

# Eastern District Funding for Innovative Programs

## Application Form

**Project Title:** A "Co-parenting: Focus on the Children" class and, a "Parenting News" radio show

**Project Timeline:** The class is on-going and, the radio show begins in Fall 2005

**Funding Requested:** \$558

**Project Lead/Grant Applicant:** Faye Malek, Manitowoc County Family Living Educator

**Project Collaborator(s) (if applicable):** Manitowoc County Family Court Commissioner and Family Law Attorney Jean Willis

### **Situation Statement:**

Five years ago, the Manitowoc County Family Court Commissioner requested that I develop and facilitate a co-parenting course for couples involved in a paternity judgment. She would then court mandate attendance for the three-hour program. No other agency in Manitowoc County provided this type of education which is still true today.

Since the development of "Co-parenting: Focus on the Children", educational materials were produced through the Center of Divorce Education. I was made aware of the materials by the state Families in Stress and Transition Team during an October 15, 2004 Wisline titled "Parenting After Divorce". Although the parents with whom I work have never been married, the concepts of co-parenting are similar.

### **Proposal and Goals:**

It was recommended by Extension colleagues to acquire two educational pieces to enhance the co-parenting class. Also, since the Wisline, I have been asked to do a regular radio show on parenting with two other parent educators in Manitowoc County. Since the other two educators have indicated they would not have the background needed to talk about co-parenting, I will provide shows dealing with co-parenting. Acquiring the recommended pieces, then, would be helpful in two of my educational efforts.

The tension level parents bring with them to the session has been obvious and consistent over the years. My focus needs to include conflict resolution. These pieces will provide research-based methods to help parents be better parents and, hopefully, this will reduce the incidences of putting children in the middle.

Although I have been doing after-session evaluations after each session, I did try to complete a one-year evaluation two years ago. Unfortunately, the parents had moved or, they changed their phone number. It is difficult to accurately measure the success of these sessions. The nine respondents who did return their survey did indicate a stronger attachment with their child as a result of the class and, more connections with local resources to continue to enhance their parenting skills. I can provide the composite evaluation piece if needed.

**Budget:**

The family law attorney donates her time to discuss legal concerns at every co-parenting class. The court commissioner's office organizes registrations and pays for a male co-facilitator. I would like to be able to offer the best education possible and am in need of materials that can assist me in achieving this goal.

The following are the two educational pieces recommended by colleagues:

"Children in the Middle" video kit:	\$229	- focused on improving communication and successful co-parenting strategies
"After the Storm" video kit:	<u>\$329</u>	- focused on conflict resolution
Total amount requested:	<u>\$558</u>	

**Applied for and Funded Resource Management Dollars:**

- I applied for \$625 in Management Resource funds with Kevin Palmer in 2004 to begin a character education program in two school districts. We used the money to do that and want to increase that project this year. It has been a tremendous asset building activity for the 10 high school and 135 fourth grade students.
- I applied for \$2100 to do "The Latino Focus" in 2000. That research initiated our approach to assisting Latinos in their efforts to assimilate into Manitowoc County.

Signature:



Grant Applicant/Lead

