



Resolution to Support Healthy Marriages

We, the undersigned, agree that:

- 1. The scholarly literature is replete with data supporting the conclusion that severe relational conflicts and divorce may cause tremendous difficulties for the individuals, children, and the community at large.**
- 2. Our experience of living and working in Allen County is that these relational problems are often the precipitating factors in physical and mental health concerns, public disturbances, domestic violence, substance abuse, workplace problems, and a host of negative outcomes for children.**
- 3. Intimidation, coercion, verbal abuse, physical abuse, or any other form of domestic violence is abhorrent, and efforts must be taken to create emotional and physical safety in all relationships.**
- 4. The research strongly supports the conclusion that such simple preventatives as premarital testing and marriage skills training can go a long way toward strengthening marriages so that those involved enjoy and are benefited by their marital relationship.**

Therefore, our goal is to help those, who chose marriage for themselves, to gain access to the relationship skills and knowledge that can help them form and sustain a healthy marriage. To accomplish this goal, we agree to support healthy marriages through directly offering, or encouraging participation in other programs that offer, activities such as:

Teen and young adult relationship skills education.

Marriage preparation, including four to six premarital counseling sessions with the use of a premarital inventory.

Relationship skills training to cover issues such as communication, conflict resolution, finance, sex, and parenting.

Marriage retreats, skills-based classes, and marriage enrichment opportunities.

Programs that provide support, encouragement, and mentoring for troubled marriages.

Divorce recovery, remarriage preparation, and stepfamily support programs.

Business practices and social policies that support healthy marriage and family life and encourage marriage education and enrichment.