

From the Desk of the Director

Cynthia Dorman, M.A.

The Family Life Council has been providing divorce education longer than it has been providing marriage education. It reminds me of the story about the community that discovered that bodies were floating down the river, injured and dying people. The community responded quickly and began carrying the victims to the hospital and working to save them. After the hospital was filled with patients, the community filled the schools and then churches with patients, providing care for the injured.

At some point, it dawned on the community that perhaps they should go up the river and determine the cause of all of the victims and see if they couldn't do something to find the root of the problem.

Marriage education is about building healthy relationships. Divorce hurts, both the parents and the children. Divorce is the end of a dream for couples. Everyone who gets married dreams that they will live happily ever after. But most couples find it challenging to resolve conflicts and deal with the inevitable struggles that are a result of the fundamental life changes that occur as our lives progress.

Research proves that after the birth of a first child, couples disagree more often than before, experience greater conflict, and report lower satisfaction with their own relationship. How couples approach marital conflict is critical for the overall health of their marriage and their children's well-being.

Marriage education is built on years of research that proves that couples can learn how to build and maintain successful, stable marriages. We know that couples who survive and thrive know how to resolve conflicts, communicate effectively and work together as a team. Programs being offered at the Family Life Council's Marriage Resource Center help couples strengthen the marital bond, build problem solving skills, learn how to resolve conflicts and ultimately build lasting, healthy relationships. Your support of these programs is needed. Join with us as we build life skills for today's families!



Photovoice Exhibit Highlights Local Youth Leadership

A reception showcasing the insightful photography of 15 middle and high school youth participating in the most recent *Photovoice* program will be held from 5:30-7:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 14th at the Greensboro Historical Museum. *Photovoice*, a project of Healthy Communities • Healthy Youth and the Hillsdale Fund, supports and encourages youth as they observe Greensboro through the lens of a camera.

By participating in the *Photovoice* series, young people learn to take part in defining and discussing current community issues. Professional photographers and local leaders volunteer to teach photography, advocacy skills, and the importance of civic engagement as part of the program.

Join us as we celebrate the future leaders of our community and view their impressive exhibit. The Greensboro Historical Museum, Hillsdale Fund and the Youth First Program are co-sponsors of this program. Community leaders and interested citizens are invited to attend. Contact the Family Life Council for more details.



"Knowledge: the transportation to your wealth"
Michael Betts, 16
Grimsley High School

What's inside

Workshops/Trainings

Pratto Scholarship Awards at \$19,000

Guilford County Marriage Resource Center

Many Thanks To Our Donors

A Great Big Thank You

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Many Thanks To Our Donors July 2004 – March 2005

Please be sure to get your contribution in by June 30, 2005.

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need wait a single moment to
improve the world.”**

-Anne Frank

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Pratto Scholarship Awards at \$19,000 and Counting



The Pratto Family Life scholarship has awarded over \$19,000 to deserving teen moms who wish to further their education. The Family Life Council wishes to extend an invitation to those who wish to help a teen parent pursue their education. Donations may be mailed to 301 E. Washington St. Ste 202 Greensboro, NC 27401.

Teen mom Orissa El says "the best thing about the **Good Beginnings for Teen Parents** program is that you can see that you are not alone and you have other teenage girls your age going through the same thing. I would recommend this program to any teenage girl that has a child. The program gives out good information and it is free. This program gives teen girls some reassurance and guidance that they might not get anywhere else."

Guilford County MARRIAGE RESOURCE CENTER

Community Marriage Covenant Update

Over 90 Guilford County faith leaders and religious organizations have joined together to publicly make a commitment to actively support marriages before and after the wedding. **The Family Life Council will recognize these congregations at a luncheon to be held this May.** We will gather to renew our commitment to supporting healthy marriages and to recognize the progress that has already been made in this community.

Go to www.gcmarrriage.org to see a list of congregations that have signed the Community Marriage Covenant or to print a copy of the Covenant to take to your group for discussion.

One group can do much, but a community working together can do much more.

Complete the Prepare Inventory for FREE to strengthen your marriage before it begins!

Couples complete a questionnaire individually. The results of the inventories are summarized and couples then meet for up to 4 sessions with someone trained to administer and interpret the inventory. The Guilford County Marriage Resource Center is able to offer this FREE to a limited number of couples. To learn more or to set up an appointment, contact Rebecca Starnes at rstarnes@flcgso.com.



Wise Guys educator, Spencer Long presents plaques to South Eastern Middle School counselor Etta Roberts and Mrs. A Walker of Hairston Middle School at last years appreciation luncheon held at the Painted Plate in Greensboro.

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU!

On April 28, 2005 the Family Life Council is planning a supporter appreciation luncheon at the Painted Plate for the dedicated professionals who work with our youth programs. Our *Wise Guys*, *Good Beginnings for Teen Parents* and *Healthy Communities-Healthy Youth* programs will honor those who help Guilford County youth learn about healthy relationships through the Family Life Council's strong programs. These special people work hard to make sure the kids that live in Guilford County are taught the life skills they need to develop into well-informed and responsible teenagers and adults. By offering the Family Life Council's programs in Guilford County middle and high schools, they are ensuring students learn more about positive assets, parenting skills and responsibility.

Yes! I would like to support programs for today's families.

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