

Homeschool Iowa Needs YOU

BY JOE BAILEY, PRESIDENT HOMESCHOOL IOWA

You could have heard a pin drop as my wife and I looked at each other, astonished but with smiles slowly spreading across our faces.

"We've decided to homeschool!" our schoolteacher friend had exclaimed.

We'd known this young couple for years, and this declaration was entirely unexpected.

Sometimes, as a homeschool father, I wonder just how much my work affects the lives of those outside my family. The daily grind of raising and homeschooling children is a joyful responsibility, but it doesn't often seem to influence others beyond my doorstep.

Yet, we had just received the startling but joyful news. This husband and wife, who were decidedly unlikely homeschoolers, had told us that knowing our family over the years had helped them make this important decision on how to raise their kids.

Really, I shouldn't have been so surprised.

Homeschooling is growing by leaps and bounds as people from all kinds of backgrounds and family situations are starting to homeschool. At Homeschool Iowa, we believe all parents have the God-given right and calling to raise their children, and we want to cheer parents on!

Homeschool Iowa is responding to the growing homeschool community.

- In 2017, we launched our Regional Representatives program to connect families with knowledgeable and experienced guides in their part of the state who can help answer questions like:

"How do I start?"

"Can I do this as a single mom?"

"What curriculum should I use?"

- This year, Homeschool Iowa expanded our services with Special Needs Advisors. We are blessed to provide this seasoned, caring team of consultants to assist homeschooling parents dealing with various learning challenges because we believe that children should have an education that fits their needs and giftings.

- We continue to serve families through our three annual events: Capitol Day, Graduation and the annual Conference, because we believe that parents who receive encouragement, support, and protection are best able to educate their children.

But we don't want to stop there.

Our board of directors and key volunteers have taken the forward-looking steps to consider homeschool needs unique to our state and to develop a 5-year strategy on how to address those needs and continue to build this great homeschool movement.

Planning for the future is important. Here at Homeschool Iowa, we believe Christ-centered home education develops the full potential of the next generation, and we want to promote and protect continued homeschooling freedoms.

One key component of this strategy is to build a stronger advocacy team. Although home education is well-established in our state, we are always just one election, just one legislative session, just one horrific child-abuse story away from losing our hard-won freedoms.

Another key component is making personal connections with homeschoolers, like you, across the state. We hope to do this by adding regional events and continuing to build up and partner with different demographic groups.

All of this will take volunteers and resources that we don't already have. And we are committed to doing all this without increasing the cost to hardworking homeschool families who need help.

That is why I am asking you to partner with us to make these dreams a reality.

Would you consider giving a one-time or recurring gift to Homeschool Iowa to help support homeschoolers across the state?

Most importantly, would you join us in praying for God's continued protection and blessing upon families striving to disciple their children at home? Especially pray for those who are struggling...that God would draw them to Himself and grant them grace to press on.



Joe Bailey, Homeschool Iowa Board President, his wife, and their family, all serve the Iowa homeschool community as volunteers, dedicating their time, creativity, and energy to promoting homeschooling in Iowa. Photo Credit: Hannah Bailey