



Marriage  
Matters  
Jackson

Annual Report 2016-2017

# From the Executive Director

Dear Friends of MMJ,

Marriage Matters Jackson (MMJ) has been serving Jackson and the surrounding areas for 10 years. What an exciting ride! MMJ serves thousands of people annually through our events and workshops to Promote, Prepare, & Preserve Healthy Marriages! In our decade of existence, Marriage Matters Jackson has become a household name as the premier resource for healthy relationship education in Jackson.

This last fiscal year, July 2016-June 2017, was an exciting time of expansion into other communities. We now offer Building Better Marriages (BBM) weekly workshops in Hillsdale and Leawee counties, as well as hosting a second Jackson location in partnership with Northwest Schools. BBM is offered free to participants 48 weeks a year. I know I take lots of notes for my own marriage when I stop in to visit one of our locations. No relationship is too good or too bad to benefit from marriage education!

MMJ offers many other events and workshops – so many my mind is swirling with all the couples we've gotten to know. What a privilege to be a part of their story! I think of couples who started in our 4 Great Dates Before You Say I Do workshop and who are now married and starting their families. They've moved on to MMJ events for married couples so they can keep things healthy and happy. They show me pictures of their new homes, new babies, and new adventures when they come – they know we care about their success as a couple and a family. Some couples we serve find themselves suddenly in one of life's rocky spots, and they use MMJ workshops to patch up and restore their relationship before things get too damaged.

MMJ is here for couples at every age and stage who are working to build, maintain or repair their relationship. The ultimate benefit of strong marriages is children who are being raised in healthy, happy homes. This family structure gives children the greatest chance at their own success in life and love. The future looks bright for this growing organization, as we find new and exciting ways to serve marriages and families -- the foundation of our community. On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of MMJ, thank you for your investment in healthy relationships. With your help we can continue to serve Jackson and the surrounding communities for generations to come.

Hope to see you at an MMJ event soon,

*Shelby Raines*



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# So Why Does Marriage Matter?



Divorce and unmarried childbearing **INCREASE POVERTY** for both children and mothers.



Parental divorce (or failure to marry) increases children's risk of **SCHOOL FAILURE**.



Boys raised in intact families are far less likely to engage in delinquent and **CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR**.



Children whose parents divorce have higher rates of **PSYCHOLOGICAL** and mental illness.



Children who come from a family of divorced parents are 40% more **LIKELY TO DIVORCE** themselves.

# Thank You MMJ Donors!

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\*Donations made in fiscal year 2016-2017

\*Many gifts from donors wishing to remain anonymous

## An important note about future funding...

In December of 2017, the Weatherwax Foundation, MMJ's primary funder, will complete their many generous years of giving to the Jackson community. This provides a unique challenge for Marriage Matters Jackson as we need to find sustainable funding from a mix of other sources, including individual donors, corporate sponsorships, churches and foundation support to keep our work in the community going strong. Because every family is profoundly impacted by the health of its relationships, every community member can find a relevant connection to the work of MMJ.

**Everyone needs MMJ. Everyone can help MMJ. Will you?**

### Volunteers & In-Kind Donors

In 2016-17, 51 volunteers donated nearly 400 hours of their time, some volunteering on several occasions.

Those hours along with various other donations (including services, event spaces, marketing pieces, fundraising auction items and more) helped MMJ raise financial support and serve more people.

#### 2016-2017 Income

Donor Support	\$93,864
Foundation Support	\$217,000
Events & Workshops	\$38,987
Corporate Sponsors	\$21,000

**Total Income: \$370,851**

#### 2016-2017 Expenses

Events & Workshops	\$178,856
Fundraising	\$76,607
Operations	\$70,981
Marketing	\$36,060

**Total Expenses: \$362,504**



# MMJ 2016-2017 Highlights

## Education and Collaboration

More than **900** people served through Marriage Education Workshops:

PICK-A-Partner workshop for teens

- Lumen Christi Catholic School
- Jackson High School
- Hanover- Horton High School
- Columbia Options School
- Homeschool Groups

Marriage Education workshops

- Second Half
- Happy Healthy Marriage
- Building Better Marriages
- Smart Stepfamilies

Pre-marital workshops

- Adventures in Dating
- Ring by Spring

More than **850** people served through Special Events:

- Fall Date-your-mate Event, The Vow
- Valentine's Date-your-mate Event, KISS (Keep It Sweet & Simple)
- Fundraising Dinner & Auction, Sky's the Limit

More than **1,900** people served through Collaboration:

- Employee Matters Workshops
- MMJ Informational Presentations
- Collaborative Educational Presentations

**3,761 people  
served**



