

C PERATORS

MMC Funding Updates

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PURPOSE:

We want to keep in touch. Our annual report only gives you the highlights of our year. We want you to know all the wonderful things that are happening. We hope you will be a prayer partner in these endeavors.

Bob & Barbara Zielinski

Executive Co-Directors
Marriage Management

Twogether in Texas, which has been a key funding and information source, was not funded for the new year. Current funding ends August 31, 2011. The program was not eliminated, leaving all providers to seek alternate funding sources. In the last three years, starting September, 2008 we have given marriage education classes to more than 800 people in exchange for \$60 off their marriage license. We are cooperating with AN-THEM Strong Families, Dallas on a new ACF field grant. Our last class was held August 13.

Our speaking efforts for the **Combined Federal Campaign (CFC)** and the **State Employees Charitable Campaign (SECC)** have paid off. We re-

ceived checks for \$948.44 as our first two quarter's pledge payments. We use this money to purchase workbooks for our military classes.

Bob has been busy writing grant applications. It June, the **MGN Family Foundation** awarded us \$4,500 towards programs for soldiers! We have earmarked money for our September and November Camp C.O.P.E. programs. This is a therapeutic weekend camp for children of the wounded, deployed and fallen. MMC partners with Camp C.O.P.E. and delivers a Military Relationship Enrichment on site for the parents while their kids are in camp.

The **Robert Taylor Chapel, Naval Air Station, Joint Reserve Base, Fort Worth** donated \$1,200 on January and another \$1,750 in July to cover the costs of the two classes at NAS-JRB. The Chaplains, Guy Thompson, Christopher Grady, Fleet and Family Service Center and the Family Readiness Officers on base have been outstanding in their support of our efforts to aid military marriages.

Peace Lutheran Church in Bedford, Texas donated \$1,000 from a July 4th Patriotic Celebration to MMC for programs benefiting the military.

Up Coming Events

Fund Raising:

Sept - Dec 2011
Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) and State Employee Charitable Campaign (SECC)
Fairs and speaking events in North TX

Military Marriage Classes

**Sep 24, 2011 and
Jan 14, 2012** at NAS-JRB, Ft. Worth, TX

Camp C.O.P.E.— Wounded Warriors Marriage and Relationship Classes

September 17, Brooke Army Medical Center, TX

November 5, 2011 at Ft. Riley, KS

January 21, 2012, at Fort Hood, TX

May 19-20, 2012 at Mo Ranch, Hunt, TX

2012 TBA at Bethesda/Ft. Bolivar



Special Thanks

OUR SPECIAL THANKS to Bob & Barbara Lovelace who donated \$1,000 for the purchase of a new office computer! Their continual support and guidance are immensely appreciated.

The Navy Fleet and Family Services Center has agreed to fund the September 24 class at NAS-JRB, Fort Worth using training funds they have available.

We re-applied for the Newman's Own Grant this year but we did not get it. However, we were invited to the Award Ceremony September 2. The guest speaker will be the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral Mike Mullen.

We also applied for a grant from the Miller-Coors Company. They skipped Super Bowl commercials and dedicated the funds to helping soldiers. We have not yet heard from them.

If you know of other funding sources, corporate sponsorships or grant opportunities, please let us know. With government money disappearing, we are constantly seeking funding sources that will allow us to continue our work and expand our programs to reach more military families.

Contacts

Through our contact with Camp COPE and with funding from Bob & Barbara Lovelace, we were able to fund an MMC Marriage class for the **1st LAR Marines at Camp Pendleton** last December. See a quote from a participant to the left of this column.

We were contacted by the Chaplain of the 101st Airborne Assault at **Ft. Campbell, Kentucky** to give a retreat for his soldiers just returned from deployment. Unfortunately, Army red tape prevented us from participating. The Chaplain still wants us to come and give a program. We are working on it.

Marriage Conferences

With some creative financing, we were able to attend three marriage conferences this summer: NARME, Better Marriages and National Marriage Encounter.

NARME (National Association of Relationship and Marriage Education) in Houston. The conference

fee was waived by helping with registration and speakers. More than 500 professional attended this conference which replaces the Smart Marriages gathering. We attended several great sessions including Return on Investment grant ideas and a viewing of the film Courageous from the produc-

Administration

Eva Dorsey of ET Consulting in Copperas Cove, Texas is our book keeper and financial cop. She tracks and balances our finances and issues paychecks. She prepares the twice yearly Profit and Loss Statements and keeps us current with the IRS. We would be absolutely lost without her wisdom and guidance.

Thank you Eva!

2011 Counts

Total served 2011 to date:

**Military: 117
Civilian: 150**

Programs Delivered to date:
5 Together in Texas Classes (Funded by Texas)
1 Camp COPE (Mo Ranch)
3 Military Marriage Enrichments

2 @ NAS-JRB, TX
1 @ Grand Prairie, TX

Plus...
2 Marriage Encounter Community Training Days in California and Texas
2 NME Board Meetings in: March in CA, July in WI

ers of Fireproof.

Better Marriages (formerly ACME) in Albuquerque NM. Marriage Encounter paid for a vendor table which we manned. We met with the Executive Director, and many board members at this couple based marriage organization. (Continued on page 3)



...I am learning to say what I am feeling instead of keeping things bottled up and just assuming people know how I feel. I highly recommend Bob and Barbara's "Military Marriage Enrichment" session. Things may seem simple in nature but relationships are complex and often turbulent. Bob and Barbara "get it" and understand the complex side of relationships and help give you the tools for success.

J. A. R.

Master Gunnery Sergeant
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
1ST LIGHT ARMORED
RECONNAISSANCE BATTALION
1ST MARINE DIVISION (REIN),
FMF



What participants say...

The best part about this mission is the wonderful comments we receive from military couples who attend. Here are some, verbatim, from our recent classes:

- This class has been an eye-opener for me. I appreciate it. Hopefully my communications skills will improve with new tools that I have learned today.
- I came in thinking that today was gonna be a drag for 8 hours. Instead, I learned so much and had a blast in class. They made it a very enjoyable day and me and my wife will definitely be attending more of these.
- This class has helped to realize we communicate differently and how to talk to one another. I have high hopes that this will keep us throughout all the years to come. Interested in follow up classes / marriage groups
- You guys did great!
- Keep up the good work! God Bless!
- The course should be available over a weekend period. Interested in marriage follow up.
- Thank you for caring so much about us to take your time to help out our marriage. We will keep attending these classes. You're both amazing at this and I know me and my husband will be married through it all, like yourselves.
- Great lesson and thank you very much for doing this for us that need it. We all appreciate it, and keep doing it because you both do it so well.
- Great information and very helpful for any stage of a relationship.
- Great class. Hopefully we will retain knowledge and apply it to every day situations.
- Thanks. The exercises were good practice! Good covering the points in the materials!
- I wish this or something like it was available at a longer period session.
- Thank you so much. We needed this and these workshops are very helpful.
- These classes should be mandatory for all military returning from deployment.



"I liked interacting with my spouse and seeing other Marines going through the same issues; shows me I'm not alone."

Camp Pendleton Marine,
Recently returned from
Afghanistan



GOAL:

We want to reestablish our programs at **Ft Hood, TX** which has been closed to us since the November, 2009 shooting. Since another shooting was averted this summer, we have decided to hold a program off base. This will add to our costs but will eliminate lots of red tape and create a more conducive environment for the soldiers.

Conferences (from page 2)

We also attended several sessions and were re-certified in the LINKS programs of Dr. John Van Epp. More than 200 couples attended this event. We were also trained as Marriage Enrichment Group (MEG) Leaders.

National Marriage En-

counter held their conference at Stevens Point, Wisconsin preceded by the National Board meeting. We presented a workshop at the conference. We are Trustees for the South Central regions of NME. We introduced the first 6 of 13 Steps for an on-line

audio/visual training tutorial we developed for NME to help presenting couples. Copies were handed out to all affiliates attending the conference. Each lesson is about 20 minutes. Their purpose is to aid couples in understanding the Encounter and preparing their program presentations. We hope to complete this project by January 2012.



Healthy Communication Tips



◆ **Avoid starting sentences with the word “you.” Instead, use “I” statements.**

Example:

Wrong: “You drive like a maniac!”

Better: “I am frightened when you drive like that.”

Wrong: “You never do anything right!”

Better: “I do that a different way because...”

◆ **Be specific in your wants and needs.**

Examples:

Not good: “What do you want for dinner?”

Better: “I want steak tonight for dinner.”

Not good: “I’m tired.”

Better: “I really would like to go to sleep by 10.”

Not Good: “You’re never here when I need you!”

Better: “I feel lonely when you are away.”

Not Good: “Wouldn’t you like to skip TV tonight?”

Better: “I would like some “us” time tonight.”



Marriage should not be a casualty of war!

Barbara Zielinski, 2004

Each couple completing our Military Marriage Enrichment workshop receives one of these military “challenge coins” as a remembrance of the skills learned in the class. We encourage them to “challenge” each other to communicate in a healthy way by presenting the coin to each other in times of challenge, crisis or opportunity.



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Serving those who serve our country.