST ISSUE OF "FTM"? I HAD TO CUT UP THE OTHER ONE, TO PASTE-UP BITS IN MY NEWSLETTER. IN FACT, OUR ARCHIVES ARE IN SORE NEED OF INFO., SO PLEASE FEEL FREE TO SEND US WHATEVER YOU HEART DESIRES! (Incl. ^[especially] your personal writings)... AND THANKS AGAIN!

I WANT YOU TO KNOW, THAT IT WAS YOUR BOOKLET; "INFO. FOR THE F.T.M." etc THAT FIRST CLUED ME IN TO THE FACT THAT F-TO-M T/S-ISM EVEN EXISTED! UNTIL THEN, I HAD THOUGHT THAT ONLY MEN COULD BE GENDER REASSIGNED!

ALSO... THANKS FOR THE MENTION IN "FTM" - WE (I) REALLY DO NEED ALL THE HELP WE (I) CAN GET! WE'VE GOTTEN ABOUT 5-6 RESPONSES SO FAR.

OH, BY THE WAY, THE "RESOURCE DIRECTORY" IN QUESTION, WAS MENTIONED ON A LIST OF FUTURE PROJECTS. IT'S NOT AVAIL. NOW. BUT I DO ALREADY HAVE A FAIR NUMBER OF RESOURCES TO WHICH I CAN REFER PEOPLE.

GOTTA GO - PRESSED FOR TIME -

Thanks! Thanks! Thanks!

(Looking forward to hearing from you -
and I really want to meet you someday soon!)

Johnny A.