

Marriage and Family Counseling Service

May / June 2014 Board of Directors' Update

The Agency's Local College Connections

Education has always been at the heart of Marriage and Family Counseling's mission: educating couples and families to improve the health of their relationships; educating professional therapists with licensing, certification and continuing education programs; and with a course at Augustana College.

For the past five years, Senior Therapist **Derek Ball** has taught a credit course "Sociology of the Marital Relationship" at the college, which introduces family systems theory to a cross section of students.

This popular class covers topics that make a significant impact on the marital relationship, including family of origin issues, personality, gender, communication theory and attachment and love styles. Derek comments, "The goal is to give students practical information and skills on resolving conflict, understanding their own personality and how to understand others, and learning how one's family map affects one's expectations and behavior."

Western Illinois University's Quad City campus class on marriage and family therapy

recently visited the agency. MFCS Intern **Daniel Stillwel** was in charge of the experience which provided insights into the day to day work of marriage and family therapy.

As a result of the visit Daniel was invited to teach a followup workshop on the complex diagnostic and classification statistical codes that are used in filing

insurance reimbursements for the counseling profession.

Daniel was also recently invited to present at the national annual conference of the American Association of Pastoral Counselors. His topic was "Measuring Self-Perceived Spiritual Competency in Practicing Licensed Marriage & Family Therapists."

Funding Focus

Resource Development Chairman **Jim Horstmann** reports that \$58,715 in total gifts has been since September, 2013, putting us at 98% of our goal of \$60,000. Good for us!

Sources of contributed income this year are: Grants \$26,200, Birdies for Charity \$6,751, Donor-designated United Way gifts \$12,894, and Annual Appeals (Fall and Spring) \$12,870.

Additionally, long time donors **Bob and Patty Lane** have made a special major gift to the agency to supplement our Spanish Family Therapy program and to "fill the gap" created by a decline in general support from United Way.

It's not too late to take advantage of the Community Foundation of the Great River Bend's 50 For 50 Challenge. Anyone establishing a fund with the Foundation before June 30, 2014 will be eligible for a \$1,000 grant to your favorite charity....and we hope that is Marriage and Family Counseling Service! Contact the Community Foundation for more information.

The Art and Science of Love

Do we have your attention?

The highest rated marriage enrichment program in the US is coming to the Quad Cities on June 21 and 22, under the auspices of Marriage and Family Counseling Service.

"The Art and Science of Love" is a two-day workshop for couples that offers practical and simple exercises to confirm, strengthen or restore the couple bond. The workshop is designed for couples planning to marry, for couples who want to heighten their emotional closeness, and for couples who may believe divorce is the only solution left to them.

Created by Drs. John and Julie Gottman, the "Art and Science of Love" workshop will be led by Graham Thompson, a licensed marriage and family therapist in Illinois as well as a certified Gottman therapist and trainer. Graham delivers a clear and down-to-earth

Dates to Note

May

2 Skills in Couple Counseling: Improving Sexual Intimacy, 9 am

13 Transparenting
Class for Separating
and Divorcing Couples,
5:30 pm

22 The Art of Using Personality Type in Therapy, 9 am

June

14 Transparenting
Class for Separating
and Divorcing Couples
5:30 pm

19 Board of Directors'
Annual Meeting,
Pedersen home, 2165
Turnberry, Bettendorf
6 pm.
Watch for details.

21-22 "The Art and SCience of Love" workshops, 9 am - 4pm See article at left.

Facts & Impacts

\$65. The difference between the cost of one session of therapy at MFCS and the average fee reimbursed by the client or insurer.

59% of all US births are to married parents.
--US Census Bureau

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