

Marriage and Family Counseling Service

April/June 2018
Quarterly e-Newsletter
Rock Island, IL



Vera French Mental Health Center CEO Annual Meeting Speaker

Dr. Richard Whitaker will be the guest of honor and speaker for the 2018 MFCS Board's Annual Meeting on June 7 at the Crow Valley Golf Club. Dr. Whitaker was a former intern at MFCS when he was completing his doctoral degree from Brigham Young University in 1995-96. The meeting begins with a social hour at 6 PM. Invitations have been mailed to current and former board members. If yours hasn't arrived, please call Carol, 786-4491.



2017-2018 Leadership:

Karen Brooke
President

John Horn
Vice President

Laurie Skjerseth
Secretary

Jerry Goddard
Treasurer

John Deere Classic Birdies for Charity Pledge Cards are Out!

By now you should have received your JD Classic Birdies Pledge card. "We are urging supporters of the agency to make their contributions through the Birdies program. Each year the agency not only receives the amount you designate, but also an additional amount based on the greater fund totals raised by the Birdies program," said Laurie Skjerseth, chair of the Development Committee.



Last year the John Deere Golf Classic Birdies for Charity raised a record \$12,700,000 and MFCS received \$13,417 in pledges and \$1,341 in a 10% bonus from The Birdies making a total of \$14,759.

Board of Directors:

September, 11.30 AM

November 15, 11.30 AM

Facts and Impacts:

Divorce rates are actually falling, not rising.

Divorce rate peaked in 1980, 40% and has been declining since

- Marriages between 2006 - 2010
 - probability of lasting 10 years, 68% for women, 70% for men
 - probability of lasting 20+ years, 52% for women, 56% for men

Divorce Rate in America, 2017, Marriage Today, by Sarah Jacoby



2017 Annual Appeal Results

The Annual Appeal is composed of several different funding streams: United Way designated gifts, Annual Appeal pledges and Birdies for Charity. Below is a breakdown of the various Annual Appeal results:

- Overall Goal: \$30,000 (includes United Way designated gifts) - Annual appeal goal: \$15,000
- Result: 80 gifts totaling \$33,605
- 46 Birdies for \$13,417.78 + 1,341.78 m(bonus) = \$14,759.56 - United Way - \$3,475 (3 gifts so far recorded)

The 2018 Annual Appeal will begin later in the fall for the 2018 - 2019 fiscal year

Early Intervention International Play Groups

With an initial grant from Trinity Lutheran Church, Moline, MFCS began a partnership with the Child and Family Connections agency to offer specialized play groups for children ages 1 - 5 from Spanish-speaking homes.

During the second pilot offering, Xochi Herrera Pannell and Lisa Viaene discovered that several Asian parents appeared with their children. Through sign language and a minimal amount of English, the Play Group worked! Thus, the name of the group was changed from Hispanic Play Groups to International Play Groups.

- The 5th EIIPG met in March at Church of Peace, Rock Island with 12 Asian and Hispanic families.



Latinas Unidas Quad City

Latinas Unidas Quad City is the name the women in the Spanish Family Therapy Program have chosen for the combination educational and social programs.

- In July of 2017, they held a Zumba Class together with a program on “How Nutrition Affects Emotional Health.” The program was held at St. John’s Lutheran Church, Rock Island.
 - November 29 35 Asian and African families members made gingerbread houses and discussed how to spend quality time with family members during the holidays.
 - December 13 an international group of 41 family members met to make Christmas ornaments and gifts, provided by Church of Peace, were distributed by Santa This event was on Channels 4 and 8 news.
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Boundaries Workshop

Bodynemics USA will present a workshop on Boundaries in conjunction with Betsy Zmuda Swanson of our staff on June 29-30. The workshop will explore how to negotiate social interactions using Bodynemics, a somatic therapy.

Staff and Alumni News

IFTA's 2018 World Family Therapy Congress, Bangkok

The 2018 World Family Therapy Congress was held in Bangkok, Thailand March 8 - 10. Three MFCS former interns were in attendance including Christian Jordal (Drexel University, Philadelphia and editor of IFTA's journal), Jake Johnson (Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL, and editor of IFTA's Family Therapy e-News) and Jackie Tome, our Spanish therapist.



All three alumni presented workshops at the Congress. Jake Johnson is also a member of the IFTA Board of Directors; Christian Jordal, as IFTA's Journal editor, met with international editors; and Jackie Tome presented a workshop on sex trafficking.



Teaching via Skype

On two occasions this spring, former interns teaching marriage and family classes have invited William Hiebert in to the class via Skype to speak about Carl Whitaker, one of the grandfather's of family therapy. Hiebert, editor of Family Therapy News at the time, edited Whitaker's quarterly columns.

Daniel Stillwell, MFCS intern in 2013-14, now at Pfeifer University (North Carolina), and Terry Shapiro, MFCS intern in 1988-89, now at Aurora University (Illinois), both used Skype to conduct the class.



Terry Shapiro



Daniel Stillwell