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# NDFA News

September 2010

## Celebrate Family Week 2010

### "The Care of Orphans"



The North Dakota Family Alliance has requested the governor to designate by proclamation November 14-20<sup>th</sup> as Family Week. The primary purpose is to honor the family and encourage families to

spend time together. This year's emphasis is on "the care of orphans".

Our intention is that the Family Week designation will bring special focus to the family and stir each of us to plan activities to promote the family, enable families to spend time together, and to bring special awareness and focus to the caring for orphans.

This year's theme has its foundation in James 1:27, "*Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows*". This is not just a charge to those who might adopt or commit to foster care, it's a message delivered to all of us. We all have some gifts, talents, or means to respond to the Bible's directive.

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## Upcoming Legislative Agenda

### 62<sup>nd</sup> ND Legislative Assembly to Conven

#### on January 4, 2011

Over the next 4 months NDFA will be assembling its legislative agenda for the upcoming 2011 legislative session. As always we will have a presence at the session to promote the issues important to the family, and in many cases defend and protect family values and our religious freedoms.

### Life

We will be working with our coalition partners to save unborn lives, and promote the sanctity of life in every case. As we more fully research specific legislation, we will share.

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## NDFA Enhances Ability To Carry Out Mission

### 501-c-4 Family Alliance Action Created

Recently, the North Dakota Family Alliance Board of Directors voted to create a corresponding 501-c-4 organization to complement the existing 501-c-3 organization.

The mission "to strengthen families and to protect our family values and religious freedoms" will not change, and both organizations will have the same board of directors. And, in fact, the purpose of putting the new structure in place, is to be even more successful in carrying out the mission and impacting the legacy we leave our children.

The existing 501-c-3 will continue to operate for religious, charitable, and educational purposes. It strives to inform the public and public policy makers on the issues important to the family, for the purpose of influencing those cultural issues.

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## Board of Directors

**James Kerian**

Chairman

**Shane Goettle**

Vice-Chairman

**Suzanne Bowman**

Secretary

**Chuck Crary**

Treasurer

**Enoch Thorsgard**

Director

**Reed Soderstrom**

Director

**Steve Cates**

Director

## Staff

**Tom Freier**

Executive Director

**Sheri Carranza**

Office Manager

The NDFA is a state-wide Christian-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.

## From the Executive Director

### The times we live in....

As we prepare to share the news of NDFA with you in this newsletter, I am struck with a sense of enthusiasm, energy, and excitement---so much to do, and much, much more coming!! Non-stop action for the foreseeable future. Then I also have this melancholy feeling, summer is coming to a close, who knows about the winter, or maybe it's just my getting older?

But I think most of my concerns relate to the state of affairs in our country and world. There is so much to be concerned about: the economy, unemployment, the deficit, the government's increasing role in our lives, our national security—and then there are: the attacks on marriage, the senseless taking of human unborn lives, the scourge of pornography, the removal of abstinence teaching in our schools, the culturally dictating judicial activism, and the list need not stop.

And then, above the persistent attack on religion, especially Christianity---with the goal being to remove God and any reference to Him—in this country we call America. America, the land that was founded on Christian principles—how can it be? Forbid it, that someone exercising their First Amendment rights, referencing the name of Jesus in a prayer, be ridiculed as being intolerant.

So there is reason to be concerned, but there is greater reason for hope. For, in Romans, we see these words of encouragement: *“Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.” Romans 5: 3-4*

So we rejoice that we have been put in this place at this time to stand for Him, His word, and His plan. We have been given the wonderful opportunity, the tremendous challenge, and an awesome responsibility to rise to the call. Will we understand that what we do will determine the cultural legacy we leave our children and grandchildren? Will we respond? Will we take action?

As I began, I am excited about the opportunities to impact our future! As you read the newsletter, you will see the many different opportunities we have to make a difference, opportunities for involvement. We all have our God given talents and gifts. As I call on you to discern how you can make a difference, let me tell you—I am both humbled and grateful to the Creator that He chose to allow me to put on the armor for Him, For His Glory.

*In Him, for Him,*



Tom

**“Can the liberties of a nation be sure when we remove their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people, that these liberties are a gift from God? ”**

—Thomas Jefferson

<sup>5</sup> *A father to the fatherless,  
a defender of widows,  
is God in his holy dwelling.*  
<sup>6</sup> *God sets the lonely in families . . .*

**Psalm 68:5-6**

## Religious Liberty Restoration Amendment Campaign to Continue

### Over 22,000 Signatures Gathered

The Religious Liberty Restoration Amendment petition drive will continue. With over 22,000 of the required 25,688 signatures collected, the remaining signatures will be gathered during another concerted effort in late September. **Thanks again to the 500 circulators of the petitions, and 22,000 signers!!!**

The Religious Liberty Restoration Amendment petition process began in April with the Secretary of State approving the RLRA amendment language. By law the process allows up to one year to gather the necessary signatures, in constitutional amendment cases 4% of the last census. Our collections began in June, but the momentum really built in July, with over half of the signatures being collected during the last 3 weeks of July.

If the necessary 25,688 signatures would have been available to turn in on the August 4<sup>th</sup> deadline, the measure could have appeared on this November’s ballot. Given the signatures will be turned in after that deadline but during the one year allowed, the measure will be placed on a 2012 ballot.

So where do we go from here? The drive will continue. If you have petitions, continue to collect signatures. **Do not throw away. All signatures are still valid.** Complete gathering signatures, have notarized, and send to the NDFFA by October 8<sup>th</sup>. If you do not have a petition, one has been enclosed, or you may direct others to our website at [www.ndfa.org](http://www.ndfa.org).

We are asking all churches, those who may have participated, along with those who may not have, to designate another Sunday for collections—September 19<sup>th</sup>, September 26<sup>th</sup> or October 3<sup>rd</sup>. (If your church has not, and would like help—contact us here at NDFFA)

Please join this effort. So many have worked so hard, including the 500 circulators. We owe it to them and the more than 22,000 signers to successfully complete the campaign. This is a great cause. We believe God’s hand has and will continue to guide this effort and we ask for His discerning wisdom, that all may be For His Glory.

### Donations Made for Loved Ones

*In Memory of...*

*Norman E. Grubb – one of his greatest joys in life was working with NDFFA. All of my life I knew him to be constantly educating Americans of our Godly heritage and he would desire to see this continue. He not only gave financially, he also gave of his time and energy. Thank you for your work to restore and preserve America.*

*For God and Country,*

*Zona G. Grubb*

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof....

First Amendment, US Constitution

**"The Care of Orphans"** (Continued from page 1)

Almost 130,000 in America and many more millions around the world are waiting to be adopted. They are waiting for a loving home, loving parents, and a loving family. In order for us to respond, we need to become aware and informed. Even though we may be unable to adopt a child, we need to be open to determining how we can affect the lives of those in James 1:27.

Leading up to and during Family Week we will be sharing interesting and informative interviews, posting educational materials on our website, sending material to churches and schools, and sharing testimonials. We hope these efforts will encourage you and your family to identify a means for you to "care for orphans".

You will find the planned events and all other information on Family Week 2010 on our website at [www.ndfa.org](http://www.ndfa.org). Please share this information with family, friends, and your pastor.

**501-c-4 Family Alliance Action** (Continued from page 1)

It may provide nonpartisan voter education, do a limited amount of lobbying to determine the outcome of legislation, and contributions are tax-deductible.

The newly formed 501-c-4 may do all that the 501-c-3 currently does and more. In addition, it has higher limits in regard to lobbying the issues, promoting the social welfare, and engaging in some political activity. It may provide voter information which more clearly identifies candidates and existing office holders whose views are more closely aligned with the family and protecting religious freedoms. Contributions to the 501-c-4, currently known as ND Family Alliance Action, are not tax deductible.

"As we continue to work on the issues important to the family, such as life, marriage, religious freedom, abstinence, and all the others important to you---adding the capabilities afforded by the 501-c-4 will greatly enhance our ability to make a difference for the families in North Dakota," states Executive Director Tom Freier.

In summary, incorporating the 501-c-4 with the existing 501-c-3, provides the additional tools to not only educate and inform on public policy, the cultural issues important

to the family, but to interact more directly with the policy makers who set the policy.

Please call the NDFA office at 701-364-0676 with any questions.

**Upcoming Legislative Agenda** (Continued from page 1)**Marriage**

We will of course, in every instance, defend the sanctity of traditional marriage as between one man and one woman. We are researching a study resolution to promote marriage by looking at a range of ideas including our divorce laws. This could include: looking at our no fault laws, providing a minimum time of separation when children are involved, reviewing the penalties for fault, reviewing child custody rules, as well as others. Our laws should promote marriage instead of divorce.

**Education**

We will monitor bills dealing with educating our children, as it relates to strengthening families, protecting our family values and religious liberties. We believe we are living in dangerous times, and there is a great need to promote educational initiative friendly to families and defend in those instances where we see the contrary.

In addition, we will promote tuition tax credits to aid families with school age children. We will also partner with the NDHSA in providing equitable opportunities for homeschooling.

**Parental Rights, Pornography and Gambling**

We will promote parental rights, seek to prevent the expansion of gambling, and however possible protect our residents, and especially our children from the horrendous consequences of pornography.

This is not an all inclusive list, but an overview of what we will be working on. We will share more detail in a December newsletter. We would invite your views and suggestions. If you are not on our free issue E-Alerts, please sign up by going to our website at [www.ndfa.org](http://www.ndfa.org).

## 2010 Voter's Guide from NDFA

The North Dakota Family Alliance will provide a 2010 Voter's Guide for your use as you prepare to cast your ballot in the general election on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. The right to vote is a precious privilege earned long ago at a high price, and should not be taken for granted.



take the guide with you as you personally visit with the candidates.

The Voter's Guide will be available online at [www.ndfa.org](http://www.ndfa.org) sometime in late September, after all responses are received from the candidates. Because the guide is 501-c-3 compatible, your local church may print copies for distribution. You may email us at [admin@ndfa.org](mailto:admin@ndfa.org) or call 701-364-0676 with any questions. Also, see the enclosed Voter's Guide flyer that you may share with family and friends.

Use the Voter's Guide by asking the questions of yourself which were posed to the candidates, and then comparing your responses to theirs. You may also



## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

If you are interested in volunteering to help the NDFA, we will have opportunities in Bismarck, Fargo and elsewhere. These opportunities are limited only by your time, talents and interests. They include things like envelope stuffing, attending legislative committee hearings and helping to organize meetings and events. Our success is greatly dependent on the help of volunteers. To find out more, please call us at 701-364-0676, or email us at [admin@ndfa.org](mailto:admin@ndfa.org).

Does anyone happen to have a good used folding machine that they are not using and could donate to NDFA?

Also, we would like to update our computer equipment at the NDFA Office. If you have a new/used laptop computer or computer tower that you would be willing to donate, please call Sheri at 701-364-0676.

## **We Need Your Financially Partnering Support!**

### **Tax Deductible Contributions & Non-tax Deductible Contributions**

As we close our fiscal year on September 30<sup>th</sup>, we wish to thank those many who have financially supported the mission and efforts here at the NDFA. Thank you so much for your sustaining support!

Today, we must ask all to prayerfully consider financially supporting the mission with a contribution of **\$25, \$50, \$100, or even \$500**. The mission is great, the cause is crucial and now more than ever – the need to stand up for marriage, life, and our religious freedom is an absolute necessity.

With the creation of Family Alliance Action, the 501-c-4 entity, you have two unique opportunities to financially support the NDFA mission. If your interest and passion centers on the issues, and educating and informing – you would continue to support the NDFA with your tax deductible contribution. If your interest centers more so on identifying the policy makers

supporting the cause of the NDFA and working with them to be successful on the issues important to the family, then you would want to financially support Family Alliance Action with your non-tax deductible contribution.

As always, and in all things, we trust the Lord will provide. Our need and goal is that we would be blessed with \$20,000 in tax deductible contributions and \$15,000 in non tax deductible contributions. Remember your tax deductible contribution should go to the North Dakota Family Alliance and your non-tax deductible contribution should go to Family Alliance Action.

Just as in the RLRA petition drive, each circulator, each signer is so important, so it is with your gifts; whether small or large – each is so vital. **Will you support our efforts to strengthen families, protect family values and our religious liberties with a financially partnering contribution of \$25, \$50, \$100, or even \$500?**

# North Dakota Family Alliance

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**Have You Been To Our  
Website Lately?**

**Check out our New Look  
and our New Blog!!  
Go to [www.ndfa.org](http://www.ndfa.org)**

### **I want to help NDFA promote and uphold family policies and values in North Dakota!**

"Friends of the Family" \$1,200 for year 2010 \_\_\_\_\_

\$1000 \_\_\_\_\_ \$500 \_\_\_\_\_ \$350 \_\_\_\_\_ \$250 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_ (Make checks payable to: NDFA)

Monthly pledge \_\_\_\_\_ Contact me about credit card donations \_\_\_\_\_

Contact me about automatic bank withdrawals \_\_\_\_\_

*Please print clearly or affix your return address label.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_ **Register my e-mail address for the most timely information (via e-mail alerts and e-newsletters).**

\_\_\_\_\_ To save on postage costs, please remove my name from the mailing list and keep only on the e-mail list.

Contributions to the North Dakota Family Alliance **are tax deductible** as stated under IRS code, 501 (c) (3).

Contributions to the ND Family Alliance Action **are not tax deductible** as state under IRS code, 501 (c) (4).

## NDFA

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*NDFA is a non-profit organization. All gifts to the North Dakota Family Alliance are tax deductible. Stocks, bonds, and other assets are welcome. Please contact our office for more information.*