

## Family Life Council Celebrates 35 Years! Announcing the “2004 Love for Life Marriage Awards!”

We're celebrating! In honor of our 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we are sponsoring the **Love for Life Marriage Awards**. These awards will honor 35 couples selected from community nominations, who have been married 35 years or more, providing a stable foundation for their families and community.

We want to celebrate our first 35 years by looking at what is “going right” with families in our community today. Marriage requires commitment and much hard work. It is important to acknowledge the work of marriage and some of the many couples in our community who are successfully maintaining healthy and rewarding relationships.

**WHAT:** Love for Life Marriage Awards Reception honoring 35 couples married 35 years or more.  
**WHEN:** Thursday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2004  
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.  
**WHERE:** The Empire Room, Greensboro, NC

**TO ATTEND:** Send \$35/couple or \$20/individual earmarked Love for Life Marriage Awards. All profits from the reception will help fund the establishment of the Guilford County Marriage Resource Center for use by individuals, churches, and corporations in helping couples build healthy marriages.

**TO NOMINATE A COUPLE:** To download the Love for Life Marriage Award - 2004 Nomination Form go to our website at [www.flcgso.com](http://www.flcgso.com). On our homepage under the heading “Marriage Resource Center” click on the link under the description of the Love for Life Marriage Awards. After completing the form, fax it to 333-6891 or mail it to us by December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2003.

The Love for Life Marriage Awards reception will kick-off the first ever **Guilford County Marriage Month** (February 2004), developed to increase awareness and enthusiasm in the community for creating and supporting stronger, healthier, and longer lasting marriages. (See the Program Calendar in this newsletter for a Couple Communication series planned during February for Guilford County Marriage Month.)

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## Notes from the Director

By Cindi Dorman



As the New Year approaches, it is the time for celebrating the past and the future. Our Board of Directors is busy planning a celebration. Our plans for celebrating our 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary include recognizing 35 couples who have been married for 35 years or more. The party will take place on

January 29, 2004 at the Empire Room, and you won't want to miss it!

We have much to celebrate. The Family Life Council's *Wise Guys* program was just awarded the Moses Cone-Wesley Long Community Health Foundation Wellness Award. This award recognizes an innovative program that measurably improves the health status of those served. Programs are evaluated based upon innovation, impact, scope of program and the need for the program in the community.

We are fortunate to have the support of so many people in our community who recognize our efforts. Our programs to educate families about male responsibility and sexuality have made an impact on Guilford County and it is wonderful for our agency and staff to have received a well-deserved pat on the back. Thanks to the Moses Cone-Wesley Long Community Health Foundation and all of our supporters for making 2003 a wonderful year!

Your continued support helps us keep on developing innovative and creative programs that respond to today's challenges.

## Thank You To Our Board Members

As the year ends, we say good-bye to outgoing board members, all of whom are special and we will miss tremendously. Amiel Rossabi, Past President, has served on the Board since 1995 and has served in a variety of capacities. Among other things, Amiel served as Chair of the *Wise Guys* Advisory Committee and was critically important in moving the *Wise Guys* program to the next level and establishing our training program for other agencies outside of Greensboro. His integrity and skills have helped bring about significant changes at the Family Life Council and we are grateful for his efforts.

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## HEALTHY COMMUNITIES• HEALTHY YOUTH

## Thank You To Our Board Members

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Guilford County agencies and organizations continue to embrace the developmental assets model and philosophy.

Some recent HC•HY accomplishments are:

- Training the Guilford County Schools ACES After-School Program Directors in the assets model and helping create an after-school program curriculum that includes asset building for elementary age students.
- Teaching 30 High Point teens how to advocate for positive community change through the **Photovoice** project.
- Facilitating workshops on the 40 developmental assets to over 200 local teens at the Mayor's Teen Summit, sponsored by the Greensboro Parks and Recreation Department.
- Production of a 6 minute video on the assets entitled, "**Be There**", and a complementary billboard campaign. Look for the billboards again in 2004 and call to schedule a presentation using the new video.

At the Mayor's Teen Summit, 5 youth from the Youth – Guilford Health Advisory Board (Y-GHAB) were primary facilitators for workshops on the assets. During the planning sessions, these 5 young people emerged as leaders among their peers and volunteered to speak in front of the hundreds of teens who attended the summit and to assist in other various ways. By listening to these young people effectively introduce important community leaders and creatively teach their peers about the developmental assets was to witness the "assets at work" in their lives!

As for long-term impact, follow-up data from individuals educated in the assets model show increases in mentoring relationships between youth and adults and the number of youth who are taking on leadership roles in the community. In the days and months ahead, we challenge you to continue looking for ways to make our community healthier, both for and with youth. The simplest acts make such a difference!

Special thanks also to Lynne Alexander who has served since 1999 and has been a member of the Parenting Children of Divorce Committee as well as the Public Relations Committee. We will miss her calm approach and genuine concern for children and families. Aaron Stevenson, an undergraduate at NC A&T, has served for the last year as a student representative. We appreciate Aaron, who is an exceptional young man and we expect great things from him.

We also want to thank Dr. Edward Fort who has agreed to serve as President-Elect; Gail LeBauer, who has agreed to return as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President; Kathryn Lindley who will serve as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President; Bill Tankersley who will serve as Treasurer. We also thank the following board members who have agreed to serve another term: Rev. Julie Peeples, Rabbi Michael Pont, Lori Wainright Sherrill, Rev. Greg Headen.

New nominees who will begin board positions in January include: Kathy Levinson, CEO of Toleo Foundation; Pam Warner, M.D., a Greensboro Pediatrician; Jennifer Hall, CPA with KPMG; Dr. Beverly Gass, Dean of the Learning Resources Center at GTCC.

We are fortunate to have such exceptional, dedicated and committed individuals helping promote the Family Life Council.

## The Power of Family Life Education


With almost no exception, people want to have close, supportive family relationships. Parents love their children and want good things for them. Couples want to feel close to and understood by their partners. At the same time, achieving and maintaining positive family relationships is not trouble-free. Since 1968, the Family Life Council has been supporting families in Guilford County. Despite years of providing programs, misconceptions about family life education still persist. Here are the two we hear the most:

### ***Myth 1: "If it isn't broken, don't fix it."***

Family life education is about strengthening relationships before they are broken. If we want something to perform well and for a long time, like a car for instance, we need to take care of it. Dealing with family issues before they become problems leads to healthier families.

### ***Myth 2: I should just know how to parent. (or "be married" or "communicate")***

For just about any job there is a lot of training involved and the training doesn't stop once hired. Family relationships, even when wonderful, are challenging. Family life education programs offer information and tools that can be used to deal with the inevitable difficulties of family life.



*A provocative look at what happens when one caring adult starts a phenomenon.*  
Video Premier:  
Friday, January 23, 2004  
6:00pm  
The Green Bean  
341 S. Elm Street

Life Skills for Today's Families

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Staff and Board president accept the  
2004 "Wellness Award" for the *Wise Guys* program.

## Many Thanks To Our Donors July 2003 – October 2003

This list will grow as the 2003-2004 Annual Fund Campaign begins.  
Please be sure to get your contribution in by June 30, 2004.

### Gold Benefactor

Starmount Presbyterian Church

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Mr. and Mrs. William O. Cooke  
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Mr. and Mrs. Edward K. Crothers, Jr.  
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Dr. Edward M. Miller  
Cheryl Wilson

## KUDOS FOR COUPLE COMMUNICATION



In the fall of 2002, we enrolled in the Couple Communication course offered through the Family Life Council to better prepare ourselves for marriage. We thought that taking this course would provide us with not only a better understanding of how we communicate, but also how our partner “hears” and “perceives” what we say.

This course was truly a blessing to us because it provided valuable insights about how we were communicating with each other. We learned how to sincerely listen to and speak openly and honestly

with one another in a way that creates intimacy rather than friction. In fact, we can honestly say that utilizing the skills that we acquired through this workshop has helped prevent possible opportunities for miscommunication within our marriage.

Because of the positive experience we had with the Family Life Council, its instructors and students, we have become more involved in our church's Marriage Ministry. We're coordinating a Marriage Enrichment Conference that hopefully will encourage couples in our church to continue striving for excellence in their marriage. We see the need that exists within every marriage for couples to continue growing closer to one another, and we're grateful that the Family Life Council is assisting couples to build successful marriages.

Sincerely,

Wendell and Adrienne Calhoun



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A United Way Agency

### Volunteer Opportunities

Speaker's Bureau  
Office Support  
Community Outreach

### 2004 Wish List

Conference Room Chairs  
Desk with Hutch  
Large Coffee Urn  
Cups, napkins, plates

Non-Profit Org.  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Greensboro, NC  
Permit No. 368