

ENOCH... Yours is a Legacy

How would one describe Enoch Thorsgard, long time North Dakota Family Alliance board member? He is amazing. He is kind, generous, and just plain 'a good man.' And did we mention he is 91 years old (young)? He has more irons in the fire than those half his age, working on projects, ventures, and events on a daily basis which would keep 3-4 normal people busy. All of those are in addition to the 7000 cow feed lot and numerous other businesses operated by Enoch and his extended family.

And if that is not enough, Enoch is in the process of writing a book. Yes, a BOOK!! Here is a sneak preview from one paragraph in his book, "Horsepower to Satellite in a Single Lifetime."

How he arrived on the scene in a preferred moment because of an uncle's involvement in his life; lived a simple life, with empathy for the downtrodden because he grew up in years of extreme depression, spent years in social activism because of a television newsman production one evening moved him, always diligently bred both cattle and sheep, and emphasized conserving our soils because of a father's example, and saw many doors were opened, many closed, because of a Christian mother's prayers.



That is just the teaser. We all will have to wait for the manuscript to be completed, and the book to be published. Can't wait.

To those in the NDFA, Enoch is best known for his commitment to the Alliance. Through the thick and thin, his support has been strong and unwavering. When the future of the NDFA was in jeopardy, Enoch stepped up. His passion for the cause of the family would not let him think of North Dakota without an organization promoting the family and defending our religious freedoms.

Enoch shared his hope for the future, "if more people with good moral values would become involved in the government and political process, our culture would change overnight." How true, and he continues, "our presence alone can deter a great deal of negative legislation."

When asked about the greatest accomplishments, Enoch replied, "there have been many, standing up for family issues in the legislature, defending parental rights, but maybe the biggest would be leading the statewide effort on the constitutional marriage amendment in 2004." And in response to challenges facing the NDFA, he states, "raising money has always been difficult, but we just can't let this cause down, there are so many counting on us."

What a man. John Maxwell says it very well.

We must build a legacy. A huge difference exists between a legacy and an inheritance. Anyone can leave an inheritance. An inheritance is something you leave to your family or loved ones and it will fade. A legacy is something you leave in your family and loved ones and will be permanent. Your activity will be achievement.... John Maxwell

Enoch... yours is a legacy.

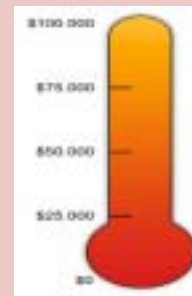
Focus on the Family Association Campaign - Reached!!

It is with a great deal of pleasure and gratitude that we can report a monumental milestone has been reached in our endeavor to associate with Focus on the Family (FOTF). The component of the association requirement to raise \$100,000 has been met.

Due to the generosity of so many of you financially partnering with the NDFA, we will notify FOTF of successfully reaching the goal, and will officially petition for association.

We are hopeful the association process will be brief, and look forward to enjoying the benefits of association. At the same time we see, as a mutual benefit, the opportunity to enhance the local presence of Focus on the Family here in North Dakota.

But of most importance, thank you, thank you, thank you!!!!



See enclosed UPDATE

[Voter Guides are Here!](#)

[Celebrate Family Week](#)

[40 Days for Life](#)

[Face the Fall without Alcohol](#)

[New NDFA Office](#)

Energy and Enthusiasm is Vibrantly Visible Here at the NDFA

by Tom Freier, NDFA Executive Director

As we transition to a new season, some are not quite ready to give up summer and its many activities but ... we have no choice. While fall may be viewed by some as only a segway to winter, it is an amazing time of beauty and splendor. It also brings with it a great deal of enthusiasm, optimism, and energy. After all, we have a new school year, new sports seasons, and even a seemingly fresh start in our churches.

That energy and enthusiasm is vibrantly visible here at the NDFA. We have so many exciting things going on, and so much to be excited about. The voter's guide project has been challenging, but so worthwhile. I am so proud of staff and volunteers who have worked so hard, and produced a professional product. It will provide a great service to our voting electorate.

The Family Week promotion which was initiated last year has been greatly enhanced, and provides a great opportunity for all of us to recognize the importance of the family as the foundation of our society. I am especially pleased to prominently pay tribute to our military, recognize the hardships on their families, and provide support during the re-integration process. I am thankful to the governor for the proclamation, the generous sponsors, staff and volunteers, and to the media helping to highlight this most important endeavor.

Even the move of the office to Fargo has been exciting, hard on my back, but exciting. The new NDFA board members have brought new energy to compliment the solid, unwavering commitment of the existing board members, one of whom we are honored to highlight in this newsletter.

The enthusiasm surrounding the possibilities in the 'life' issue is epidemic in proportion. The hope that through prayer, God will respond to the '40 Days for Life' vigil, by making North Dakota the 1st abortion-free facility state in the union. So many in the state have been energized by the South Dakota initiative, and what may be in store as a result of their courage and persistence.

As you can see, there is so much to be excited about—and that is just this fall. I haven't even mentioned the upcoming 2009 legislative session. But let's enjoy the fall, and let the snow fall before we think about January.

As we celebrate the family, may God richly Bless you and your family.



Tom Freier
Executive Director

Donations Made for Loved Ones

In Memory of

Eugene R. Dahl.... by Enoch & Madeline Thorsgard
Viola Knudevig..... by Viona Hanson
Makenzie Milbrath..... by Viona Hanson
Edward Schultz..... by Viona Hanson
Annette Lexa..... by Viona Hanson
Kenneth Solberg..... by Viona Hanson
Mike Dockter Jr..... by Viona Hanson

In Honor of

Suzanne Bowman..... by Dora Spilde
Daisy & Reese..... by Dick & Pam Dever
Lexie, Josie, & Gage..... by Mike & Merri Jo Filloon

North Dakota Family Alliance

change of address
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Fargo, ND 58104
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www.ndfa.org

The NDFA is a state-based organization dedicated to strengthening and upholding traditional family values.

The NDFA is a non-profit, non-denominational, non-partisan organization founded in 1987.

We provide credible research and informational resources to groups, individuals and policy makers on important moral, social and public policy issues facing North Dakota.

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Thank you Tom for keeping us alert on issues we care about. -Bill & Marilyn Strutz

(We'll) be leaving the newsletter on our kitchen table for visitors to read. -Steve & Cindy Strege

God bless you as you continue to serve God and country. -Viona Hanson

May God bless the efforts of these family ministries- Focus on the Family and ND Family Alliance.

God bless the work you do for families! -Mr. and Mrs. Tim Debele

Just a quick note to say I liked your letter "Pornography: A Social Tsunami" in the Bismarck Tribune. I thought it was insightful, well written, and backed up with good facts. I was especially pleased to read your words about the physically addictive brain chemical component of regular viewing of pornography. I seldom hear anyone point that fact out, and I think it might better help people resist if they knew that risk existed. Congratulations on getting an important message printed. -Philip Hauger

Benefits of a Far-Sighted Perspective

by Tom Freier, NDFA Executive Director

Some years ago I had lasik eye surgery to correct a rather strong nearsighted vision problem. The surgery resulted in an over correction resulting in my becoming farsighted.* If familiar with farsightedness, you know the challenge of seeing with any clarity—objects within arms length.



Without corrective glasses, the fuzzy, blurry affliction can be extremely frustrating. I came to have a fond appreciation for what we do within arms length. While for certain activities, like driving, it is a necessity to see some distance, I found about 90% of what I did required clear vision within arms length. And most of those things were pretty important.

So it is in our lives. Those things of greatest importance are those closest to us: our families, friends, and co-workers, and the relationship with them. While during this election campaign, many in the media inundate us with state and national issues they believe to be important; the really important issues get little attention. Those issues 'within arms length' have been muted by the mainstream media.

As we prepare to vote in November, let's try to put things in perspective and balance. How important is the national debate on the war in Iraq to the 3300 little unborn boys and girls whose lives are terminated each day in America? How important is the discussion about the economy or the price of gas—to the 23-25 unborn that are killed each week right here in the Fargo abortion facility? That's the size of an average kindergarten class wiped out each week.

How important are the discussions of mortgage crises or strength of the dollar—to those parents and grandparents dealing with the issues of homosexuality, abstinence, and parental rights? How important are the endless talking heads analyses of who might have won a debate compared to the question of whether the institution of marriage will survive?

Let me be clear, the national and statewide issues are very important, but how can we turn a deaf ear to those issues 'within arms length?' The issues of the family are 'within arms length.' They are real. They are the issues that affect us in a personal way—each and every day—90% of every day.

All of this has come into very clear focus with the appointment of a vice presidential running mate who is a woman, who kept her Downs syndrome baby, rather than abort him. In addition, the governor's 17 year old pregnant daughter, who is not married, has decided to have the baby and marry the father.

What this appointment has done, whether intentionally or not, is bring front and center the issue of life, and the family. Set aside the partisan politics of the appointment for a minute. Consider the significance and impact of the picture of a vice presidential candidate holding a Downs syndrome baby, and her family including her daughter and future son-in-law. Her actions, what she has done—speak loudly and clearly. This is real life. These are the issues which are within arms length, and have been elevated to their proper level of importance.

As we navigate our way through the days leading up to the election, we need to bring into perspective and balance the issues important to the family and those of national significance. We need to become informed on the issues important to us, engage those seeking elective office and wanting our vote, and then to fulfill our duty and privilege by casting our ballot in November.

** I am an advocate of lasik eye surgery. Even though I needed a follow-up lasik procedure, I have great vision now, and am so pleased with the outcome.*



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Have You Been To Our Website Lately?



Look for the latest news!

www.ndfa.org

Make a secure tax-deductible donation online.

10/08 I want to help NDFA promote & uphold family policies and values with my tax-deductible gift of:

\$2,500 _____ \$1,000 _____ \$500 _____ \$250 _____ \$100 _____ Membership \$60/yr. _____
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This gift is given: In Memory of _____ In Honor of _____
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Contributions to the North Dakota Family Alliance are tax-deductible as stated under the IRS code, section 501 (c) (3).

NDFA

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NDFA is a non-profit organization. All gifts are tax-deductible. Stocks, bonds, and other assets are welcome. Please contact our office for more information.