

Alternatives to Marriage PROJECT

Annual Report for 2005

As a grassroots organization funded entirely by people who value our mission, our challenge is to transform society: individual experiences, cultural beliefs, and institutional behaviors. Social change takes time and hard work, so we must also build sustainable capacity. This year our donors, volunteers and advisors can take pride in AtMP's accomplishments on all counts.

Transforming Society:

- ❑ Our website (www.unmarried.org) makes people feel visible and validated, as evidenced by hundreds of visitor comments like this one: "My partner and I are boycotting legal marriage until access to marriage is recognized as an issue of human rights, and access ... is provided to all. Our 10th anniversary is June 3, 2005, and we are having a family-recognized commitment ceremony.... Thank you for helping us understand that we are not alone, that our choices are part of something much bigger than ourselves that has the potential power to change the idiosyncratic laws of this nation."
- ❑ By appearing in hundreds of media outlets each year, AtMP shapes the public conversation about marital status as a social justice issue. For example, when Voice of America broadcast a report on "America's Changing Family" in December 2005, an estimated worldwide audience of more than 100 million people heard an AtMP board member argue that there is no direct correlation between parents' marital status and children's overall success in life.
- ❑ AtMP sent scores of letters to Congress advocating against the confirmation of Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito and against the use of federal anti-poverty money to promote marriage. AtMP's advocacy follows the guidelines of, and is duly reported to, federal and state regulators.

Building Capacity:

- ❑ Our active mailing list grew by 27% to over 8,000. Over 1,000 of the new subscribers were members of Unmarried America (formerly a division of the American Association for Single People). Our organizations have a long history of collaboration, and we were honored when Tom Coleman passed the torch of advocacy to AtMP in April 2005.
- ❑ Founders Marshall Miller and Dorian Solot had announced their intentions to move on in late 2004. From January - March 2005, dozens of people from around the country and world advised AtMP's board of directors on critical issues and actions. These powerful conversations among stakeholders resulted in a careful transition process, clear recruiting criteria, and an optimistic vision of AtMP's future.

2005 media sample

Print: New York Times, AARP Bulletin, Associated Press, Washington Post, USA Today, Reuters, Chicago Tribune, Men's Health, Mother Jones, Utne Reader, Village Voice, Dow Jones Newswires, Kansas City Star, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Tuscaloosa News, Globe & Mail (Canada), La Nacion (Argentina); TV: CNN; Radio: Voice of America, Michael Medved, GenderTalk, New Black City Radio (KTRS St. Louis), Paul Sullivan Show (WBZ Boston), RadioActive (KRCL Salt Lake City), WKRC Cincinnati, KATR Phoenix; Web: Marketwatch, MSN, Forbes, ABCNews, Bankrate, Medical News Today, Tolerance.

Mission Statement:

The Alternatives to Marriage Project (AtMP) advocates for equality and fairness for unmarried people, including people who are single, choose not to marry, cannot marry, or live together before marriage. We provide support and information for this fast-growing constituency, fight discrimination on the basis of marital status, and educate the public and policymakers about relevant social and economic issues. We believe that marriage is only one of many acceptable family forms, and that society should recognize and support healthy relationships in all their diversity. AtMP is a national 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Board of Directors:

Chairperson
 Meaghan Lamarre
 Treasurer
 Jo VanEvery
 Secretary
 Martha Ehrenfeld
 2005-2006 members
 Jennifer Gaboury
 Marshall Miller
 Mark Neil
 Dorian Solot
 2004-2005 members
 Ulla Figwer
 Karen Sosnoski
 Sarah Wright
 Priscilla Yamin

Executive Director:

Nov. 2005 - present
 Lisa-Nicolle Grist
 Jan. - Oct. 2005
 Dorian Solot

- AtMP's national search committee used a rigorous screening process to select a new Executive Director from a large, strong pool of candidates. Since prudent hiring is best followed by thorough coaching, the board of directors (now including both founders) remains intensely involved in transferring AtMP's knowledge and operations.
- During this successful transition, it was gratifying to receive IRS confirmation of its advance ruling: based on our record of public support, AtMP is officially a public charity. The organization and donations it receives are still exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3).

Goals for 2006:

In November 2005, AtMP's annual planning retreat adopted the following goals and objectives. □ Transforming the experience of being unmarried: We will convene a network of legal and financial professionals, produce our newsletter quarterly, and maintain our popular website. □ Transforming cultural beliefs: We will work proactively with media through press releases and letters to editors. □ Transforming public policy: We will highlight the unfair role of marital status in access to health insurance, monitor federal spending on marriage promotion, and explore other topics where AtMP's national perspective and grassroots volunteers can add value. □ Building capacity: We will add more board members and raise \$43,000 (20% more than ever before) to support an effective infrastructure of staff and technology.

Many thanks to our 2005 donors!

We have made every effort to report gifts from donors accurately. Thank you for contacting us if you discover an error or omission. *Benefactors (\$1,000 - \$4,999):* Alexandra Chasin, Martha Ehrenfeld, Gerard Palmieri, Catherine E. Reuben, Spectrum Institute. *Sustainers (\$500 - \$999):* C.T. Butler, Ulla Figwer & Dave Goss, John Kilguss, Amber Settle & André Berthiaume, Richard Sposato & Claia Bryja, Robert West, Alice Yew. *Leaders (\$250 - \$499):* Tom Amoroso, Suzanne Miller & Walter vom Saal, Karen Sosnoski & Fred Zeytoonjian. *Friends (\$100 - \$249):* Robert Aronoff, Nancy Bauck, Stuart Bechman, Stephen & Susan Caldwell, Michael Cammer & Dianne Cox, Paul Christensen, Emily Davis, James Denny, Julie Ebin & Luigi Ferrer, Janie Fronek & Ken Heskestad, Janna Cordeiro & Sebastian Toomey, Jennifer Gaboury & Jacob Goldfinger, Rajiv Garg, John Gillis, Amy S. Glesius & Roger Buelow, Connie & Patrick Golden, Lisa Healey, Kirsten Isgro & Tom Schicker, Sheeri Kritzer, Roger Lake, Meaghan Lamarre, Bethany Letiecq, Michelle Mancini & Ted Wong, Will Marcotte, Anne McCormick, Steve Pierce & Jim Belmont, Melora Rush & David Booth, Emily Satterthwaite & Yosh Halbertsam, Harv & Jan Shapiro, Evan & Vicki Solot, Charles Strauss & Cristie Reich, Bryan Williamson, Sarah Wright, Jo VanEvery. *Boosters (\$1 - \$99):* Bettykay, Katherine J. Allen, Phil Barrett, Alicia Bawa, Emily Boone, Melinda Brown & Lou Sortman, P. Byrtus, Cari Carpenter & Eric Bowen, Rodney Choate, Tom Cichonski, Michael Cohn, Wilfredo Corporan, Craig Counterman, Cheryl Cowen, Robert Devries, Searah Deysach, Mary Donlon, Faith Donovan & David West, Skip Drumm & Alan Gross, Bill Dubay & John Reitberger, Paul Duffley, Lisa Duggan, Joseph Eichstaedt, Charles W. Erickson, Chris & Jen Fariello, Yvonne Farrell, Leigh French, Rachel Fudge, Elyse Hahn, Timothy Hebert, Fred W. Henninger, Nancy Hile, Erich Holtmann, Robert Garland, Michael Gentile, Peter Giannini, Michelle Giansante, David Glassman, Matthew Godino, Velma Jeremiah, Elizabeth Kanabe, Jonathan Kang & Carol Threlkeld, Heather Kaplan & Jon-Paul Hauser, Maxine & Arthur Karpf, Stephen Katz, E. Keaton, Jackie Kelly, Gregg Lind & Charlie Copper, Dr. Karen Gail Lewis, Carl Lundstrom, Margaret Maczulski, Anne Mallory, Luke Mechem & Julie Kersey, Joseph Metelski, Stephen Miles Jr., Karen Mock, Wendy Morris, Ashley April Murphy, Lorri Nandrea, Robyn Ochs & Peg Preble, Frances Orr, Jessica Pearlman, Jeremy Peirce & Amanda Birmingham, Vic Pelton, Barbara Pepp, Dorcas L. Phelan, Susan Piontek, Terrence Quinlan, Priscilla Rivera, Sondra Roldan, James Rothman, Sarah David Rosenbaum, Elizabeth Samit, Paul D. Sawyer, Allan & Margaret Schramm, Judy Schutz, Melissa Smith, Riley Stoermer, Rita Sturgeon, Cathy Sullivan, Michael A. Taddonio, Deborah R. Tibbetts, Miriam, Rebecca & Robin Tell, E. Kay Trimmerger, William L. Ward, Arno Wanke, Robert S. Wessells, Gregory Wharton, John Wernitz, Lagusta P. Yearwood & Jacob Feinberg. *In-kind contributions:* Kim Klein, John Kilguss, Catherine E. Reuben, Doyle Warren. Thank you, each and every one!

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| Donations | \$26,950 |
| Net sales | \$1,262 |
| Total income | \$28,212 |
| Personnel | \$10,826 |
| Professional fees | \$2,590 |
| Postage & delivery | \$2,108 |
| Office supplies & equipment | \$1,767 |
| Printing & reproduction | \$1,656 |
| Travel, training & conferences | \$826 |
| Credit card processing | \$706 |
| Telephone | \$478 |
| Dues & subscriptions | \$390 |
| Total expenses | \$21,347 |
| Net income | \$6,865 |
| Net assets at 12/31/05 | \$29,754 |