



Dear Friends of Marriage Matters Jackson,

As recently announced, Shelby Raines, the long-time Executive Director, has resigned, as well as the operations staff. We are saddened by the resignations and the loss of years of experience; however, we respect their decisions. We wish them well and great success in their future endeavors.

Please be assured that the mission of Marriage Matters Jackson will continue. We are currently reviewing applications for the position of Executive Director. We have a number of good candidates and expect to have a new Executive Director in place by late summer. In the meantime, in order to ensure the ongoing operations of the Organization, current board member, Canena Adams, has taken an interim leave of absence from her position on the board in order to serve as interim director until a new Executive Director is hired.

Since December, the Board has been evaluating the current business model relative to the funding structure of the Organization as well as the current collective impact model the community has embraced. Those dynamics have been a catalyst to a new business model that the Board is excited about and committed to. It is our hope to partner with other likeminded community stakeholders and leaders, who share the mission and vision of championing families to make healthy decisions in relationships, and in life, by promoting well-being through a primary prevention, avoidance, and protective strategy—in all areas of life.

We are looking to expand our reach within the community, offering online services, using social media as a tool to reach a wider and more diverse audience. We want to be a voice at the table to remind others about the importance of healthy families and healthy marriages and how when families are healthy our community is healthy, our youth are growing up in positive environments, and employers retain good employees. A healthy community starts in the home.

For over ten years we have been blessed with funding from the Weatherwax foundation which allowed us to put on the many incredible events and programs you have come to associate with Marriage Matters Jackson. We are forever appreciative as their kind donations helped sustain us thus far. They have completed their commitment, thus, moving forward, we will need the help and financial support of those who share our mission to continue this amazing work in this awesome community.

We are not abandoning the important programs we already provide and plan to continue Building Better Families and Better Marriages and the great work that occurs in the schools for youth. Through this restructuring we hope to have a greater impact on our community in a way that is financially sustainable and even more impactful.

Once again, we assure you that we, the Board of Directors of Marriage Matters Jackson, are committed to its continuation. We are financially sound; and we firmly believe the changes we are making will ensure the continuation of our mission far into the future.

We have appreciated your support in the past and look forward to your continued support of our essential mission of promoting the value of healthy families and healthy marriages.

Marriage Matters of Jackson Board