

The *Informer*

a publication of the Indiana Association of Home Educators

Spring 2016

The *Art*
of Teaching a Skill

Best Advice
for New
Homeschoolers

Solo Act:
Homeschooling as
a Single Parent

2016 IAHE
CONVENTION
INFORMATION
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The Informer Core Values

- To be Christ-focused
- To be Indiana-focused
- To be encouraging
- To be a resource

IAHE

The IAHE is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1983 for the purpose of serving the Lord Jesus Christ by supporting and encouraging families interested in home education. We define home education as parent-directed, home-based, privately-funded education.

Our primary functions are maintaining visibility as home educators with civil government leaders, influencing the legislative process, sponsoring seminars for parent education, and publishing.

The IAHE is governed by a volunteer board of directors. Sixteen regional representative couples are in direct contact with local support groups across the state.

Our major source of income is our annual convention. With the growth of the home education movement, both our needs and responsibilities continue to grow, and we welcome your tax deductible contributions.

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Welcome

a note from the editor

We're growing... again!

Homeschooling is on the rise across the country. Here in Indiana we saw incredible growth across every aspect of our ministry.

To meet the challenge of serving a larger homeschool community than ever before, the IAHE is growing as well. Our volunteer team of Regional Representatives has been expanded. Our Reps work with new homeschool families to get them connected and help answer any questions they may have. With the addition of a new Lead Rep couple and a Facebook Rep couple we're better able to handle the increasing demand for support.

For over a decade the IAHE has operated as an all volunteer organization. The growth over the past couple of years has been demanding for an all volunteer force. Last fall the IAHE Board of Directors made the decision that the time was right to hire staff in order to move forward.

I am honored to serve as the new Executive Director for the IAHE. Indiana is blessed to have an incredible group of leaders in the homeschool community. Our organization is made up of a dedicated, talented, and servant-minded team of people. I am honored to work alongside these incredible volunteers as they work to make Indiana the best state to home educate your children!

We're looking forward to another great year in 2016! If you've ever considered volunteering your time with the IAHE, we'd love to have you as a part of our team.

Visit our website for volunteer opportunities:
<http://www.iahe.net/support-iahe/volunteer-opportunities>

Tara Bentley

Executive Director
Managing Editor

The Informer Magazine

The Informer is published quarterly by the Indiana Association of Home Educators (IAHE) to provide information, inspiration, and support to homeschool families. Subscriptions are FREE upon request. The mailing list for The Informer is never sold or rented.

The articles in this magazine reflect the freedom of home educators in Indiana to choose from a wide variety of homeschool philosophies and teaching methods. Opinions and attitudes expressed in articles do not necessarily reflect the beliefs of the Indiana Association of Home Educators. IAHE does not endorse or advocate any one method or philosophy. The Board encourages each home educator to seek God's will in determining what is best for him, his school, and his students.

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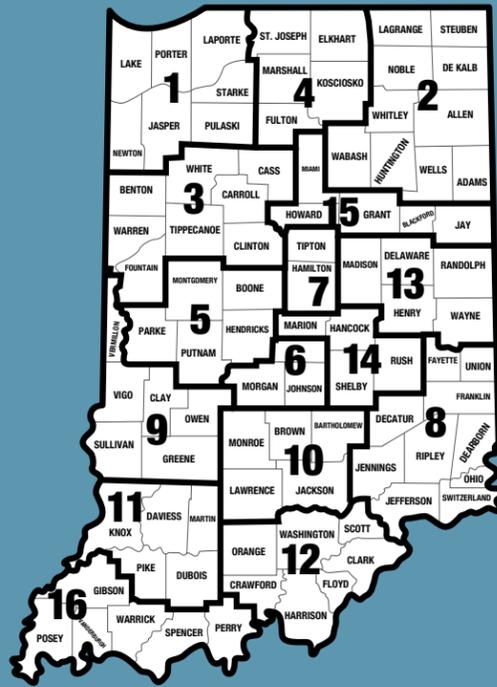
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IAHE Regional Representative Map



To reach your Regional Representative please call **317-467-6244** and dial your Region Representative's extension.

If you do not receive a response in a timely manner, please contact the IAHE office.

Regional Representatives

serve the homeschooling community throughout Indiana. Each representative is a veteran homeschooler who can help answer the questions of a family just starting out. They also communicate with local support groups in their region and keep them up to date on changes in the law and activities throughout the state.

You can contact your regional representative for information about spelling bees, sport clubs, book fairs, curriculum advice, workshops, standardized testing and convention information. They can also help you find a support group in your area, or if none is available, they'll help you start one.

Region 1

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Ext: #201
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Region 2

Kris & Stephanie Reckers
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New Reps for Region

1

Frank & Jessica Dunlap

Frank and Jessica Dunlap currently live in unincorporated St. John Township, between Schererville and Crown Point. They have three children and have been homeschooling since 2013. They attend Faith Church in Schererville – helping with the music & children's ministries there. Homeschooling offers the flexibility they were looking for in education. ■



New Reps for Region

8

Doug & Tina Nelson

Doug and Tina currently live in Dearborn County with their 9 children, ages 1-14. They started homeschooling with their oldest and never looked back. Tina is originally from Germany and married Doug when he was stationed there while in the Army. Doug is the AV Manager for AiG and the Creation Museum. ■

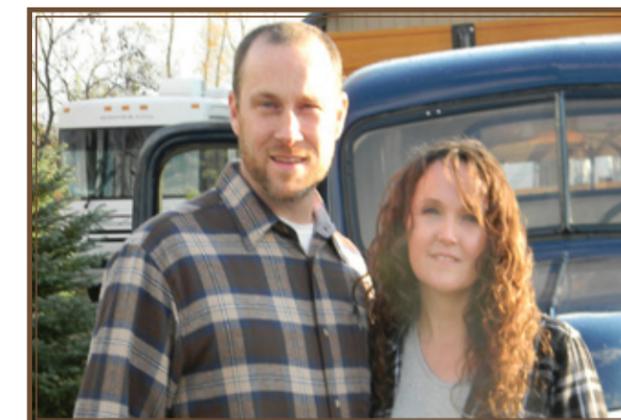


New Reps for Region

2

Kris & Stephanie Reckers

Married for 21 years, Kris and Stephanie live with 7 of their 8 children, ages 8-19, in Howe, IN. Kris is Director of Operations for Troyer Foods. They started homeschooling their oldest son 15 years ago and have never looked back. They enjoy their church, Bible quizzing, gardening, raising animals and good ole family fun! ■



New Reps for Region

14

Jeremiah & Amanda Alexander

Jeremiah and Amanda Alexander live in Hancock County have been homeschooling for five years. Jeremiah works as an accountant within his family's business, while Amanda stays home and raises their four children. They love the freedom and flexibility of homeschooling and are excited to serve Region 14. ■





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Homeschooling is on the rise in Indiana! The IAHE is constantly working to meet the challenges of our constantly growing and changing community. We're excited to announce the addition of our Lead Regional Representative Couple, Jason and Stacy Hanaway. Stacy handles a large number of phone calls each week from new homeschool parents as well as helping to train and encourage our incredible Regional Reps all year long.

Jason & Stacy Hanaway, live with their two sons, on a small farm in LaGrange County. They have been home schooling for the past seven years. Jason is in management with INDOT. Stacy has taught in parochial, public school, and now homeschool! They feel blessed to be able to homeschool and serve other homeschool families. ■



IAHE Government Affairs Interns assist the team with its mission as they interact with the government. They help with Home School Day at the State Capitol, bill reading, and may even have the opportunity to testify on bills during the legislative session. The experience gives interns a behind the scenes view of the effort it takes to protect Indiana home educators' freedom.



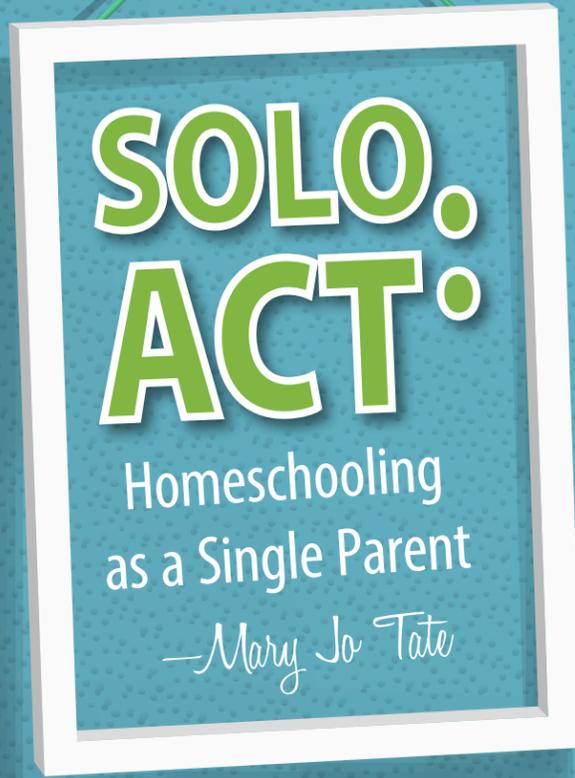
Greetings! I'm Hannah Overdorf, a seventeen-year-old, homeschooler of central Indiana. With more than twenty years of experience in home educating, my parents will be crossing the finish line since in May of 2016, my sister and I will graduate. I am so abundantly thankful to my parents for the bold, counter-cultural step they took in faith to educate me at home, creating an atmosphere prime for growth where learning was the lifestyle. I am passionate about defending this imperative educational and parental freedom and right. I am indebted to those who have sacrificed much to do that for me and all homeschoolers around the state and country. Aside from pursuing government and politics, I dance and teach dance lessons, write, study design and theology, play with photography and sew when necessary. I am very enthused at this opportunity to work with IAHE, however long or short it lasts, and look forward to watching how God will use this opportunity for His purposes.

Hey there. Grace is my name but also the driving force behind who I have become. For fifteen years, my parents have given so much of themselves to disciple me in the Lord. I have grown to enjoy learning for the purpose of greater appreciating who God is and to prepare me to better fulfill the Great Commission. Dance, acting, history, cooking, and vacuuming while singing opera are all ways I love to serve Christ. I believe parents should immerse themselves into the lives of their children, feeding them with an education that encourages and equips them to wage war against the forces of evil and exalt the highest force of God Almighty. Therefore, I will do what I can to make this possible. ■





2016 IAHE
CONVENTION
SPEAKER



Homeschooling can be challenging even under the best of circumstances, but being a single parent increases those challenges exponentially. The physical, spiritual, emotional, and economic support of a spouse is subtracted from the equation, and the work is multiplied. Single parents often struggle with grief, guilt, shame, exhaustion, fear, poverty, loneliness, and discouragement.

The increasing number of single parents choosing to educate their children at home, however, testifies that it can work. Whether you are single through death, desertion, or divorce (or even temporarily on your own through deployment of a military spouse), you and your children will benefit from the togetherness and stability that homeschooling maintains.

I have been homeschooling for eighteen years—fourteen as a single mom to four boys. The number-one question people ask me is “How do you do it all?” My answer comes in two parts: (1) I don’t, and (2) I redefine it all.

DON'T BE A LONE RANGER

None of us—single or married—can rely on our own power in parenting or in homeschooling. But God’s grace is sufficient for us, for His strength is made perfect in weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9).

Some days I really don’t know how I’m going to make it. There’s just not enough of me to go around. I have discovered, though, that the struggle is hardest when I focus on my circumstances and inadequacies rather than on God’s love and providence. Turning my eyes to Him helps me remember to “be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might” (Ephesians 6:10, NKJV).

A support network is helpful for any homeschooler, but it’s essential for single parents. Get involved in a local church and join a homeschool support group in your area. Nurture friendships with like-minded families and seek wise counsel from godly advisors. If you have a home business, find an accountability partner or mastermind team.

Don’t be afraid or too proud to ask for the help you need. It’s wonderful when someone helps without being asked, but people may not know what you need, or they may feel uncomfortable about offering. Many people are happy to help when asked, and they will be blessed themselves by ministering to you.

HAVE REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS

Find peace in the space between the ideal and reality. Your homeschool may not match your highest goals, but you can still make it work. Design a realistic educational plan that you can actually implement rather than wasting time fretting over the gap between theory and practice.

Teach your children together whenever possible, especially for history, literature, and science. Don’t try to do everything yourself. Delegate some instruction to older children, which reinforces their learning as well. Educational videos and software can be helpful in moderation. Audios can be great for reviewing math facts and history dates, and recorded books can supplement live read-aloud time. Participating in a homeschool co-op can multiply your own efforts.

Encourage independent learning as soon as your children become competent readers. Taking responsibility for their own education teaches children important skills that will be useful in college and adult life, gives them opportunities to pursue their own special interests, and encourages them to become lifelong learners.

Give your children real responsibilities around the home. This helps them build confidence and character, and they can find great satisfaction in making a meaningful contribution to the work of the family. You can gradually delegate the running of the entire household to your children. This may require lowering your standards a bit, and at first it is harder to teach them how to do the work than to do it yourself. However, the effort is well worth it. Eventually, this reduces your own workload and prepares your children for adult life.

MANAGE YOUR TIME

Single parents often operate in crisis mode, putting out fires and focusing on the urgent while neglecting the important. However, it’s essential to find a pace you can maintain for the long haul. Time is your most valuable commodity. When you say yes to one thing, you’re saying no to everything else at the same time. Don’t try to do it all; eliminate expendable activities and prioritize your commitments.

My most helpful strategy is setting aside half an hour every Sunday afternoon to review the past week and plan the next week. Dividing your goals into three columns—personal, family, and business—

helps you see quickly whether your life is balanced. An annual review and goal-planning session after Christmas provides long-term perspective.

BALANCE WORK AND FAMILY

The necessity of providing for our families financially, as well as training and educating our children, often presents the biggest challenge to single parents. Working from home is a good option.

Some kinds of work can be done in the midst of busy, noisy family life, but others require quiet time alone. You can work before your children wake up, during their naptime, and after they go to bed, but don’t overdo it—you need adequate sleep to handle all your responsibilities and challenges. If your children visit their noncustodial parent or their grandparents, take advantage of that solo time by focusing on your work to free up more of your time when the kids are at home.

Especially if your children are young, you may need childcare while you work. You might swap childcare with another single mom or rely on volunteers such as grandparents, friends, or people from church. If your income allows, hire a babysitter or mother’s helper to care for your children while you work.

Don’t neglect to make time for fun as a family. Particularly when you work at home, it is difficult to identify when your “work day” is over. It can be hard to pull away when deadlines are looming and the electric bill is due, but taking a break is good for you as well as your children, and it can actually make your work time more efficient. Family fun doesn’t have to be expensive. Visit a local park, have a picnic, watch a DVD, make s’mores, or read a good book together.

TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF

Single parents often neglect taking care of themselves. It’s easy to do when your responsibilities seem like more than one person can handle, but you simply can’t nurture, provide for, and educate your children well if you’re always on the verge of burnout. Take the flight attendant’s advice: put on your own oxygen mask before helping others.

Taking care of yourself isn’t selfish, and it isn’t optional. To be able to handle all your responsibilities, you absolutely must make time for personal rest and renewal. Make sure you’re getting enough sleep, exercising, eating right, and drinking plenty of water.

PERSEVERE AND TRUST GOD

Remember that although the days are long and difficult, the years of bringing up children on your own are only a season. As your children grow older, they will become more responsible and independent, which will lighten your burden.

If God has called you to homeschool your children, He will provide the strength, patience, grace, resources, and time to do it. Let your family and your life be a testimony of His faithfulness. ■



Mary Jo Tate, author of *Flourish: Balance for Homeschool Moms*, is a single mom of four boys and has been homeschooling for eighteen years. An international editor and book coach, she loves to share her passion for reading and writing. Visit her blog at www.FlourishAtHome.com for a free e-book.

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2016 IAHE
CONVENTION
SPEAKER

CONSIDERATIONS

(Legal and Otherwise) for Your Support Group —Darren Jones

We human beings are marvelously inventive in the innovative forms of community that we enjoy, and homeschoolers are no exception. As an attorney with Home School Legal Defense Association, who interacts with dozens of support group leaders each year, I have seen many different kinds of groups that serve homeschoolers. And while each one has a unique character, I have also found some core legal principles that can help many of these groups.

Some homeschool groups are very informal. They might grow organically from a couple of homeschool parents who want to get together once or twice a month, or they might limit themselves to only one or two activities a year. My youngest child is in a weekly co-op this year that caters to toddlers, preschoolers, and kindergarteners, and it consists of only about 15 children. In some states, a co-op like this might be subject to daycare laws—so if you're running a group that deals with preschool-age children being cared for or taught by a non-parent, you should check whether your state has requirements for daycare.

When I was being homeschooled, our family belonged to a co-op that was more structured. We met once or twice a week in the afternoon, and there were usually three hour-long classes (two academic, one physical education). We didn't have any official statement of faith or official membership process; we didn't have to, because all the participants belonged to the same church. But in my years of providing legal advice to support groups, I've talked to a lot of groups that want to focus on helping a particular demographic of homeschooler. Establishing a statement of faith and/or a screening process for new members can be one way to keep the group focused on its mission.

As support groups grow, new issues can arise. Some groups might want to focus on sports. Others may outgrow the member's home where they were meeting and need to rent a local church or community center. Both of these changes could expose a need for liability insurance. If a child breaks a leg while playing volleyball, or a science experiment gets out of hand, having an insurance policy can be important. HSLDA has worked with National Church Group Insurance to set up a website for groups to find insurance that fits their needs: www.homeschoolinsurancesolutions.com.

When groups have non-parents either teaching or providing child care, I advise them to adopt procedures for protecting children and for responding correctly if abuse or other mistreatment occurs within their group activities. This policy should include at least a statement of how your group is going to protect children by training and screening those who work with them. Each state has a different law defining child abuse and neglect, and as part of this law, each state defines which people are required to report abuse. Indiana law is very broad; it states that "an individual who has reason to believe that a child is a victim of child abuse or neglect shall make a report" to the Department of Child Services. I would be happy to talk to you about developing a child protection procedure if your group does not have one yet.

Another way to protect your group is to make sure that you have a secure money-handling process. If your group has membership fees or collects money for special activities like plays or class trips, a surprising amount of money can go through your group's bank account. That means the group leaders need to guard against fraud or negligence. At the very least, two unrelated people should be involved in keeping track of the finances, and a designated person needs to be responsible for any necessary tax filings with the state or the IRS. As you grow, you may want to become incorporated, or file with the IRS to be recognized as a tax-exempt organization. Carol Topp (www.homeschoolcpa.com) has numerous excellent articles about setting up proper financial procedures.

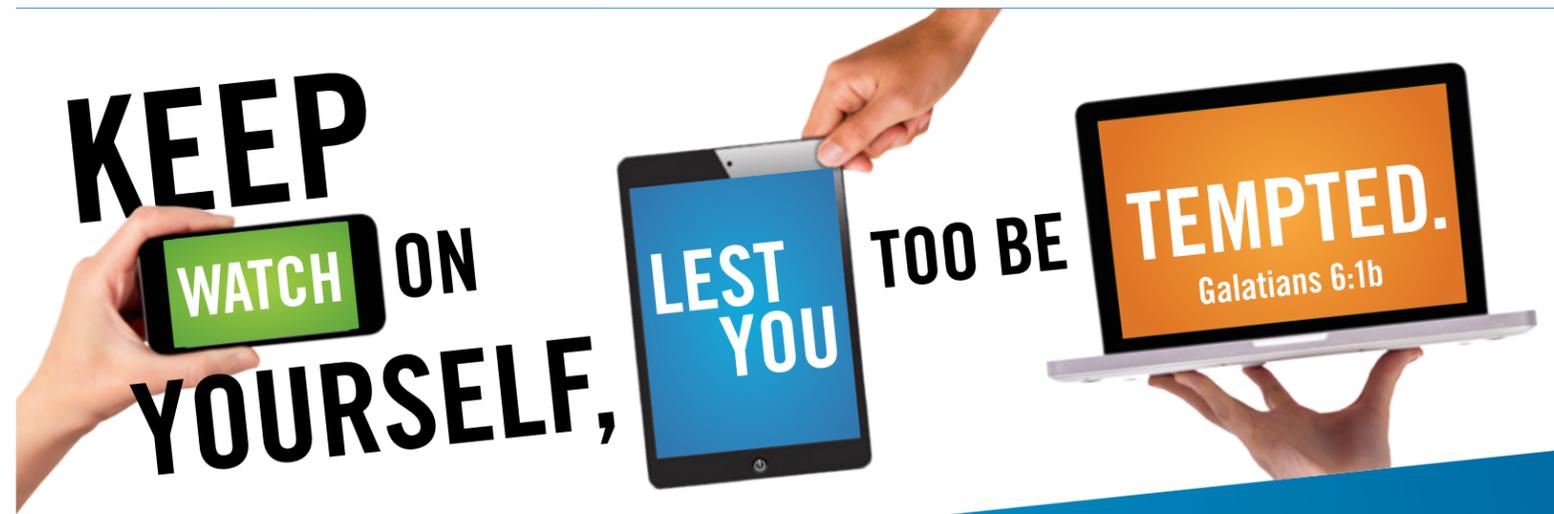
In homeschool groups that are just starting, leadership (if any) is usually provided by the person or people who had the idea—the visionary. But as time passes, that person often moves on to other things. Who takes over now? I have talked to groups that don't have a transition plan, and coming up with one on the fly can be hard. It's a wise idea to figure out what leadership structure you want for your group, and then implement it before an emergency hits. Some groups have very formalized leadership, with annual elections of a board of officers. Other groups are more fluid, with lots of input from the membership, and possibly no real leaders. There are many options for your group, and in fact, your leadership structure and handover process may change through the years.

An Indiana Supreme Court case from 2015 (FACES v. Bridgewater) may have ongoing implications for homeschool groups in the state. In that case, according to the Court, FACES was a group of a dozen or so families who had associated together "to provide homeschool high schoolers with Catholic educational, spiritual, and social enrichment." In fall 2008, FACES planned an "All Souls' Day Masquerade Ball" dinner-dance social event. A dispute came up with a member parent about dietary accommodations. When the two sides did not come to an agreement, the parent filed a complaint with the Indiana Civil Rights Commission, claiming that FACES had unlawfully discriminated against her daughter's disability in a matter "relating to education." The Court ruled that "The alleged disability discrimination thus occurred at a quasi-religious social function, not an educational one," and ruled that the Commission did not have jurisdiction over the matter. However, the decision leaves open the question of whether Indiana's Civil Rights statute applies to homeschool groups in their educational endeavors.

For more information, please check out our website at <http://hslda.org/GroupServices/Leaders.aspx/Legal>. Additionally, I will be speaking at the IAHE conference in April, and I would love to meet with you and help your support group be a success! ■



Darren Jones is a homeschool graduate who received his J.D. from Oak Brook College of Law. While enrolled in law school, he first worked for Christian Solidarity International, a human rights organization assisting persecuted Christians around the world, and later came to work for HSLDA as a legal assistant. Today, as a litigation attorney, Darren assists Jim Mason in preparing cases and defending members who are experiencing legal difficulty.



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The Art of Teaching a Skill

—Andrew Pudewa



Mortimer Adler, in his Padieia Proposal

calling for a return to a classical curriculum, points out one of the major problems of modern education: the confusion of Information, Ideas, and Skills. While Information (facts) is primarily learned through memorization and can be assessed on a percentage-success basis, Ideas are different—they are infinite and can't be easily assessed with the same mechanical right-or-wrong method. "What percentage of the concept of inflation do you understand?" is a nonsensical question, since the concept of inflation could be studied for a lifetime. Discussion is essential for the development of understanding of ideas and concepts.

He goes on to point out that learning a skill is even more different; it can't be developed either by memorization or by discussion. It must be practiced. And the modern problem is that we often try, especially in schools, to teach everything like it's Information, since that's what's easiest to assess, and then we end up teaching to the test. The skill of teaching concepts through discussion and the art of teaching skills

through coaching can both be easily lost somewhere between the Scantron® form and the PowerPoint file.

My professional training and background is in music. I spent the first half of my adult life as a full-time teacher of violin and young children's music classes, so I am acutely aware that coached practice is the key to developing the skill of playing an instrument. Others may have experience in dance or sports, cooking or fine arts—things that humans do, and can only learn by doing. Often we link the idea of artistic activity with creativity and self-expression, but here again we are infected with a modernism that actually impedes the development of skills. "If it's creative, it's good; if it's good, it has to be creative," is the dominant mantra so evident today—a tragedy so often outplayed in the fine arts departments of most universities, where the way to an A is not to draw or paint or sculpt something beautiful, but to do something that no one else has ever done before, no matter how ugly or grotesque.

This, of course, won't work too well in music. Imagine a method of teaching where we give the student a violin and with cursory directions on how to make a sound, encourage him to "be creative" and "express himself." The result won't much resemble music. Twenty years ago, I wrote an article entitled "Why Music May Save the World," explaining that

we music teachers were holding the line, defending the bastion of common sense against the onslaught of deconstructionist modernism attacking the arts.

When teaching music, we prescribe a graded repertoire for the student, and model for him exactly the way to play the pieces. We do this for years, gradually increasing the technical complexity of the material until the student has a solid foundation of basic skills. Then it is appropriate and effective to introduce creative ideas such as interpretation, improvisation, and composition. This should also be the basis for the teaching of writing, a similar artistic skill.

I often hear a well-meaning parent or teacher say to me, "I just want my kids to be able to express themselves in writing." However, the truth is different: Writing is not so much about expressing oneself as it is about expressing ideas. Possibly, we may someday be fortunate enough to have an original idea worth expressing (It hasn't happened to me yet, since I'm pretty sure every idea I've ever had came from somewhere else.), but until then we should practice the skill of writing the way we practice and become excellent in many skills—through imitation and repetition.

Throughout most of history, the arts of language have been taught through memorization and recitation, reading and copywork. Imitation is critical. Even well-known authors like Benjamin Franklin, Jack London, and Somerset Maugham recorded the benefits they obtained through the practice of trying to imitate existing good writing and re-present already well-organized ideas.

So I welcome you to our institute, where we provide materials to assist parents and teachers in helping their students develop an excellent foundation of skills by using models, methods, and checklists. Our approach to teaching composition is not only very old (Think ancient rhetoric.), but is more effective than most anything you will find today. We have received literally thousands of letters and messages from parents of students who have used the IEW system for a few years. They usually score well above their peers on standardized assessments, enjoy writing much more than they used to, win essay contests and scholarships, head into the SAT or ACT with confidence, and write papers which win the acclaim of their university professors. These stories are as common among those who struggled as they are from others.

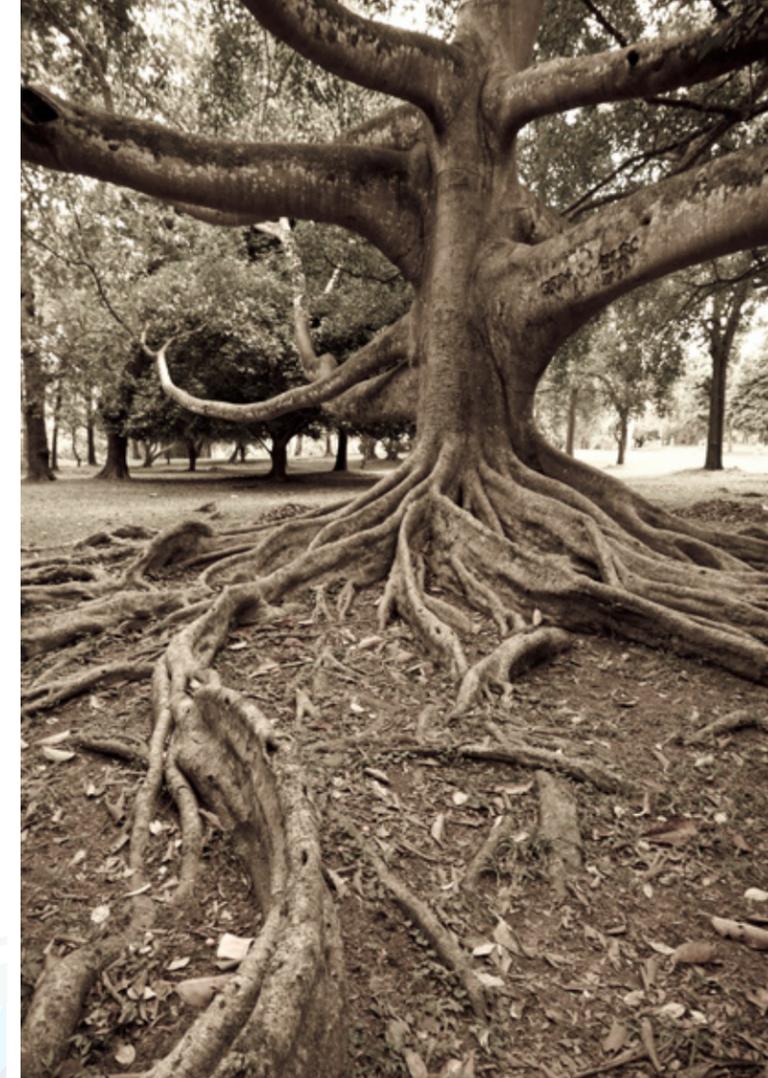
The irony is both sad and beautiful. When originality and creativity are esteemed above all else, basic skills decrease and true artistic expression becomes impossible; however, when basic skills are taught in an appropriate and effective way, creativity flourishes. We at IEW are working hard to restore the lost art of teaching composition, providing tools and techniques you can give to your children so that they will indeed be able to speak and write clearly and confidently in a world that so desperately needs them to do so. ■



Andrew Pudewa is the director of the Institute for Excellence in Writing and a homeschooling father of seven. He addresses issues relating to teaching, writing, thinking, spelling, and music with clarity and insight, practical experience and humor. He and his beautiful, heroic wife, Robin, currently teach their two youngest children at home in northeastern Oklahoma.

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This article originally appeared in IEW's 2013 Arts of Language Magalog. It is available online at IEW.com/articles for your personal use or for distribution. Permission given to duplicate complete and unaltered.



Did You Know?

Your attendance at the IAHE Convention supports homeschooling in Indiana all year long.

As a nonprofit ministry, the IAHE depends on your support to help us Encourage, Protect, and Serve Indiana families. Our annual convention provides the majority of the revenue for our organization each year. It's also an important event for elected officials to see the face of homeschooling in our state.





2016 IAHE
CONVENTION
SPEAKER



How a Homeschooling Mom Keeps Going When the Going Gets Ridiculously Tough

—Kendra Fletcher

We've been homeschooling for seventeen years now. If I'm being perfectly honest, I will tell you that the last seven of those have

been the hardest, longest, and most trying years of my life.

Seven years ago our 7th child was born, and when he was just five months old, I found out I was expecting number 8. I took a cheap pregnancy test in the bathroom of the grocery store where I shop and when it came up with the telltale blue line, I wept. I love every one of these kids, but that pregnancy coming on so close to the one before was like a sucker punch.

Seven weeks after our surprise number 8 was born, I found that sweet baby in a coma. The story is difficult and glorious to tell, but the end result is that he is permanently brain damaged. Six months later, I ran over our five-year-old with our van. Do I even need to say that it was the worst moment of my life? A year later, we woke to find our eight-year-old in septic shock. She, too, lives with the lasting physical effects of an undetected ruptured appendix.

So yes, these past seven years have been the most difficult of my entire life. Nowhere in these years has there been a break from educating the school-aged kids, either. That's one of the hardest things about homeschooling - there are no substitute teachers. I guess the upside is that there isn't a loss of income if I don't show up, either.

Somewhere in the management of this amusingly large family, during the weeks of hospital stays, numerous follow-up visits that are only accelerating this year for our brain-injured guy, and other inevitable detours amongst the daily grind, I've had to learn how to keep going.

Thrive? Sometimes. Not always. And really, there have been

long-suffering months of barely keeping my head above water. Heck, there have been weeks on end of feeling like someone's strong hand was pushing my head under the water and feeling very, very small.

In my puniness, I had no place to go but to Jesus. That's always the only option, but when I'm not feeling pressed, I tend to shift my hope to pretty nearly anything else. Because I'm a stupid human, and aren't I so crazy thankful that Jesus stands in my place, in spite of me.

There are gifts, though. Scripture reminders through the songs my kids are singing in the kitchen, long showers where no one can interrupt my thoughts or tears, and working out to let the pressure roll out of my muscles.

You have been given gifts, too. When the hard work of homeschooling collides with the unexpected catastrophes of living here on earth, remember Who saved you and look for the gifts. If it all feels like too much of a burden to bear, then somewhere along the line we have yoked ourselves to something that He did not. Where in the midst of the crumbling chaos are the gifts that God has given you? He faithfully doles out wisdom in generous measure so that the burden and yoke He places upon us is light. And there are answers, even if the answer is to stop homeschooling.

Let's talk about that soon. ■



Kendra Fletcher is the mother of 8, speaker for groups and conferences around the country, author of several books, and podcaster on HomeschoolingIRL. Her articles have appeared in a variety of publications, including Crosswalk.com, Arizona Home Education Journal, The Old Schoolhouse Magazine, and Washington Family Magazine. Reprinted with permission from the Homeschooling in Real Life blog, owned by Kendra Fletcher. Originally posted March 7, 2014.

Want to hear more by the Fletchers?

Listen to two of their popular podcasts by scanning the QR codes below, or visit their website at

www.homeschoolingirl.com

Podcast Episode #45:

Losing Our Religion



Podcast Episode #83:

Homeschooling is a Buzzkill Remix



EXPERIENCE BETHEL COLLEGE

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today!



FIND YOUR FIT AT BETHEL

A campus visit is the best way to find the right college for you. We offer individual and large group visits throughout each semester.

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- **Individual Visit** – Personalize your visit and experience chapel, attend a class or meet with a professor.
- **Group Visit** – Choose your day and we'll provide a campus tour, informational session, a class visit and a meal.

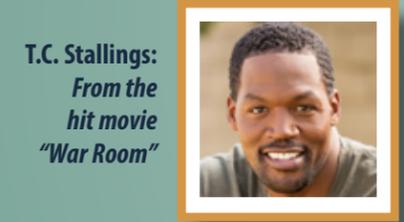
No matter how or when you visit, consider taking in a music or theatre production, or attending a Bethel sporting event while you're in town. Get the full experience! Register today! BethelCollege.edu/Visit

BETHEL COLLEGE
INDIANA



April 29th & 30th, 2016
 Elements Financial Blue Ribbon Pavilion
 Indiana State Fairgrounds
 Parking \$5 per entry

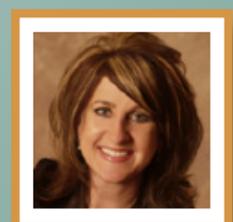
Our Featured Speakers



T.C. Stallings:
 From the hit movie
 "War Room"



Andrew Pudewa:
 Institute for Excellence
 in Writing



Linda Lacour Hobar:
 The Mystery of History



Hal & Melanie Young:
 Raising Real Men

And More! Register Online: www.iahe.net

DOORS OPEN
 Friday & Saturday
 8:00 AM

	PRE-REG Jan 1 - Mar 20	1 DAY	2 DAY	EXHIBIT HALL ONLY	CREW 4:12
<i>Pricing</i>		At the Door	At the Door	At the Door	Per Teen
Individual	\$45	\$40	\$65	\$30	\$25
Family*	\$75	\$65	\$90	\$50	

*A family is defined as Parent(s) or Guardian(s) and any children, currently residing at home, as well as any grandparents who are not the primary home educator.



A Special
THANK YOU
 to Our Event Sponsors

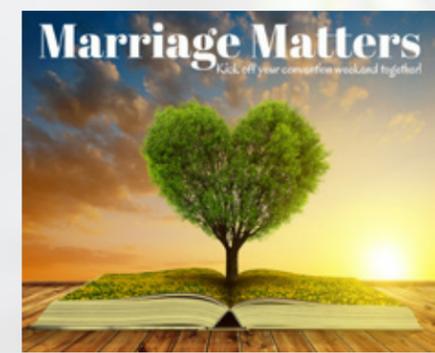


Pre-Convention Events

Join us for special pre-convention events on Thursday, April 28 at the Indiana Farm Bureau Building, Indiana State Fairgrounds. Parking is free for all Thursday night events! See our map on page 19.



IAHE's FREE Info Night: Yes! You CAN Homeschool!
 Are you or someone you know considering the possibility of homeschooling? This informative workshop is geared to help parents get answers to the many questions they have. Veteran homeschooling parents will be on hand to give an overview of home education in Indiana followed by a Q&A session. This event is free to everyone but we request pre-registration on our website.
Time: 7:00-8:00 pm



Marriage Matters
 A Dessert Reception with Hal & Melanie Young and Andy & Kendra Fletcher
 \$20 per couple
 Space is limited!
Time: 6:30 to 9:00 pm

Marriage Matters Dessert Reception Topics
Romance For The Exhausted- The Youngs
 In the flurry of work, homeschooling, church, and extracurricular activities, romance and physical affection can sometimes seem like unattainable dreams. How can you find the energy for romance? Revive your marriage and enjoy your relationship more every year. For the married, engaged, & nursing babes only.
MarriageIRL: How Hard Times Make a Marriage Better - The Fletchers
 Every marriage has its ups and downs, but is it possible that the down times can produce something wonderful?

Workshop options all day • Choose your own lunch break • Expanded lunch seating • Food service available all day



- 8:00am** Registration Open
 - 8:00am** Exhibit Hall Open for **CONVENTION** Attendees
 - 8:45-10am GENERAL SESSION**
 - Friday Session: Leadership Education: The Seven Keys of Great Teaching with Andrew Pudewa
 - Saturday Session: The Pursuit: Becoming Passionate about Pursuing God's Purpose for Your Life with T.C. Stallings
 - 10:00am** Exhibit Hall Open for **EXHIBIT HALL ONLY** Attendees
 - 10:30-11:30am** Workshop
 - 12:00-1:00pm** Workshop
 - 1:30-2:30pm** Workshop
 - 3:00-4:15pm GENERAL SESSION**
 - Friday Session: The High Calling of Home Education with Linda Hobar
 - Saturday Session: Never Give Up: The Critical Importance of Finishing What You've Started with Hal & Melanie Young
 - 4:30-5:30pm** Workshop
- Exhibit Hall Closes (Friday @ 6:30pm, Saturday @ 6:00pm)**

Workshop Tracks for Beginning Homeschooling, Struggling Learners, Preschool, High School, and more!
 Visit our website for a full workshop schedule: www.iahe.net

Speaker Bios



ANDREW PUDEWA
Institute for Excellence in Writing

Andrew is the founder, principal speaker, and director of the Institute for Excellence in Writing (IEW®). Presenting throughout North America, he addresses issues relating to teaching, writing, thinking, spelling, and music with clarity, insight, practical experience, and humor. His seminars for parents, students, and teachers have helped transform many a reluctant writer and have equipped educators with powerful tools to dramatically improve students' skills.

- Leadership Education: the Seven Keys of Great Teaching
- Paper & Pen: What the Research Says
- Fiction, Fairy Tales, and the Moral Imagination
- The Four Language Arts
- What to Do When a Child Can't Write
- The Profound Influence of Music on Life



LINDA LACOUR HOBAR
The Mystery of History

Linda Lacour Hobar, author of *The Mystery of History*, is a passionate follower of Christ, a genuine people-person, and a fan of comfortable high-heels. Through homeschooling and missionary service, she discovered a deep love for world history and a clear call to write. In its 13th year of worldwide circulation, *The Mystery of History* has been well received by all ages for its warmth and readability.

- The High Calling of Home Education
- When Bible History & World History Meet Face to Face
- Unleashing the Power of World History
- Bad Boys of the 20th Century!
- Mary & Martha Decide to Homeschool: A Workshop for Marys Only



HAL & MELANIE YOUNG
Raising Real Men

Fresh from a state tax audit to prove that yes, they're all ours, Hal and Melanie Young, authors of the Christian Small Publishers Association 2011 Book of the Year, *Raising Real Men*, are parents of six real boys and two real girls. They have homeschooled through eight high-risk pregnancies, three re-locations, two decades, and 181 degrees of longitude.

- Never Give Up - the Critical Importance of Finishing What You've Started
- Ballistic Homeschooling: Teaching Boys
- Raising Real Men
- Media-Proofing Your Kids
- Shining Armor - Your Son's Battle for Purity



SPECIAL GUEST: T.C. STALLINGS

Starring in the 2015 hit movie "War Room", T.C. Stallings is an actor, speaker, and author of "The Pursuit: 14 Ways in 14 Days To Passionately Seek God's Purpose For Your Life." T.C.'s main mission is to use all of his gifts to share the message of Christ, and to encourage anyone who will listen to do the same.

- Pursuing Your God-Given Purpose
- Playing on God's Team



ANDY & KENDRA FLETCHER

HomeschoolingIRL

Kendra and Fletch produce the popular *HomeschoolingIRL* podcast. Kendra also blogs at *PreschoolersandPeace.com* and *KendraFletcher.com*, and Fletch blogs at *TheMangoTimes.com*. The Fletchers reside in Central California, where they've homeschooled for 19 years, make pizzas in a brick oven, and play in the Pacific Ocean as often as possible.

- Preschoolers and Peace: Homeschooling Older Kids With Success While Loving the Little Ones at Your Feet
- Choosing Curriculum - Science For Moms Who Don't Like Science
- College Admissions for Homeschoolers
- Homeschooling Will Save Your Kids - Hope Shifting and How It Will Kill Your Homeschool



FAITH BERENS

HSLDA Special Needs Consultant

Faith Berens, M.Ed./Reading Specialist holds a master's degree in reading and has over 15 years of teaching experience in both public and private Christian schools, serving as a classroom teacher, Reading Recovery® teacher, reading specialist, and educational therapist. Her areas of expertise are early childhood literacy, reading assessment, and the identification and remediation of reading difficulties.

- Tackling Tricky High School Issues: Practical Help and Guidance for Homeschooling High School Students with Special Needs
- Teaching Struggling Learners At Home: Nuts and Bolts for Success
- Dyslexia Demystified—Definitions and Hope for Homeschoolers
- Developing and Drafting SEP's (Student Education Plans)
- Reading Difficulties: Remediation Strategies and Techniques (2 sessions)



PETER HECK

PeterHeck.com

Peter Heck is an author, speaker and teacher. In 2011, Peter published his first book, *78: How Christians Can Save America*, followed by *Believe: A Confrontation with Christianity's Biggest Challenges* in 2012, *ME: America's Deadly Obsession* in 2014, and *FAMILY* in 2015. Between 2004 and 2015, The Peter Heck Radio Program was heard on over 200 radio stations across the United States in cooperation with the American Family Radio network.

- EXILE
- Family First
- One More Minute
- Killing ME



DARREN JONES

HSLDA

Darren Jones received his J.D. from Oak Brook College of Law. While enrolled in school, he first worked for Christian Solidarity International. He later came to work for HSLDA, where he worked with members who were experiencing legal difficulty in their homeschooling. As a litigation attorney, Darren assists Jim Mason in preparing cases and defending members experiencing legal difficulty, as well as advising homeschool support groups on their legal rights.

- Going the Second Mile: Support Groups and Homeschool Families in Crisis
- Problem-Proof Your Support Group



MARY JO TATE

Flourish At Home

Mary Jo Tate, author of *Flourish: Balance for Homeschool Moms*, is blessed with four wonderful sons and has been educating them at home since 1997. She teaches moms how to balance their busy lives and how to find peace in the space between the ideal and reality. Mary Jo hosts the "Flourish at Home" radio show for the Ultimate Homeschool Radio Network and is the author of several books.

- Just Say No: Overcoming Interruptions and Distractions
- FREEDOM: Practical Strategies to Help You Flourish At Home
- How Do You Do It All? Balancing Family Life and Home Business in the Real World
- Single-Parent Homeschooling: How You Can Make It Work

Speaker Bios



KATHY LEE

The Homegrown Preschooler

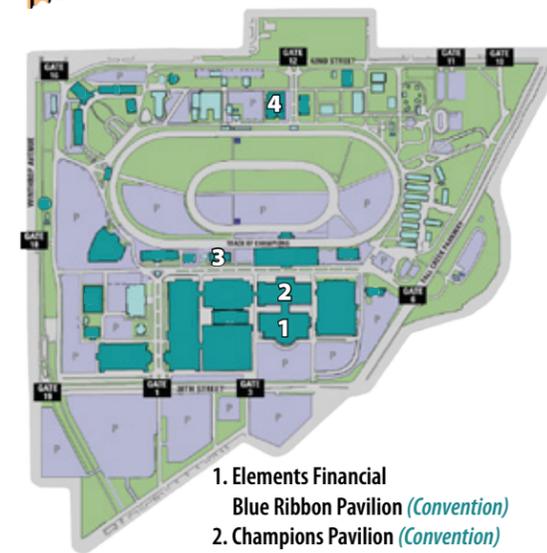
Kathy H. Lee, has been dedicated to the well-being of young children for over 25 years. As a former teacher and administrator, Kathy has extensive experience in the field of early childhood education. She is the mother of ten children, both adopted and biological, and enjoys sharing her journey of imperfect motherhood. A sought-after speaker worldwide, Kathy is most often described as a passionate, experienced, and humorous presenter.

- What Every Mother of a Preschooler Needs to Know
- Turning Your Preschoolers into Life-Long Learners
- Discovering a LOVE for Language Arts
- A Year of Playing Skillful - Getting Organized for Young Learners

For an updated list of our all of our speakers, visit www.iahe.net/convention



INDIANA STATE FAIRGROUNDS & EVENT CENTER



1. Elements Financial Blue Ribbon Pavilion (Convention)
2. Champions Pavilion (Convention)
3. Grand Hall (Convention)
4. Farm Bureau Building (Thursday Night: Pre-Convention)

Exhibitor List*

*Up to date as of 2/9/16

Apprentice University
A Beka Book
ACE Accelerated Christian Education
Allon Books
Alpha Omega Publications
American Christian Fiction Writers - Indiana Chapter
American Heritage Girls
Americans for Prosperity
ARKY's Bookstore
Because of Jesus Films
Berean Builders
BJU Press/HomeWorks by Precept
Bows By Lisa Luann
Brinkman Adventures
Christian Liberty Press
Circle C Adventures
Classical Conversations
Compass-Finances GOD's Way
Daughters of Decision
Demme Learning
Discovery Toys
Doorposts
Eden's Hope Farms
Entrusted Ministries
Eternity At Stake
Explorer's Bible Study

Flourish At Home
Foreign Languages for Kids by Kids
Gravitas Publications
Good Steward Books
Grace College Indianapolis
Here To Help Learning
Home Pasture Essentials
Home School Legal Defense Association
Homeschooling IRL
Indiana Association of Home Educators Action, Inc.
Indiana Homeschool Soccer Association
Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites
Indianapolis Children's Choir
Institute for Excellence in Writing
IUPUI SPAN Division
Jamberry
Juice Plus+
Landmark's Freedom Baptist Curriculum
Larry Winkelman Microscope Service
Lifeline Christian Fine Arts Academy
Memoria Press
Miller Pads & Paper
Millie Samuelson
Nature's Workshop Plus!
Noble Rose Press - Breezy Brookshire
Notgrass History

Ohio Christian University
Paoli Peaks
Patrick Henry College
Pensacola Christian College
Peter Heck
Rainbow Resources
Raising Real Men
Right to Life of Indianapolis
RightStart Mathematics by Activities for Learning
Rod & Staff Publishers
Samaritan Ministries
Solomon's Secrets
Sonlight Curriculum
StudiGuns
Teaching Textbooks
The Etiquette Factory
The Harp School, Inc.
The Homegrown Preschooler
The Master's Study
The Mystery of History
Total Language Plus
United Art & Education
WriteShop
Young Living Essential Oils
YWAMPublishing.com



Open to all attendees, Learning Express offers unique activities and workshops designed for families with 5-12 year olds. Different sessions will be offered each day with select booths presenting educational activities throughout the Exhibit Hall.

With: Firefighters Survive Alive, Aviation Technology Center, Indiana FIRST Robotics, pencil drawing with illustrator Breezy Brookshire, and Game Play Stop with Historical Conquest & Blocks Rock.

Featuring Hal Young as Theodore Roosevelt The Most Interesting American (Hal Young)

That's what a famous journalist called Theodore Roosevelt—and you'll agree after hearing Hal Young portray the president, big game hunter, naturalist, soldier, and father we all admire. Hear highlights of his exploits, enjoy his favorite stories from history, and revel at his not very politically correct, but quite true, opinions, as you travel back in time a hundred years to visit with a giant among Americans.

Hotel Information: Convention 2016

NOTE: Be sure to mention IAHE when you book your rooms to ensure our special convention rates.

Hampton Inn – NE/Castleton \$99/night
 21 min./ 8.7 miles from Fairgrounds
 6817 E. 82nd Street, Indianapolis, IN 46250
 317-576-0220
 "Free hot breakfasts, clean and fresh Hampton bed, free high-speed internet access in every room, gym/fitness center use".

Reservations deadline: 4/9/16

Staybridge Suites Indianapolis-Fishers \$109/night
 18-22 min/10 miles from Fairgrounds
 9780 Crosspoint Boulevard, Indianapolis, IN 46256
 317-577-9500
 "On-site Guest Self-Laundry Facilities, Complimentary Breakfast Buffet, Standard Wireless Internet service is free for all members, On-Site Fitness Center Available"

Reservations deadline: 3/28/15

*Please note: Changes to reservations can be made up to 24 hrs. prior to arrival date. Cancellation of the entire reservation after 3 days prior to arrival will result in a fee in the amount of 1 night Room + Tax.

Things to Know When Coming to Convention

EXHIBIT HALL

"Did you know?"

Purchasing your curriculum onsite during the convention is an easy way to support our event and keep the Exhibit Hall full every year!

Many organizations, publishers, and businesses serving the homeschooling community will be represented – displaying textbooks, teaching materials, and enrichment aids for on-site examination and purchase. Your convention registration includes unlimited access to the Exhibit Hall, Please support our exhibitors with your patronage.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Registration fees are nonrefundable. Unredeemed registrations are considered a tax-deductible contribution to IAHE and, upon written request, we will provide a receipt for tax purposes.

VOLUNTEERS

The IAHE depends on the generous support of Indiana homeschool families.

We are grateful for the individuals that assist us with many different tasks and events throughout the year, including our Convention. Our event staff is a combined effort of adult volunteers and Crew 4:12 participants. If you enjoy being involved through serving, please send an e-mail to volunteer@iahe.net for more information

"EXHIBIT HALL ONLY" PASS

This pass allows access to the Exhibit Hall only and is available only at the Registration Booth beginning at 10:00 A.M. each day and valid only on the day of purchase. The pricing per day is

\$30/individual and \$50/family. (A family is defined as Parent(s) or Guardian(s) and any children currently residing at home.) Toddlers three (3) years of age or younger are free but must be carried or in a stroller. A grandparent is welcome to attend free with a paying adult.

HANDICAP ACCESSIBILITY

The convention workshops and Exhibit Hall are handicap accessible.

AUDIO TAPING

Most workshops presented by the featured speakers will be recorded so that you may review or share the messages with others long after the convention. Please check the program book for the location of the booth where recordings are sold.

FOOD

The concession stand in the Elements Financial Blue Ribbon Pavilion (Exhibit Hall) will be open during all convention hours. To help with your planning, visit our On-Site Dining Options on our website. You may also bring your own food in coolers, stocked with food from home or picked up from grocery stores or restaurants on the way!

PARKING

The Indiana State Fairgrounds charges \$5/day per vehicle. Please be advised that there is no re-entry without charge. As you might expect, plenty of parking is available and free shuttle service is available as well both morning and evening for those parked at a distance.

Grandparents



Did you know that non-homeschooling grandparents are free with a family registration? Bring along a grandparent and let them experience the incredible homeschool community up close.

Children



Children are welcome throughout our convention. Please be sensitive to the other attendees and try to sit toward the back of the room so that you can easily take your children out if they become disruptive. Please be aware that sessions are recorded. We also ask that you keep seats available for adults and allow some of your little ones to sit on your laps or on the floor by you if additional seating is needed. All children in the Exhibit Hall age three (3) and younger must be carried or in a stroller. This is for their safety and the safety of others.

Bringing a child to the convention who needs a little extra sensory input to keep calm and busy while you shop and learn? IAHE will be lending out a limited number of sensory bags on a first come, first served basis. Bags will include some of the following: bean bags of different textures, tagged fabric, glitter bottles, and other sensory items for your youngsters to enjoy.

Visit the IAHE Showcase Booth for more information. ■

CREW 4:12

OHIO CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

Come and meet other homeschooled teens from all over the state!

Be prepared for a high-energy, fun, and challenging convention that meets you where you are. Space is limited. Be sure to register today! CREW 4:12 participants will engage in a three-pronged convention track that is specifically tailored to their age group, interests, and needs. Teens will be challenged to think deeply, serve others, and make new friends through workshops, service, and team-building activities. Workshops feature Andrew Pudewa, Peter Heck, and T.C. Stallings.

- \$25 per attendee
- Includes a Crew 4:12 t-shirt and lunch for both days
- Crew participants must be registered as a part of their parent or family's convention registration.
- Teens ages 13-18 are eligible to attend.
- Check-in: 8:00 am Friday & Saturday
- Release: Friday at 4:30 pm, Saturday at 5:30 pm

New plans for 2016 include more interaction with team leaders, skits, exciting team building activities, group devotions, and fantastic workshops that will bless the socks off of teenagers! Are you signed up for Crew 4:12 in 2016? If not, you will not want to miss out! Watch the Crew 4:12 webpage at www.iahe.net as more details are released and important information is announced.

Dan & Shawn King are excited to be leading Crew 4:12 in 2016! Dan has served as a youth pastor for over 11 years and currently pastors a church where Shawn and her 18 year old son, Danny, help run the youth program each week. From youth rallies to summer camp, rock climbing to kayaking, and every other youth activity one can imagine, the King family enjoys being very involved in the lives of teenagers. The Kings also have three other teenage children who are already busy behind the scenes planning Crew 4:12 activities with their parents. They cannot wait to spend the 2016 Convention weekend with 160 of the state's finest teenagers!



We look forward to meeting you at the 31st Annual IAHE Home Educators' Convention!

Be sure and stop by the IAHE Showcase Booth and meet your Regional Rep.



Save a stamp by registering online at www.iahe.net.

Amazing School spaces

31st Annual IAHE Home Educator's Convention at the Indiana State Fairgrounds April 29th-April 30th, 2016

Registration Type: Individual Family

Attendee Information

Please print clearly.

Name _____
First Last

Spouse's Name _____
First Last

Total Number of Children Attending # _____

Names of Children Attending (ages 4 and up) TEEN CREW 4:12 (ages 13-19)

First Last

Contact Information

Address _____

Phone () _____

Mobile () _____

Alt Mobile () _____

Email _____

Attending Grandparents' Names
Must not be the primary home educator.

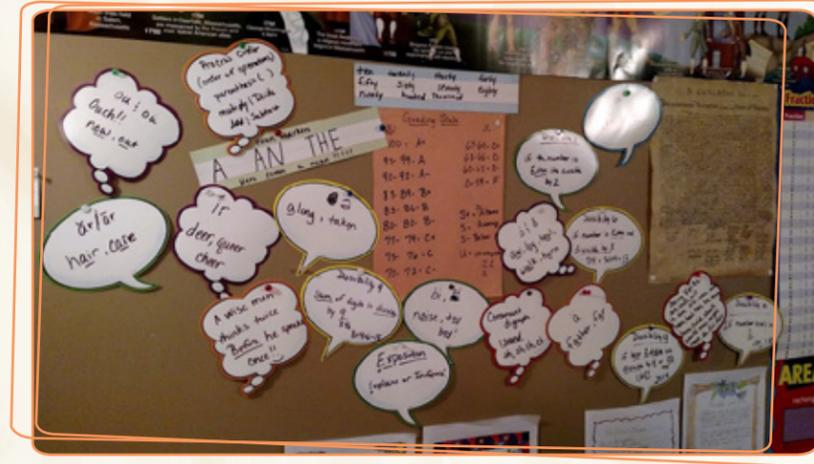
First Last

First Last

First Last

First Last

For more information on our Teen Crew 4:12 opportunity, visit our website at www.iahe.net!



resources: ● <http://littlebits.cc> ● www.holeycards.com ● <https://education.lego.com>

Welcome to our school room! My boys are 4th and 6th grade, and 11. I believe in making learning enjoyable by supplying them with items they enjoy, and we explore educational concepts through play. The boys really enjoy LEGO, so we got them the motors that go along with them as well as littleBits. Through their play they are learning about science, physics, circuitry, mathematical practices and using their imaginations and creativity.

I like posters, maps, timelines, notebooks, manipulatives, all types of informational books, and all types of art supplies; colored paper, scissors, woodburning tools, leatherworking tools, paints, stencils. We use Holey Cards for math speed drills, things I can write on to put up helpful reminders. We have animals in our classroom... a cat, two small dogs, and two birds. We also have a telescope and microscope, as well as magnifying glasses.

I supply them with a wide variety of written information. Our home library has fiction, nonfiction, fantasy, picture books, quick reads, and many forms of historical literature. Though it may look a little like a traditional "schoolroom" it is a fun space for them to explore and learn. My space has to be functional but fun. My children like the idea that if they feel in a rut with book learning they can get their juices flowing by moving to a different area of the room to explore something new.

Show us your learning space! Contact us for details on how to show off your space in a future issue of the *Informer Magazine*.



Jason & STACY HANAWAY live with their two sons, on a small farm in LaGrange County. They have been homeschooling for the past seven years. Jason is in management with INDOT. Stacy has taught in parochial, public school, and now homeschool! They feel blessed to be called to homeschool.

PAYMENT INFORMATION	Pricing	EARLY BIRD	PRE-REG	1 DAY	2 DAY	EXHIBIT HALL ONLY	CREW 4:12
		Oct 23-Dec 31	Jan 1-Mar 20	At the Door	At the Door	At the Door	Per Teen
Total: _____	Individual	\$35	\$45	\$40	\$65	\$30	\$25
Amt Enclosed: _____	Family*	\$60	\$75	\$65	\$90	\$50	

*A family is defined as Parent(s) or Guardian(s) and any children, currently residing at home, as well as any grandparents who are not the primary home educator.





2016 IAHE
CONVENTION
SPEAKER

Keeping *the* Republic *at* Home

—Alison Slatter

Benjamin Franklin once said to Samuel Johnson, “Nothing is of more importance for the public weal, than to form and train up youth in wisdom and virtue. Wise and good men are in my opinion, the strength of the state; more so than riches or arms.”

Benjamin Franklin, however, also told us we have been given a republican form of government so long as we can keep it. What did he mean?

Franklin’s basic argument is that maintaining a republic requires the active participation of wise and virtuous citizens. Without participation from large numbers of well-informed citizens we could find ourselves in a situation where governing power become increasingly concentrated. This is an outcome the founders were trying to avoid because a concentration of power tends to lead to a loss of freedom.

So, what should we do to maintain the republic? First and foremost, we should recognize our duty and responsibility to be civically involved and knowledgeable, which means training our children in citizenship and the obligations that come with being blessed to

be American. Civics is very simply the study of the privileges and obligations of citizens.

As most homeschooling families already know, parents are tremendously influential in modeling behavior to their children. We can help our children understand the importance of being involved by setting an example. At the age of fourteen, I was a rather reluctant participant in civics. However, twenty-six years later (eight of which I worked on and around Capitol Hill), I am so grateful my parents and grandparents made civics a priority.

Fortunately, participation in civics can easily be incorporated within a homeschool program and involve the whole family. The best way to get started is to contact your local political party. Plugging into a political party in your county is as easy as picking up the phone or sending an email. Most parties have an email list where they regularly send out volunteer opportunities.

Usually, volunteer opportunities involve picnics, fundraisers, rallies, parades, phone banks, mailings and door-to-door canvassing. Attending candidate forums and town hall meetings also provide opportunities to engage in civics. Most of these events are family-friendly and are excellent ways to meet the elected officials of that party.

It also helps to find a candidate you can support. Parades, for instance, which often occur throughout the year, are a great way to work in a bit of physical exercise as well as advocate for your



chosen candidate or party. Wearing a candidate t-shirt as you shuttle between activities is another way to be an advocate.

Of course, all candidates need volunteers during the election season to call potential voters and go door-to-door in neighborhoods. If you offer to canvass your neighborhood, you will get the chance to introduce yourselves to your neighbors. Through participation and parent modeling, your children will practice being able to talk to anyone regardless of age or affiliation and work on phone etiquette skills by learning how to speak with people they are meeting for the first time.

Advocating for a candidate is not complete until election day, however. In addition to volunteering to take shifts representing a candidate outside a polling site, political parties also need workers to serve as clerks and judges inside the polls.

Thankfully, civic involvement is not confined to elections. An example of a great opportunity for your middle or high school student is to apply to be a page for a day during the legislative session at the Statehouse in Indianapolis. A student must apply through their State Representative or State Senator. Applications are usually posted on the official websites in December and January. In January, IAHE will hold a Legislative Day for homeschoolers to engage their government through a rally, legislative discussions, state historical education opportunities, and meetings with legislators.

Aside from the knowledge and benefit you will receive from helping elect candidates who support a parent’s right to homeschool, is that some legislators, public officials and candidates need exposure to homeschoolers. Sadly, some people, including those in office, still hold misconceptions about homeschooling, even if they are proponents of our chosen method of education. As you make yourself available through civic service, you can correct those misconceptions and educate others about the benefits of a home education. Your participation will leave a lasting impression on them.

Also, do not forget to seek out your elected representatives even if you do not share their party affiliation. It is important for elected officials of all political persuasions to understand the importance of a parent’s right to home educate. Every positive contact you make helps IAHE’s Government Affairs team protect Indiana’s status as being one of the best states in the country to homeschool.

Participating as a family in civic life will bring lasting memories and rewards. Seeing the process in action should mean the separation of powers as defined by the three branches of government will no longer be a chart in a textbook. It will be knowledge your family can own and apply.

Our founders, like Benjamin Franklin, created a Republic and owned that knowledge. You and I can keep this Republic so long as we work to maintain it. This task requires active involvement. By stepping forward, homeschoolers can lead the way and help raise the next generation of civic leaders. ■



Alison Slatter has volunteered on campaigns and at the polls, working directly for Representative John Hostettler and Representative Mike Sodrel on Capitol Hill. After spending over a decade working in the legislature in various capacities, she left full time public service to start a family. She has spoken at Home School Legal Defense Association’s Capitol Action Program training and served as a Student Action Team Director for two campaigns with Generation Joshua. She has served on Indiana Association of Home Educators’ Legislative Committee since 2013. Mrs. Slatter is a wife and homeschool mother of three living in Greenwood, Indiana.

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Homeschooling Without Co-ops, Online Classes or Tutors... Does It Work?!! —Susan Hoffmann

As I am approaching the close of my homeschooling career which began in 1996 and will end in May 2017, I recently received some good news. My youngest, as a first semester junior, received his ACT score. His composite score was 33. He had taken the PSAT as a sophomore, and did well, but we chose to forego the PSAT as a junior, and instead focus on the ACT, to minimize the number of tests so that he could maximize his time on other activities.

One reason we decided to forego the PSAT as a junior was because we were not interested in the work it takes to become a Finalist, if he did score well enough to compete for that honor. Again, we were considering the cost of time, and the busy-ness to come: applying to colleges and writing essays, traveling for college visits, completing scholarship applications, and keeping up with his Civil Air Patrol duties and Tae Kwon Do training and teaching. Also, my oldest had taken the PSAT and earned a “Commended” ranking. In the end, it didn’t matter; his roommate in college was a Finalist, and there was no significant difference in the scholarship money awarded to him and my son. My middle son’s PSAT test was lost. So, instead, my youngest prepared for the ACT.

My older two did well on the ACT, scoring 33 and 32. They did well on the SAT, too. My oldest scored 800 on reading, 740 on writing and 680 on math. I cannot locate my second son’s SAT scores, but they were near that. None of the boys enrolled in test prep classes. For the older two, I bought the current year’s test study book and they plowed through that as part of their daily school work. For my youngest, I bought nothing. He prepared by using the ACT website’s study guides.

How did my boys’ achieve their success? Did they have expert teachers? Attend local homeschool co-ops? Find online classes and

tutors to nurture them along? No. They each worked hard, at the kitchen table, on their own. Homeschooling, without co-ops, online classes, or tutors produces independent learners who can achieve academic success and earn scholarships.

Since I was homeschooling, I didn’t think it necessary to write lessons plans... that was something done at public and private schools, I thought. Instead, my plan was to follow the old paths and to stand on the wise shoulders of those who came before: I highly recommend to you my friends Harvey and Laurie Bluedorn of triviumpursuit.com. Theirs was the first homeschool seminar I attended in 1996 when beginning the journey that is now nearing completion.

What gave our homeschool the foundation for future success was Trivium Pursuit’s article, “Ten Things to do with Your Child Before Age Ten”. These ten things establish the foundation on which the later years build. These ten (reading, writing, narration, obedience, service, etc.) helped to establish discipline and order. Teaching to read and write was time intensive and training in obedience is a labor of love, but the rewards are rich in the years to follow. When expectations are laid out and established early, they become a habit and a routine which provides the momentum to continue. Another recommendation of Laurie’s that I put into practice was little to no television. As a substitute, we did a couple of hours of reading aloud

each day. As I look back, this was all of our favorite part of homeschooling. I think that we would have never done this, had we participated in co-ops or online or outside classes. Along with no television, until their high school years which required hours of online research, I did not choose computer learning, except for typing. I believe the less screen time, the better.

One item NOT on the list to do before age ten is formal math. I did not start textbook math with my younger two boys until they were almost 10. We then started Saxon 54 and both boys completed 54, 65, and 76, in two years. I had read about the value of delaying formal math from Trivium Pursuit. It saves time and difficulties because the brain is more developed and able to handle abstract concepts (which is why there are so many manipulative type elementary math curriculae) and it goes into the proper location in the brain and is more easily retrieved. For further information, I recommend this article I read years ago. If you do a search for “math” on the triviumpursuit.com website, you will find more recent posts.

Initially, in addition to learning Latin along with the older two, I would read aloud to them their daily history, science and math lessons. But when the youngest needed to be taught to read and write, I did not have time to do this and all my other duties, so the older two were then on their own. My middle son once complained that he thought he could learn better if he could just listen to his lessons instead of reading them. I apologized to him, and let him know that listening is a good way to learn, but reading is, too. Though he may have preferred to be an auditory learner, he transitioned successfully to learning visually. Eventually, both have to be mastered. In that regard, our schooling was more traditional. It was done at a desk or at the kitchen table. I did allow quiet play and art work during our read aloud times, but for traditional subjects, I don’t agree with kinesthetic learning. In the past 5 or 6 years, I read an article in the WSJ reporting on a study that gave little value to learning styles which confirmed my practice. The most memorable line from that review was that eventually, you cannot learn algebra by dancing.

One subject that I wish I had started earlier in my boys education and that I might add to the list of “Ten things before age ten,” was learning to play an instrument. The beauty of music learning to play an instrument, or study music, is that it involves all three learning pathways. However, there was only so much time in the day, and my days, and theirs, were full. I am thankful that today music is a rich part of their lives.

Later, during our high school years, there were times it would have been helpful to have a tutor or for the boys to be in a class. When the boys encountered problems they could not understand and were beyond my ability, I recommended emailing the publishers. That often worked. But I don’t think my youngest ever took my advice. I think he was too stubborn and persevered by re-working the problem until he got it. It was my requirement that each wrong answer be corrected to corrected, and by their junior/senior years, I allowed them to grade their own work, except for essays.

Despite the bumps along the way, my oldest scored well enough in math on the ACT that he tested out of it for college; however, since he was in the Honor’s Program, Calculus was required. He got an A and even

tutored other students the next year. My middle son, when he took calculus in college as part of the Honors Program, said that math was not so difficult when someone explained it to you. In this regard, his high school math was harder than his college Calculus. One time, when in class, his professor said that he had prepared a visual answer to one of the problems but he liked the diagram a student did, better, and up went Eddie’s answer for the class to see.

Math had its rough spots, but writing was tough, too, though I very much liked our curriculum, Put That In Writing. Grading essays was my least favorite task. Once when my oldest was in college he called home and asked how I was doing and I said I was crabby because I was grading an essay. He said, “Don’t be crabby, just be mean.” Being tough with your grades is helpful in the long term.

Chemistry was another subject that gave me trouble, but not the boys. Instead of grading their work with all those confusing significant figures, I let them grade their work themselves. There was dinner to fix, and laundry to do and dogs to walk, and not enough time to get everything done, so that was my solution to my chemistry dilemma.

Other subjects my boys studied on their own were Latin, Greek and Logic. Though we did not participate in co-ops, my boys all were active participants in our local homeschool speech and debate club. Going to tournaments was one of the highlights of their secondary school years. They made friends quickly while learning valuable life skills and were successful as partners with each other and with others. Non-academic activities they participated in, included tae kwon do, hunting, fishing, trapping, shooting, gardening (selling produce) and work.

With only one year to go with my last son, there are few things I would have done differently. To do all that we did, including reading nearly 500 books aloud before the oldest went to college, going on vacation on our schedule, participating heavily in speech and debate, while at the same time spending money only on books and supplies (and speech and debate), would have made participating in a co-op or online class schedules difficult, though I know many do, and with resulting test scores comparable to my sons. But there are a couple of differences. Besides the low cost and the scheduling freedom, there is the proof that homeschooling can be successfully done completely in the home, without professionals. It doesn’t really take a village; it takes a family. There is also no doubt that learning independently can be difficult... but not without its rewards: Hebrews 12:1 says: “No discipline seem pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.” Similarly, the discipline of learning on your own, produces a harvest of good character and that good character has its rewards. Yet none of this would have been possible were it not for those who went before. I stand on their shoulders and reap the harvest of their work, whether it was winning legal battle or writing curriculum or paving the path for others to follow. May our homeschooling veterans be blessed. ■

Susan Hoffmann is a homeschooling mother and that has been her favorite job, ever. She graduated from Valparaiso University with Distinction and Senior Honors with a BS in Home Economics. She did her dietetic internship at The Christ Hospital (Cincinnati) and worked as a staff dietician B.C. (before children). Now that two are graduated and one nearly there, she fills her hours with as many miles on her bike as time and weather allow. Other than that, she has never written to be published and considers it one of her weaker skills.



New Homeschool Mom

Just now

What's the best piece of advice you received as a new homeschooler?

Winter is a busy time of year for the IAHE! While most families begin homeschooling in the fall, there is a growing trend of public school families pulling their students out after Christmas break to begin educating their children at home. To help these families get started, we set out to collect some of the best advice from veteran homeschool moms.

Kimberly B. (Indianapolis)

Welcome to the club! I wanted to give a little advice just to get you started.

First things first: Don't overwhelm yourself. A lot of new homeschooling moms have no idea what to do and they use what they're used to as a jumping point... a place to test the waters. Usually this results in parents recreating public school at home. For some it works, for others it doesn't. Just know there is a freedom here.

Don't be surprised if you realize your ideas and views of homeschool change drastically within days, weeks, and even years from beginning.

Today, you are excited with decorations and curriculum, but tomorrow you may find that none of that matters and spending the day at the park as a family, playing hopscotch, and following a line of ants to its source is the preferred agenda of the day. Today you worry about grades, but next month you'll realize you can't grade the joy your child gets from making homemade snow or sugar crystals.

When things start to feel overwhelming, stop and breathe. Think about your goals and why you are doing this. Is what you are doing supporting those goals or feeding something that has been ingrained inside of you?

Remember, not only are your children about to experience a large amount of changes in routine and life in general, but you will also be experiencing change. You are immersing yourself in a new way of life. It may take time before you feel completely as ease and even then... You're going to have days where you question everything from your sanity to God's will and the legality of shock collars.

Just remember, this isn't school. This is life. You live it and you make it what it is. Enjoy it and remember to go easy on yourself.

Judy N. (Danville)

Every school--public, private, or home--will have gaps. Do your best and trust God to fill in those gaps. We have 3 graduates under our belts and God was faithful to do that!

Heidi J. (Hope)

This is now your "job" so get up on time, get dressed, wash your face, brush your teeth (make-up and hair and shoes are optional), eat, and pray together before you start each school day. Your home WILL look lived in, and chores are good for kids.

Christie P. (Noblesville)

My advice would be: don't give up too soon! I certainly don't want to scare anyone, but when you decide to homeschool, it is a very intentional decision to be an active part in your child's



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education. There will be some bumps and challenges, and it's possibly a new kind of relationship with your child. Give some grace to yourself and your child during this transition while you are both learning a new lifestyle. Hang in there--IT WILL PAY OFF!! But it'll take some time, and you have to remain engaged in what/how he learns, which means more of a potential time commitment (and in some ways a new relational commitment) on your part.

When you see that growth, or you see that "light bulb" turn on because YOU taught a concept and they "got it"... That is a thrill, and one of the many perks of homeschooling! Also, build your "team." In other words, we use a co-op, go to church, participate in extras, have a wonderful family, etc. This is our support system. Yes, many of these people are friends, but I also look at it this way: they are hand-selected by my husband and I to help us by reinforcing our training. Why not stack the deck in your favor? Example: I don't teach math or chemistry, so I have hired someone to be on my team (through a co-op). For a while before that, it was a video or online course.

And, of course, there are some people we know and love that offer views that contradict and challenge our beliefs, but that gives us the chance to guide our children when they receive "push back." For us, when we changed to home school, it helped build a stronger family bond. So it's very hard at times but has paid off immensely!

Rebecca B. (Ridgeville)

The best advice I got, when I first started schooling: don't make "public" school in your home and don't make your school look like anyone else's. Your school will be unique to your family. What works for me, may not work for you.

Andrea R. (Huntington)

When trying to decide if public school is no longer for you, don't dismiss your gut feelings!!

Becky Z. (Columbus)

You know your child the best and therefore you can do this!!!

Tracy P. (Westfield)

Decompress. Spend some time at the library and get to know each other again. Spend time doing household chores together. Don't recreate public school and don't worry about scope and sequence. Think about what you learned at school that you absolutely needed and could only learn there--very little. Focus on math, good books, science from nature, and handwriting.

THIS ARTICLE is a compilation of responses from our Facebook group 'IAHE Indiana Homeschool Discussion Group'. If you are not already a member, please join us!



The IAHE Discussion Group is a valuable resource for homeschool families looking to connect across the state. With over 2,900 individuals it's a wealth of information for both veteran families and new homeschoolers. To meet the growing demand of managing such a large outreach the IAHE has appointed a new Facebook Representative Couple.

Chris and Tawnee Hinton live with their 4 children, ages 2-17, in Indianapolis, Indiana. They have been homeschooling since 2009. Chris and Tawnee are involved in their church, local homeschooling group and in their community veterans' projects. Chris retired from the U.S. Navy in 2015 and continues to serve as a government civilian employee. Tawnee is a member of the the Navy reserves.

Having been called to homeschool their children, both Chris and Tawnee love the flexibility it brings to their family as well as the increased opportunity to be involved in everything their children learn. Choosing subjects and studies that are important to the family and the kids is a blessing they are grateful for.



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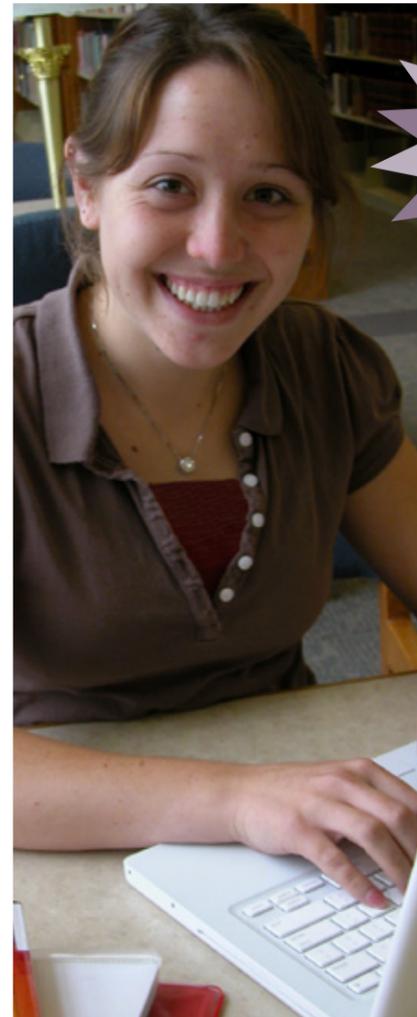
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