

FIRST THINGS

A publication of First Things First®

May is Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month



FTF is once again partnering with the Moccasin Bend Girl Scout Council and Why kNOW Abstinence Education during May's Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month to educate parents and encourage teens to abstain from risky sexual behaviors.

"Sexual activity can derail a teen's future, not to mention have a serious impact on their physical and emotional health," said Julie Baumgardner, FTF executive director.

"If we can delay sexual activity until they are married their chances of having a healthy and successful future increase dramatically."

A recently released report from the CDC states that one in four teenage girls has an STD.

"Parents need to stop saying, 'that's not my child,' and address this issue head-on with their teens," said Baumgardner.

Be on the look out for a new billboard and Carta bus campaign with a message of abstinence for teens in May.

If your school, church or organization would like to participate in promoting Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month please contact FTF (423-267-5383) and we can provide you with materials.

If you are a parent and would like some help talking with your teen, contact FTF (423-267-5383) for a free booklet, Questions Kids Ask About Sex and How Parents Can Respond.



FTF named Nonprofit of the Year

In a ceremony held by the Chattanooga Area Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday February 20, FTF was named Nonprofit of the Year.

The award, given in conjunction with the 2008 Small Business Awards by the Chamber of Commerce, is given to a nonprofit which shows commitment to good and ethical business practices and community impact and involvement.

"It is an honor to be recognized by the Chamber as we wrap up our 10 year anniversary celebrations," said Julie Baumgardner, FTF executive director. "We strive to make a difference for families in the Greater Chattanooga Area and hope to make an impact for future generations of Chattanoogaans."



COMING SOON!

Dig out your lawn chairs, Movies in the Park returns to Coolidge Park this July for its sixth year! We will have the popcorn available, just bring your family and friends to the park at sundown to see a family friendly movie on the big screen.

It takes a lot of people to put together a big event like this for four weekends. If you would like to volunteer call Gary at FTF (423-267-5383).

Bee Movie, July 5

The Waterhorse: Legend of the Deep, July 12

Alvin and the Chipmunks, July 19

TBA, July 26

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Dads –

Did you know that . . .

- When both boys and girls are reared with engaged fathers they demonstrate a greater ability to take initiative and evidence self-control.
- Children whose fathers are highly involved in their schools are more likely to do well academically, to participate in extra-curricular activities, to enjoy school and are less likely to have ever repeated a grade or been expelled.
- Studies link a sense of competence in daughters, especially in mathematics and a sense of femininity to a close, warm relationship between father and daughter.
- Children whose fathers regularly engage them in physical play are more likely to be socially popular with their peers.
- The higher a child rated acceptance by his or her father, the higher teachers rated the child on social competence and positive conduct.
- For predicting a child's self-esteem, it is sustained contact with the father that matters for sons, but physical affection from fathers that matters for daughters.
- Children with involved fathers are less likely to participate in risky behavior such as drug and alcohol use, sexual activity, truancy and criminal behavior.

One might think that just knowing how much of a difference they can make in their child's life would make fathers think twice about how important it is to spend time with their children. However, for some men this information poses a real dilemma. Many men did not have good relationships with their own father. As a result they struggle with their own ability to be the father their children need them to be.

The reality is, children aren't looking for perfect dads. They are looking for dads who are willing to spend time with them and invest in them.

Father's Day will be here soon. Dads, you might want to stop and ask yourself this question, "Is what I am doing now going to produce the kind of relationship I want with my child?" Instead of telling your children you will spend time with them tomorrow, spend time with them today. You will be glad you did.



Julie Baumgardner
FTF Executive Director

Gifts and Tributes

A gift was given in memory of Horton and Ida Bell Godwin by Ric and Karen Godwin.

If you would like to honor a loved one who is no longer with us or congratulate newlyweds, celebrate a wedding anniversary, birthday or other special occasion with a gift to FTF, please send your donation and honoree's contact information to FTF, 620 Lindsay Street, Suite 100, Chattanooga, TN 37403.

A lovely card will be sent to your honoree.

Volunteer readers needed

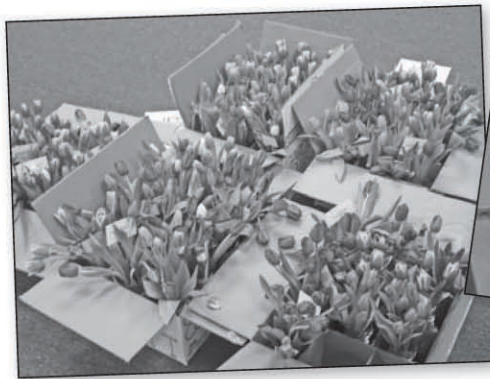
All of the Father of the Year essays have been turned in and now Phase Two begins! We need volunteers to help read and sort through the thousands of essays we received.

We have essays from children grades first through twelfth grade. Volunteers will pick up a pack of 50 essays and give us the top essays in the group. These will be sent to the National Center for Fathering for judging.

Winners will be announced at a special ceremony on Saturday, June 14 on the Riverbend Festival site.

Call Gary at 423-267-5383 if you would like to volunteer.

Flower Fest



Our second annual FTF Flower Fest was a smashing success! With more than 1,100 orders placed, we exceeded our goal of 900 arrangements. Flower Fest 2009 will officially launch in October—so watch for more details coming soon!

Special thanks to the following for helping us with our campaign:

Mildred Bethea, Kathy Bolton, Ann Caldwell, Donna Chambers, Robin Davenport, Paul Fuchcar and his PANM 420 Resource Development Class, Pam Hanson, David Hixson, Terry Haupt, Gwen Moore, Libby Phillips, Suzan Robinette, Cheryl Robinson, Suzanne Rodgers, Jim and Kathy Sanders, Lynda Sattler, Carolyn Smith, Pam Stone, Bettye Taylor, Kim Thomas and Alishea Ziegler.



Extra special thanks to the following for their corporate commitment to the campaign:

- Artech Design Group**—Kelly Fitzgerald
- Blood Assurance**—Jay Baumgardner
- Campbell & Associates**—Lou Ann Hoodenpyle
- Chambliss, Bahner & Stophel**—Tammie McClendon
- Card Monroe Corp.**—Mitzi Young
- Chattanooga Area Chamber of Commerce**—Diane Parks
- Chattanooga Bakery**—Beverly Sanders
- Chattanooga Police Department**—Sergeant Nathan Vaughn
- Comcast**—Kathy Jacobus
- Consolidated Technologies Incorporated**—Jim Dunn
- Cornerstone Community Bank**—Carolyn Smith and Robin Davenport
- Decosimo & Company**—John Henegar
- Erlanger Health System**—Donna Smith
- Eureka Foundry**—Karen Dunegan
- Fairway Outdoor**—Ken Broom
- Gold Bond**—Dee Dunn
- KMT Creative**—Missy Thompson
- Morgan Keegan**—Debbie Brown
- Southern Champion Tray**—Brenda Ledwell
- Unum**—Todd Crawford, Sabrina Herndon, David Eargle, Jody Walton, Donna Mathena, Kevin Sullivan and Ray Goodpasture
- Viant**—Paula Crawford

becoming SOULMATES



More than 300 individuals came out in February to hear nationally known speakers Les and Leslie Parrott talk about Becoming Soul Mates.



Faith, Family, & Football



Motivational speaker and former football player Roman Gabriel III presented an all access ticket to experience the world of pro football rarely seen. Gabriel shared his insights and illustrations having lived a life talking to the difference makers on and off the field.

Attendees experienced never-before-seen interactive video messages from the NFL's hottest players and coaches, including exclusive footage from Super Bowl XLII.

Date Night at River Street Deli



Bruce Weiss teaches participants how to make meatballs.

Mouths were watering as couples gathered around the kitchen counter at River Street Deli to learn cooking secrets from the master, Chef Bruce Weiss, owner of River Street Deli. The menu for the evening included Italian meatballs and pasta, antipasto salad, garlic and Parmesan cheese bread and cannolis for dessert.

Cooking class participants got to experience Mr. Weiss's humor as they learned secrets for making melt in your mouth meatballs and a fabulous Italian dressing for the antipasto salad. "When it comes to cooking, the more garlic the better, and olive oil is a necessity!"

"People ask me all the time for the recipe," said Mr. Weiss. "I tell them a recipe is a guideline."



After assisting Mr. Weiss in the meal preparation, attendees sat down to an Italian feast!

If you enjoy cooking and are looking for something fun to do as a couple, plan to attend the next date night at River Street Deli on May 17. The cost is \$50 per couple and space is limited. You must register to attend.

2008 Spring Class Schedule continued . . .

Secrets to Lasting Love

For couples interested in learning good relationship skills.

April 8, 15, and 22 (Tuesdays)*

Location: Collegedale SDA Church
4829 College Dr. East
Time: 6 p.m.–8:30 p.m.

April 14, 21 and 28 (Mondays)*

Location: Catoosa Baptist Tabernacle
4994 Hwy 41
Time: 6 p.m.–8:30 p.m.

May 1, 8, and 15 (Thursdays)*

(Cooking class included)
Location: Westview Baptist Church
9516 E Brainerd Road
Time: 6 p.m.–8:30 p.m.

Maximize Your Marriage

For couples in distress.

April 7, 14, and 21 (Mondays)*

Location: Lighthouse
Counseling Center
105 Lee Parkway
Time: 6 p.m.–8:30 p.m.

April 8, 15, and 22 (Tuesdays)*

Location: Lighthouse
Counseling Center
105 Lee Parkway
Time: 6 p.m.–8:30 p.m.

Maximize Your Marriage continued . . .

April 26 (Saturday)*

Location: Lighthouse
Counseling Center
105 Lee Parkway
Time: 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

May 6, 13, and 20 (Tuesdays)*

Location: Lighthouse
Counseling Center
105 Lee Parkway
Time: 6 p.m.–8:30 p.m.

May 10 (Saturday)*

Location: Lighthouse
Counseling Center
105 Lee Parkway
Time: 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

June 2, 9, and 16 (Mondays)*

Location: Lighthouse
Counseling Center
105 Lee Parkway
Time: 6 p.m.–8:30 p.m.

June 3, 10, and 17 (Tuesdays)*

Location: Lighthouse
Counseling Center
105 Lee Parkway
Time: 6 p.m.–8:30 p.m.

June 21 (Saturday)*

Location: Lighthouse
Counseling Center
105 Lee Parkway
Time: 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

Maximize Your Marriage Booster Class

For couples who attended a previous Maximize class.

April 9 (Wednesday)*

Location: The English Rose
1401 Market Street
Time: 6 p.m.–9:30 p.m.

May 8 (Thursday)*

Location: Lighthouse
Counseling Center
105 Lee Parkway
Time: 6 p.m.–9:30 p.m.

June 19, 2008 (Thursday)*

Location: Lighthouse
Counseling Center
105 Lee Parkway
Time: 6 p.m.–9:30 p.m.

**To register or
for more information,
call First Things First
at 423.267.5383 or visit
www.firstthings.org.**

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2008 SPRING CLASS SCHEDULE

Parenting Classes

Boot Camp for New Dads

May 17 (Saturday)

Location: Parkridge East Hospital
941 Spring Creek Road
Time: 9 a.m.–12 p.m.
Call: 423-855-3683

June 28 (Saturday)

Location: Parkridge East Hospital
941 Spring Creek Road
Time: 9 a.m.–12 p.m.
Call: 423-855-3683

Dads and Discipline part 2

April 7 (Monday)

Location: First Things First
620 Lindsay Street, Suite 100
Time: 5 p.m.–6:30 p.m.

Parenting takes Teamwork

May 5 (Monday)

Location: First Things First
620 Lindsay Street, Suite 100
Time: 5 p.m.–6:30 p.m.

The Difference a Dad Makes

June 2 (Monday)

Location: First Things First
620 Lindsay Street, Suite 100
Time: 5 p.m.–6:30 p.m.

Love's Cradle

Equips non-married expectant couples with skills and information to make wise relationship and parenting decisions

April 9, 16, and 23 (Wednesdays)*

Location: Wally's Restaurant
6521 Ringgold Road
Time: 6 p.m.–8:30 p.m.

May 15, 22 and 29 (Thursdays)*

Location: AAA Women's Services
6232 Vance Road
Time: 6 p.m.–8:30 p.m.

Teen Classes

Connections

A relationship skills class for teens.

April 5 (Saturday)*

Prom Skills 101
Location: Brainerd Cross Roads
4011 Austin Street
Time: 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

June 10 (Tuesday)*

Location: Greenway Farms
5051 Gann Store Road
Time: 8 a.m.–6 p.m.

July 1 (Tuesday)*

Location: Greenway Farms
5051 Gann Store Road
Time: 8 a.m.–6 p.m.

Singles Classes

How to Avoid Marrying a Jerk

Helps singles find a compatible mate.

April 17 (Thursday)*

Location: Partnership for Families
1800 McCallie Ave.
Time: 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

April 19, 2008 (Saturday)*

Location: Collegedale
Community Church
4995 Swinyar Drive
Time: 2 p.m.–7 p.m.

April 26, 2008 (Saturday)*

Location: Collegedale
Community Church
4995 Swinyar Drive
Time: 2 p.m.–7 p.m.

Marriage Classes

Premarital

For couples preparing for marriage.

Secular classes

April 12 (Saturday)

Location: First Things First
620 Lindsay Street, Suite 100
Time: 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
Cost: \$20 per couple

Premarital continued . . .

Secular classes

April 13, 20 and 27 (Sundays)*

Location: The Cottage
2524 Gunbarrel Road
Time: 5 p.m.–7:30 p.m.

April 21, 28, & May 5 (Mondays)*

Location: First Things First
620 Lindsay Street, Suite 100
Time 6 p.m.–8:30 p.m.

April 23, 30, & May 7 (Wednesdays)*

Location: Wally's Restaurant
6521 Ringgold Road
Time 6 p.m.–8:30 p.m.

April 26 (Saturday)*

Location: The Cottage
2524 Gunbarrel Road
Time: 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

June 12 (Thursday)

Location: First Things First
620 Lindsay Street, Suite 100
Time: 5:30–9:30 p.m.
Cost: \$20 per couple

Faith Based Classes

April 10 (Thursday)

Location: First Things First
620 Lindsay Street, Suite 100
Time: 5:30–9:30 p.m.
Cost: \$20 per couple

May 1 (Thursday)

Location: First Things First
620 Lindsay Street, Suite 100
Time: 5:30–9:30 p.m.
Cost: \$20 per couple

June 7 (Saturday)

Location: Lighthouse
Counseling Center
105 Lee Parkway
Time: 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
Cost: \$20 per couple

For Couples Remarrying

May 15 (Thursday)

Location: First Things First
620 Lindsay Street, Suite 100
Time: 5:30–9:30 p.m.
Cost: \$20 per couple

First Things First
620 Lindsay Street, Suite 100
Chattanooga, TN 37403

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Teen Advisory Board



(Pictured from left to right) Ronisha Jones,
Nick Jackson, Latrice Word, Ashley Baumgardner
(Not pictured) Alyssa Engblom, Samantha Kodadek



SAVE THE DATE

FTF's 11th Annual Fall Banquet will be held on Thursday, September 18 at the Chattanooga Convention Center.

The guest speaker will be the honorable Leah Ward Sears, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia.

If you are interested in hosting a table or being a banquet sponsor call FTF (423-267-5383). You can hear excerpts of previous banquet speakers, Frank Abagnale and Mark Gungor, by visiting our website at firstthings.org.