

M.O.M.S.

MAKING OUR MOMS SUCCESSFUL
... MENTORING TO STRENGTHEN THE NEXT GENERATION

REJOICE...

M.O.M.S. Program Annual Christmas Banquet December 2011

Rejoice! Rejoice was the theme of our Annual Christmas Banquet on December 9th, and that is what we did! We truly rejoiced for all God has done through the M.O.M.S. Program in 2011. We rejoiced that we are in our 22nd year of serving single mothers to equip them to build healthy, strong homes for themselves and their children. We rejoiced that through our program expansion this year. We have served 38% more single mothers and children than last year and are now serving Scott County in addition to Dakota County. We rejoiced in the new events that have been added this year- our "Beautiful You" fall event and Bridges out of Poverty Training. As the list went on, we were in awe and humbled by it all.

We celebrated the graduation of 2 moms at the banquet and rejoiced in the number of alumni moms who were able to attend. During our social time, we had special music provided by one of our alumni children, Adrian Alvarado, whose mom was in the program 10 years ago! What a blessing to see lives continue to flourish and grow and to still be a part of that. We rejoiced that we had 5 new moms joining us at the banquet to hear and experience what the program is all about. Throughout the evening, the blessings continued to reveal themselves.

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Although the evening is dedicated to our single moms, their work, their accomplishments, and their futures, another important part of the banquet is acknowledging and thanking the people who invest their time, talents, prayers, and donations to these women and their children. The M.O.M.S. Program is truly a collaboration of many people and organizations that share a common goal of caring for, teaching, and equipping single mothers so that they may provide strong, healthy homes for their children and bright futures for tomorrow. We had the privilege of acknowledging and honoring mentors, board members, prayer partners, event volunteers, childcare providers, movers, transportation providers, and our church partners- just to name a few. In 2011, M.O.M.S. had 3,163 hours of volunteer time donated to the program. By the Department of Labor Statistics, that would calculate into a labor value of \$61,700! We are truly a volunteer driven organization and are extremely grateful to all who partner with us in so many ways.

Sara, a current mom, shared her story of abuse and addiction and the impact that had on her life and the life of her 2 sons. Sara shared her life transformation through Christ, through recovery, and now through goals she has been achieving through the M.O.M.S. Program. Sara received her GED after many years of trying but not succeeding, and plans to go on to college now. In closing Sara shared this,

“My mentor is awesome and just the right person to learn how to trust and practice new found healthy relationship skills with. I am very hopeful and excited to see how God is going to continue to work in my life and I feel He is using the M.O.M.S. Program to do just that!”

It was truly a beautiful evening and has been a beautiful year. We hope that you too, rejoiced in the reason for the season; the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to all of you who have partnered with us in 2011 to make this ministry possible. May you be blessed in return for the ways you have blessed so many others!



Mark Your Calendar!

Saturday April 14th, 2012

**10th Annual M.O.M.S. Benefit Concert
and Silent Auction**

GET INVOLVED WITH M.O.M.S. in 2012!

Here is what a new volunteer had to say about the M.O.M.S. Program....



I am a Child Support Officer and very interested in issues that impact children of single parents and their families. I was unaware of the M.O.M.S. organization until their expansion into Scott County. I attended a Fish meeting (Families and Individuals Sharing Hope) an organization in Scott County comprised of organizations serving families, churches, and county personnel. I learned more about M.O.M.S. and offered to volunteer to assist with an upcoming meeting. I was excited to volunteer but nervous as M.O.M.S. was new to me and I did not know anyone and knew very little about the organization. I made my own cards and provided supplies for the moms to make thank you cards at one of the meetings and offered some inexpensive ideas for moms to make these cards with their children. I also donated cards, envelopes and stamps so thank you cards would be available for future use. My supervisor nominated me for a Spirit of Scott Award (a customer service award for going "above and beyond" in our jobs). I was honored to receive the nomination and acknowledgment but this is a true example where I received more in return from the moms than I provided to them. The program is one of a kind and I have continued to volunteer when I can. I chuckle at my being nervous as my challenge was nothing compared to the challenges facing the moms. I have met incredible people on this journey. I would encourage anyone considering volunteering to contact the group. Jane, Ali and everyone I have met has been very welcoming, kind and helpful in paving the way for me to learn more about the group and how I can help. Most important, the moms that I have met are amazing women and kind and caring mothers who are on a journey to offer every opportunity they can to their children. I cannot think of a better opportunity to be involved in the future of our children.

Thanks

Paula Stephens

M.O.M.S. Information Center

Current Board Members

Marlys Hendrickson, President

Tim Velsvaag, Treasurer

Jim Langmaack, Incoming Treasurer

Francie Vitali Duea, Alumni Representative

Pamela Page, Mentor Representative

Elgin Foster, Member At Large

Dick Mooers, Member At Large

Joan Zielke, MemberAt Large

M.O.M.S. Staff

Jane Palmer, Executive Director

Ali Heglund, Program Director

Laura Haugen, Administrative Assistant

Program Verse

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your path.”

Proverbs 3:5-6

MEMORIALS AND GIFTS RECEIVED HONORING FRIENDS AND LOVED ONES

Monroe and Esther Larson in memory of Thomas J. Brown.

Monroe and Esther Larson in memory of Harry Wahldick, brother of Roger Wahldick.

Daniel and Mary Meyers in memory of Harry Wahldick.

Kay and Jim Cowan in memory of Harry Wahldick.

M.O.M.S. Needs:

Our greatest need currently is our Food Shelf.

Thank you for your continued generous donations of food and home items to our Moms!

Gift Cards:

Gas Cards

Grocery Cards

Household Items:

Bunk Bed

Other:

Car

Food Shelf Items:

Cereal

Pasta and Sauce

Canned Meat

Canned Fruit

Granola Bars

Peanut Butter/ Jelly

Hygiene Products

Paper Products

Laundry Soap

M.O.M.S. Email Newsletter

If you would like to receive our M.O.M.S. newsletter through email, or would no longer like to receive our newsletter, please email your request to us at momshis@aol.com. This helps us keep our printing costs down and the earth more green!