



March 2011

The Mission of Equipping Youth

Thank You Partners for helping us continue to bring the hopeful message of abstinence-until-marriage to the youth of Iowa.

Why do we think this is so important that many of us volunteer our time and invest our money to continue the momentum of reaching all of Iowa's children and their parents? My dear friend LeAnna Benn from Teen Aide in Spokane, WA wrote in her recent newsletter, "Marriage has provided the framework for the family unit world over. As the family developed, civilizations became possible. Love, cooperation, knowledge, and creativity all found their expression within the family."

Quoting two past presidents:

Lyndon Johnson, "Unless we work to strengthen the family, to create conditions under which most parents stay together, all the rest: schools, and play grounds, and public assistance, and private concern, will never be enough to cut completely the circle of despair and deprivation."

Ronald Reagan said, "Strong families are the foundation of society. Through them we pass on our traditions, rituals, and values. From them we receive love, encouragement and education needed to meet the spiritual growth that fosters generosity of spirit and responsible citizenship."

Equipping Youth staff and board members want the youth of Iowa to know that the choices they make now will most likely effect their ability to keep a marriage throughout their life time. These are hard times for youth. With the current 33% national out-of-wedlock pregnancy rates expected to be 50% by 2015, according to the census bureau, the family unit has a challenge to recover, and our mission is to see that happen. In *Powerful Choices* lessons youth are given research findings regarding which choices lead to the best outcomes. **We wish to assist this generation of youth to be able to have successful marriages that last a lifetime.** We applaud single parents for their efforts to help their children succeed. It is a great task for two parents; our blessings go to each of the single parents who daily face difficult decisions and financial hardships for the sake of

their children. If each of us would become involved with the single parent families we know, we could see a change in family and marriage statistics within the next generation.

Join us in this exciting mission to make a difference for families.

Please send us your e-mail address so we can send this newsletter without paper and postage.

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Parents of Teens!

A new website just for you from the Family Research Council

<http://helpingmyteen.com/>

You'll find tips and tricks or just a place to hang out and talk with other parents. This site also has links to answer your questions about consequences of teen risk taking. Check it out; you'll be glad you did.

"Citing a recent PEW study, Time reports that 40% of Americans believe that marriage is obsolete. But if marriage is obsolete, then such things as healthy societies soon will be obsolete as well."

Chuck Colson of Prison Fellowship

Further reading and information:

www.LetsStrengthenMarriage.org

www.NationForMarriage.org

www.MarriageSaver.org



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Online Safety Sites

A call from a concerned parent caused us to search for help for parents with this issue. Here are some sites we thought helpful:

www.wiredsafety.org

www.internetsuperheroes.org

www.netsmartz.org/safety/statistics

We are so very grateful for each of you that have answered our calls for help with funding. Thank you dear volunteers who have been helping us with teaching and office work.

Thanks again,

Ruthanne Eccles