



*"All those
'and they lived
happily ever after'
fairy tale endings
need to be changed
to 'and they began
the very hard work
of making their
marriages happy.'"*
Linda Miles

Our Vision

A community where healthy marriage is valued and families are nurtured through education, support and accessible services.

When We Meet

Coalition meetings are held the first Thursday of each month at 9:00 a.m. at The Parenting Center, 2928 West Fifth Street, Fort Worth.

For more information call (817) 275-7576 or visit our website:

www.healthymarriagetc.org

Funded through a grant from the Texas Health and Human Services Commission Community Healthy Marriage Initiative and administered by The Parenting Center.

Healthy Marriage Healthy Families Coalition of Tarrant County

"Strengthening marriages and families through healthy relationships"

World Marriage Day—February 11

World Marriage Day honors husband and wife as head of the family, the basic unit of society. It salutes the beauty of their faithfulness, sacrifice and joy in daily married life.

The idea of celebrating marriage began in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in 1981, when couples encouraged the Mayor, the Governor, and the Bishop to proclaim St. Valentine's Day as "We Believe in Marriage Day." The event was so successful that the idea was presented to and adopted by Worldwide Marriage Encounter's National Leadership.

By 1982, 43 Governors officially proclaimed the day and celebrations spread to U.S. military bases in several foreign countries. In 1983, the name was changed to "World Marriage Day,"

designated to be celebrated each year on the second Sunday in February. **World Marriage Day** celebrations continue to grow and spread to more countries and faith expressions every year.



The Coalition will celebrate World Marriage Day with several events. **Today... Tomorrow... Forever** will take place February 9th through the 11th, and is a two-day program designed for couples seeking Church validation.

CANA Two, scheduled for February 11th, is another program that is intended for couples entering their second marriage.

Here are some ways to celebrate World Marriage Day:

- Read a book together on marriage or attend a marriage communication or enrichment program (see our calendar for upcoming events)
- Take your spouse out for a date
- Display your own wedding album in your home
- Try to find the longest married couple you know and ask them to share their longevity tips
- Take a marriage workshop or class with your partner to show that you care about the health of your relationship.

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Member Spotlight: NewDay Services for Children and Families

NewDay Services for Children and Families hears the cries of those whose lives are affected by divorce or juvenile crime. Whether it is the detained juvenile who faces the consequences of unwise choices, the father on probation for unpaid child support, the woman who is trying to understand what happened to her marriage, or the child who is caught in a bitter custody battle, NewDay hears their cries.

NewDay Services offers help and hope to the children

and families it comes in contact with through the Tarrant County Family and Juvenile Court Systems. That help and hope comes in the form of chaplains, educational classes, and resource referrals within the community to agencies and churches. In another service, the Family Law Center Chaplaincy, a chaplain is available to offer encouragement, emotional support, and physical presence in the court room. Chaplains also make referrals to community resources for

individuals going through divorce or a custody dispute.



For more information about NewDay Services for Children and Families, please visit their website at www.newdayservices.org.

Coalition Members

Aetna Medicaid / CHIP Services
Association for Couples in Marriage Enrichment
Baker Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church
Bethel Temple
Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth
Centro Puerta de Esperanza
Child Care Associates/Head Start
Clarice Marlene Grantt
Community Enrichment Center
Congresswoman Kay Granger
Cornerstone Baptist Church
Department of Family and Protective Services
Dispute Resolution Services of North Texas
Family Pathfinders
Foundation Communities
Funding Information Center
Fort Worth Public Health Department
Great Commission Baptist Church
Hope Center
Jewell Counseling & Education
Lake Dallas Primary
Marriage Management Consultants, Inc.
Mental Health Association of Tarrant County
MHMR of Tarrant County
Muslim Community Center
NewDay Services
One Church One Child
Open Arms Home
SafeHaven of Tarrant County
Samaritan House
San Miguel Episcopal Church
Senator Kim Brimer's Office
Shaken Baby Alliance
TCYC4kids
Tarrant Baptist Association
Tarrant County Fatherhood Coalition
Texas Healthy Marriage and Relationship Initiative
Texas Workforce Commission
The Parenting Center
The Women's Center of Tarrant County
University Church of Christ

Membership is open to individuals and organizations who share the mission and vision of the coalition. Members include churches, non-profit agencies, government offices and community organizations.

FEBRUARY EVENTS

February 1st

HEALTHY MARRIAGE-HEALTHY FAMILIES COALITION OF TARRANT COUNTY

9am. Monthly meeting. **Hispanic Leadership Committee** will meet after the general meeting. The Parenting Center, 2928 West Fifth Street, Fort Worth. Contact: (817) 332-6348.

February 4th

PRE-CANA

A one-day experience for engaged couples to begin their formal marriage preparation process. Contact: Diocese of Fort Worth, Family Life Office (817) 560-3300.

February 5th

AFRICAN AMERICAN LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE HMHF COALITION

10am. Monthly meeting. Bethel Temple Church, 5700 W. Vickery, Fort Worth. Contact: (817) 275-7576.

BALANCING WORK AND FAMILY

Evaluate strategies for solving the unique problems of working parents. Learn effective methods for holding family meetings. Fee: \$20. Contact: The Parenting Center (817) 332-6348.

February 9th

VALENTINE SOCIAL

Enjoy an evening of dancing, fun, fellowship, live entertainment and a delicious dinner! The Radisson Hotel, 100 Altamesa Blvd., Fort Worth. Contact: Sister Mona Wilson or Rev. Estell (817) 433-0008.

February 9th -11th

TODAY...TOMORROW...FOREVER

A marriage enrichment day for married couples planning to have their marriage validated in the Church. Contact: Diocese of Fort Worth, Family Life Office (817) 560-3300.

February 11th

WORLD MARRIAGE DAY

CANA-TWO

This is a marriage preparation program designed specifically for couples with one or both parties entering into a second marriage. Contact: Diocese of Fort Worth, Family Life Office (817) 560-3300.

February 12th

STRENGTHENING STEP-FAMILIES

Decipher new family roles. Discover ways to improve your step-parenting skills & family communication. Learn methods to manage conflict. Fee: \$20. Contact: The Parenting Center (817) 332-6348.

February 15th

HOW TO DATE YOUR MATE

Married but still feel alone? Discover how to incorporate the five languages of love into your marriage. Rekindle the fire; keep your relationship alive! Fee: \$20. Contact: The Parenting Center (817) 332-6348.

February 16th -18th

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Enrichment program designed to give spouses the opportunity to examine their lives openly and honestly in a Christian, face-to-face, heart-to-heart encounter. Contact: (817) 451-6005.

February 24th

ENRIQUEZA SU MATRIMONIO (SPANISH PREP)

Northside Inter-Church Agency, 1600 Circle Park Boulevard, Fort Worth. Contact: (817) 626-1102.

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT

Learn proven strategies to help you preserve lasting love. This class is for you if: you're in a close relationship; you want romance & passion; you'd like to be able to talk together as friends & knock down communication walls. Christ Chapel, 3740 Birchman Ave, Fort Worth. Contact: (817) 275-7576.

February 25th

SPANISH PRE-CANA

A marriage preparation program presented for engaged couples to begin their formal preparation. Contact: Diocese of Fort Worth, Family Life Office (817) 560-3300.



For more information on these and other programs, call (817) 275-7576 or visit our website:

www.healthymarriageetc.org