

The Agony of
Nurturing the Spirit
by Stephanie

“Rachel is a beautiful, well-adjusted, happy, and healthy nine year old little girl. She likes to do all the things little girls like to do. Sleepovers and ice-cream sundaes are her favorite things in life.

But her life has not been easy. Rachel was born with a boy’s body. This is our story ...”
So begins the true story of a mother and her transgendered child.

From the time he could talk, Ryan insisted “But I’m a girl!” and objected strenuously to boy clothes and boy toys. By age three, his mother found him attempting to cut off his penis. By age 6, he was angry at God for not answering his prayers – to make him a girl – and was suicidal.

What is a mother to do?

This mother realized she loved her child unconditionally. She determined that she would support her child – no matter what. She researched her child’s behavior, and discovered transgender. She demanded support and acceptance from her family, her neighbors, and her child’s school personnel.

And she watched her child’s spirit come to life.

The story is only 11 pages long, but the booklet also contains 10 frequently asked questions and well thought out answers to them. Another 7 pages are a guide to the Parent Process to Acceptance, followed by a few brief definitions of terms.

This excellent little booklet should be in every PFLAG library and copies should be given to every parent of a young transgender child.

Available from PFLAG Philadelphia: pflagphiladelphia@yahoo.com.