Upcoming Events

Adopt A Bell
Adopt a child/family in need this holiday season!
November 10-December 15
Contact blippe@mhasck.org

Fatherhood

I joined the ranks of fatherhood at the age of 40 when I married a woman with two teenage daughters. Think about that. A 40 year old bachelor with no kids suddenly becoming a parent to two teenage girls. Teenage. Girls.

As I tried desperately to climb the learning curve, I remembered a phrase that I saw once. "My dad didn't teach me how to be a father. He was a father. And he let me watch." I have an amazing father. And I continued to cling to the hope that some of his amazingness perhaps lay latent within my genes, ready to be called into action when a boy showed up at the front door, or when I was asked to choose between the white bell-sleeve peasant blouse and the peach crochet tunic top.

Not everyone is as fortunate as I. The census bureau estimates that 24 million children in the United States live without their biological father in the house, a statistic with dramatic effects that show themselves in everything from an increased risk of alcohol and drug abuse, to being twice as likely to drop out of high school. However, with the help of grant funding, MHA is able to offer a two-week course each month called Fatherhood which immerses absent biological fathers into a positive and professional environment designed to re-build family connections, create career opportunities, and bolster the self-esteem that is needed for these changes to be sustainable for the long-term.

The change from before and after at each month’s graduation ceremony is unwaveringly extraordinary, and never fails to reduce both family members and MHA staff to tears. If you are a father, or had a father, I encourage you to think about what your life might have been like if you were not as lucky as you and I are. What is that experience worth to you? And could you help another person to be a better father, and a better man? If so, please talk to our Development office about ways to help at 316.651.1241.
Exchanges with Eric

To start off, let me voice a genuine and heart-felt “Thank you!” to each and every person reading this note. If you have received our latest newsletter, it means that you invest not only in the future of our organization, but in the future of a stronger, kinder, and healthier Kansas. And for that, everyone here at the Mental Health Association of South Central Kansas is truly grateful.

Since our last communication, you have undoubtedly already noticed some changes within the organization. Not the least of which is the fact that you are getting this newsletter from me instead of from Bethany. Rest assured that her smiling face is still happily ensconced in the arms of the MHA family. With the constant struggle to secure the financial support needed to address the mental health issues throughout Kansas, Bethany has been asked to take over a full-time position overseeing federal, state and private grants which support many of our important programs. With that change came the need to ensure that our many personal and corporate investors were being well-stewarding to, and I am thrilled to have been allowed the opportunity to join this organization to work hand-in-hand on the various aspects of our organization that are meaningful to each of you.

Over the coming weeks and months, I look forward to meeting many of you in-person. I hope to hear your stories, share in your laughter and your tears, find out what makes you such an ardent supporter of our important mission, and ensure open and transparent communication about how your investment is being used on behalf of those whom we are honored to serve every day.

Allow me to wrap up by saying that I anticipate undertaking a variety of new and exciting challenges in my effort to ensure that the programs under MHA are fully supported, and that we have the dollars needed to grow should new mental health opportunities arise. I hope sincerely that I can count on your continued partnership as we travel this road together. Thank you again for all that you do, and for your thoughts and prayers for our important work.

Many people who do not have the cash to invest in their favorite causes overlook the option of giving non-cash assets! MHA is able to accept:

- Real estate
- Depreciated capital equipment
- Vehicles
- Farm commodities
- Life insurance policies
- Retirement accounts
- Art
- Stamp and coin collections

You DO have the ability to give!
“You can’t take it with you.”

We’ve all heard the phrase. But rarely do we talk about the rest of the story, which is, “If you can’t take it with you, where is it supposed to go?” Heirs. Charity. Taxes. These are the only destinations for the Earthly treasures that you have accumulated throughout your life. And if you have family and friends in need of your gifts, they should rightfully be included in your estate plan. But taxes?

Estate (40%), income (10% - 39.6%), and capital gains (10% - 20%) taxes can be avoided in the planning process. And MHA has a planned giving specialist on-staff who can assist you in removing taxes from the equation, thereby allowing you to be more generous to those persons and causes which mean the most to you. Being forced to split your assets into three categories dilutes your estate, thereby robbing your children and your favorite organizations of the financial support that can make a real difference in their futures. Eliminating the tax burden allows you to split your estate into fewer pieces, giving larger gifts not only to your family, but to your church, your alma mater, and your favorite social services non-profits as well.

The best part is that these options are not only available for those with millions of dollars to give. No matter the size of your estate or the amount of assets you have, you have the ability to be a tremendous blessing by using your will or trust to fulfill your charitable goals. Non-cash assets such as real estate, farm commodities, vehicles, art, coin and stamp collections, and much more can be gifted as well, preserving your liquid assets for family members. In addition, long-term financial investments such as retirement accounts can be gifted to charities without capital gains tax, while your life insurance proceeds flow-through to family, which avoids the income taxes they might otherwise need to pay.

The variables which need to be considered to form a comprehensive plan are as unique as you are, so call the MHA Development Office today at 316.261.1241 for a free consultation which takes all of your lifestyle factors into consideration. You may also fill out the attached response card and return it to us with the enclosed envelope. Thank you so much for your support.

Name: ______________________________________________________________
Email: ______________________________________________________________

___ I am enclosing a gift of $___________ to the Mental Health Association of South Central Kansas. Please direct that gift toward (program or purpose, i.e. Fatherhood, Life University, electric bill, etc.) _________________________________. (If unspecified, your gift will be directed to the area of most immediate need.)

___ I am in the process of creating or revising my estate plan, and would like a free consultation from MHA’s planned giving specialist.

___ I have already included MHA in my estate plan. I am ready for my Bell Society membership gift.

___ I am interested in volunteering with MHA. Please have someone contact me about my options.
Be a part of their success!

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