

Mission statement:

The Alternatives to Marriage Project (AtMP) advocates 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 Chair Meaghan Lamarre and Treasurer Jo Van Every approached a gathering in Chicago.

Special Projects in 2007 - Educating the Public & Media:

Thanks to the tireless work of fabulous volunteers, AtMP added even more high-quality information to our rich website in the past year. Here is a sample of what's new (the web address for each page is www.unmarried.org/pagename):

- ⇒ **ADOPTION:** Children need loving homes, but there's a growing movement to stop unmarried people (or people and families) from adopting, disregarding the best interests of the children. [/adoption-2.html](#)
- ⇒ **DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIPS:** Towns, states and employers offer different rights and responsibilities. [/dp-registries.html](#) and [/dpbenefits.html](#)
- ⇒ **HEALTH CARE:** Access to health care should not be determined by marital or relationship status. [/universal-health-care.html](#)
- ⇒ **HOUSING:** Discrimination in housing is widespread, completely unfair -- and yet still perfectly legal. [/housing.html](#)
- ⇒ **INCOME TAXES:** Incomes should be taxed without regard to marital status, but married people collectively receive a \$30 billion tax bonus each year. [/federal-income-taxes.html](#)
- ⇒ **MARRIAGE PROMOTION:** There is still no evidence that diverting money from anti-poverty programs to marriage programs helps people escape poverty. [/rings2.pdf](#)
- ⇒ **VOTING:** If unmarried people voted as regularly as married people, politicians would listen to us. AtMP makes it easy to register to vote! [/voting-2.html](#)

In addition to supporting AtMP members and web visitors through the website, AtMP educates the general public through the media. Here are excerpts from a few of AtMP's 2007 press releases:

Feb. 5: Valentines Day Celebrates All Loving Relationships, Not Only Marriage In contrast to many organizations that are promoting February 11-17 as "Marriage Week," AtMP believes that Valentine's Day is everyone's opportunity to celebrate love and should not become limited to promoting an exclusive institution. ...

Aug. 31: AtMP Demands End to Labeling Children "Illegitimate" The Center for Immigration Studies released a report entitled, "Illegitimate Nation: An Examination of Out of Wedlock Births Among Immigrants and Natives." AtMP disputes the report's assumptions, and protests its repetitive use of the term "illegitimate." ...

Annual Report for 2007

Sep. 14: Unmarried and Single Americans Week September 16 - 22 The top three realities facing unmarried people in the U.S. are: Unmarried people are diverse; Marital status discrimination is widespread and legal; and Focusing on the "institution of marriage" serves political interests more than it serves people. ...

Evaluating & Adjusting:

As a tiny organization with a big vision, AtMP strives for efficiency and effectiveness. A few examples of how we test our results and adapt new tools:

COMMUNITY: People visited www.unmarried.org over 350,000 times in 2007.

Most found us through Google when searching for help on common law marriage or cohabitation. We want more people to find AtMP, especially when they are looking for help about singles' rights. So we applied for and won a Google Grant. Now AtMP shows up at the top of Google searches on a wide variety of relevant terms, from living single to living together – for free!

MEDIA: When unmarried Halle Berry announced her pregnancy, AtMP appeared on national TV to say that what babies need is adequate food, housing, and love, not marriage certificates. That day, more than twice the usual number of people visited our website. 2007 proved that getting media can increase public understanding of unmarried families. Beyond simply issuing press releases, AtMP is working to strengthen our relationships with reporters and editors who can include our views in the daily news.

POLICY: We know that marital status shapes access to health care in America, but to influence the debate on health care reform we must go to the experts and speak their language. So we'll dedicate more time to explaining the facts, telling members' stories, identifying key players and building alliances.

Just some of AtMP's 2007 media appearances:

PRINT: Associated Press, Best Practices in Compensation and Benefits, Campus Progress, Forbes, Hartford Courant, Human Resources, Ms., New York Times, Rocky Mountain Chronicle, Sacramento Bee, Seattle Post-Intelligencer, Washington Post, Women's Health; **TELEVISION:** CNN Headline News; **RADIO:** Canada's CFRB and CKNW; California's KTLK and KVPR; public radio affiliates in Southern California and Wisconsin; **INTERNET:** CNN, Dating Road Kill, Floridatoday, Minyanville, Salon.

Goals for 2008:

- ✓ **INCREASE VOTER TURNOUT:** Across age, race and gender, almost half of eligible voters who were unmarried chose not to vote for president in 2004. We will help unmarried people register to vote, and try to change the way unmarried people feel about voting.
- ✓ **RE-FRAME UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE:** AtMP will keep pressing the point that reforms aren't complete universal unless they are marriage-neutral.
- ✓ **DEFEAT DISCRIMINATORY BALLOT INITIATIVES:** AtMP will rally our members to support local efforts against a ban on unmarried adoptions in Arkansas and constitutional amendment that would exclusively privilege marriage in Florida.
- ✓ **PREPARE FOR THE NEXT DECADE:** To ensure future success, we will grow our board of directors, energize members through online advocacy, and seek foundation grants for this important work.



Member Yvonne Farrell sported an AtMP t-shirt at a gathering in Washington DC.

2007 Income & Expenses

Donations	39,995
Other income	818
Net sales	<u>1,311</u>
Total income	\$42,074
Personnel	28,283
Professional fees	1,245
Postage & printing	8,983
Office supplies & equipment	1,390
Telephone, internet etc	788
Travel, training & conferences	1,507
Permits, dues & subscriptions	<u>1,225</u>
Total expenses	\$43,421
Net income	-(\$1,347)
Net assets at 12/31/07	\$27,405

You can view AtMP's annual financial report to the IRS at www.guidestar.org, or receive a copy by calling 718-788-1911.



Members Eli Reyes, Stacey Alexander and Ann Schranz conversed at a gathering in Los Angeles.

Hundreds of people supported our work in 2007 - thank you!

BENEFACTORS \$1000-4999

Robert C. Aronoff, Alexandra Chasin, Susan Deitz & Morris Mandelker, NY State Senator Thomas K. Duane, Martha Ehrenfeld, Marshall Miller & Dorian Solot, Mark Neil, Gerard Palmeri, Nancy Polikoff, Catherine E. Reuben, Amber Settle & André Berthiaume

SUSTAINERS \$500-999

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