



Moving On

Home Management Resources

FALL 2011



A Vision for Tomorrow

Carol Swope, Executive Director

At the close of our 25th Anniversary, we now embark on a new chapter at HMR. It is a journey that reaches out to a new generation with new challenges. This is a generation that has never known life without a cell phone, dvr's, lap-tops, ipods, Facebook, blogging, on-line college degrees, and the list goes on. My generation got excited when we got portable hair dryers! How we communicated and taught 25 years ago doesn't always resonate with today's multi-tasking and media saturated families.

While the mission of HMR remains the same, the way we deliver and communicate that mission will be changing. Currently, we are developing a new program delivery structure which we hope will allow us to move beyond reaching 100 families a year to 1,000 families a year. Instead of offering the Family Life Seminar in the fall and spring, we are devising additional programming that gives clients a chance to "try us out" in an abbreviated workshop format or 1/2 day seminar. We will begin to explore exciting ways in which we can utilize social media and non-traditional outlets like blog-talk radio and web-based instruction that can support our graduates and keep them on a positive track. We want to expand the use of our website to provide ongoing connection and education to the general public, potential clients and graduates. In addition, we will be exploring ways in which we can take the FLS curriculum to businesses and provide on-site workshops for employees.

Sound exciting? Now I realize we can't do all these things at once. But we will begin to put into place a three year plan to meet the growing need from families here in our own community and beyond.

How can you help?

- Pray for our leadership and guidance in remaining true to our core mission
- Help us financially by joining the HomeBuilder Campaign.
- Volunteer to work in one of the following areas: Programming, Marketing, Volunteer Recruitment.
- Join our Development Team to help us secure funding to keep on keeping on!
- If you are a FLS Counselor who has not been involved lately, consider coming "home" and finding out where your skills can be utilized.

Together, we will continue to change the lives of families across the community and beyond!

The strongest feature of HMR is that you believe in us, so we can believe in ourselves. My attitude now is, "I can do it."

-- Melissa, Graduate



Growing the Next Generation

Our 25th Anniversary Celebration

October 12th was definitely an evening to remember! 150 friends of HMR, both old and new came together to celebrate our 25th Anniversary, share in honoring Gwen Delee for her years of service and leadership and also to bid on some wonderful silent and live auction items. We were entertained by “JT”, John Thompson of WSBT-News Talk Radio and inspired by Charlie Asher, Director of “UpToParents.org” was our keynote speaker. Nita Townsell, a former HMR client and current counselor, shared how her life was transformed by HMR and how she is now giving back to the community. Thanks to the generosity of everyone who attended, and those who could not, we have raised over \$27,000.00 to help us move forward!

A special “Thank You” goes out to our event volunteers: Barb Stahl, Sharon Sklorenko, Michelle Hamilton, Suzanne Stanfield, Mary Clare Dunbar, Lori Davey and Michelle Lacey for their hours of planning in making this a fabulous event! Also, our gratitude goes to our major sponsors of the evening: The Healy Group and Press Ganey.

“Since taking the Family Life Seminar, our children now have written chore assignments. We are recording all of our daily out of pocket purchases. We are using a daily plan and saving for a family vacation.”

-- Jeremy, HMR Graduate

Pictured below Top Row: Gwen receives a gift in honor of her 25 years of service. Kate Cressy, Jennifer Deane, Mary Lou Cressy and Mary Clare Dunbar enjoy the evening.

Bottom Row: Sharon Sklorenko, Barb Stahl, Lori Davey, Michelle Hamilton, Beth Pingel, Suzanne Stanfield, Carol Swope and Judy Groshek



Program Update

Beth Pingel, Program Director

The Fall Semester is winding down here at HMR. Since returning to HMR this past May, I am, once again, discovering how the HMR course material applies to nearly every day and every aspect of my life. HOW much did we spend on drive thru food last month? WHEN did my children forget about that chore chart on the bulletin board? WHY does my laundry seem to reproduce in the hampers? WHO is making dinner? ME?

I had the great pleasure of working with our 12 HMR Counselor Trainees this past fall. Each of them comes with a passion for family life. Five of these trainees came to us from the town of Nappanee. These dynamic women are going to be teaching a course this Spring at the Family Christian Development Center in Nappanee. In addition to the course here at the Y, we also ran the Family Life Seminar for the town of Walkerton. The HMR Family Life Seminar was one of the core requirements for those who have applied to be a part of the newly developed Dogwood Estates. This has been an exciting opportunity for HMR and we are thrilled for our graduates who will soon be moving into their new homes. Congratulations! Another fairly new



Family Life Seminar, November 1st, 2011
Counselor Trainees and Graduates

collaboration for us is offering a modified curriculum to the South Bend School Age Mother's program. We are currently teaching 30 girls at Lafayette School. This program has been particularly rewarding as our counselors are able to offer support, training and encouragement to young mothers between the ages of 14 and 19. Recently, we gathered a group of both

counselors, volunteers and board members to discuss our programming efforts. I am reminded and encouraged by the comment of board member, Sara Nemeth: "The question is not who needs HMR, the question is who *doesn't?*"

Thank you for your continued support of HMR. With your help, we are providing support for families across Michiana.



Congratulations to the Graduates and Counselors of
the Family Life Seminar in Walkerton!





Christmas: Unplugged

book review by Beth Pingel

Several years ago I was given a book entitled *Unplug the Christmas Machine*, by Jo Robinson and Jean Staeheli. This well done guide to simplifying the Christmas season is one I have re-read and given to friends. The authors help the readers, particularly women, recognize that we often operate under the mistaken notion that if we simply work hard enough we can create the *perfect* holiday. In addition to the many tasks and demands we have on a daily basis, we pile on several dozen more during the holiday season: baking, parties, shopping, wrapping, mailing, decorating, serving, traveling...*when!* No wonder we find ourselves drained instead of renewed at the start of the new year. The biggest lesson I have learned over the years, is that the extra activities I choose are just that -- a choice! I am trying to be more intentional about which Christmas traditions hold added meaning for me and my family and which ones don't. So while the children are making their lists, make one of your own. List the holiday hoopla that brings you true joy and let go of a few things that bring out your inner Grinch! Give yourself the gift that no one else can give you; permission to *Unplug the Christmas Machine*.

Please join us in thanking the generous families and business partners below who made major donations to HMR in 2011.

Charlie and Barb Asher
Bev Bradley
Brian and Amy Coughlin
Vern and Marty Casteel
Julie Anna Cirillo
Bill and Rosella Cressy
George and Kathryn Cressy
Tim and Carol Curran
Steve and Jennifer Deane
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Mike Chapple, University of Notre Dame

HMR Holiday Campaign

2012 will be here before we know it! The HMR Board of Directors is currently putting together the budget that will take us successfully through the year. Many changes and additions are coming our way for the year, including the expansion of our program! Currently our fixed expenses run just over \$4100 a month. Next year, we anticipate expenses rising to just over \$5,000/month or \$60,000.00 for the year. We are currently mapping out how we will fund these increases while expanding our base for scholarships.

Check out the website next month to see our new schedule and ways in which you can be involved!



donate on-line at:

www.hmresources.org