Why and how AtMP works for justice:

Unmarried people are one of America’s fastest-growing demographic groups. Over 50% of American households are unmarried; over 43% of adults (all races, both sexes, over age 18) are unmarried; over 31% of children (under 18) live in unmarried households; almost 40% of new parents are unmarried. It is in our nation’s best interest to deal with these facts realistically and positively.

Marital status discrimination is both social and institutional. Society’s excessive focus on marriage generates shared interests among a wide variety of people: it affects all ages, races, orientations, beliefs. All unmarried individuals and families are excluded from social, legal and economic benefits that could help them thrive.

Issues of marriage and family are at the forefront of politics and the media. Rather than assume that all people should marry, or would want to if they could, AtMP honors the dynamic, successful individuals and relationships that already exist. Our newsletter, listserv and website are mirrors in which unmarried people see themselves. Our policy reports, press releases, and media appearances are windows through which students, legislators, parents and pundits see unmarried people woven vibrantly through the social fabric.

AtMP has a unique perspective and an impressive track record. AtMP’s work is transformative, reshaping society to match our vision in three ways. First, we improve the experience of being unmarried by providing visibility, validation and tools for personal problem solving. Second, we convert public beliefs about unmarried people by accurately presenting reality. Third, we influence governments and corporations to bring their policies up to date by identifying problems, recommending solutions, and engaging the public to press for change.

AtMP’s leaders are optimistic and down-to-earth. We have an ambitious five-year plan to increase AtMP’s impact by increasing its capacity; we are proceeding methodically toward our goals by setting practical work plans and budgets. The board of directors emphasizes accountability and self-assessment, while the executive director evaluates the success of each project; this discipline ensures that unmarried people will win results through AtMP.

Special accomplishments in 2006:

- AtMP’s campaign against marriage discrimination educated and energized hundreds of voters to oppose amendments to their state constitutions. This campaign involved 30 AtMP members in Arizona, Wisconsin and Virginia, supported by eight volunteers in New York. Our efforts succeeded: Arizona voters rejected the proposed amendment. This victory demonstrates a number of important points: marital status discrimination is unjust; the marriage movement has over-reached itself; and unmarried people have shared interests that make them politically powerful.

- Our membership base grew to over 9,100 subscribers, including over 1,600 people who joined this year. Over 100 people attended membership events in Boston, New York, San Francisco and Washington DC.

- AtMP released more public statements than ever, sending the unmarried point of view to over 1,100 reporters and editors nationwide. Titles of our 2006 statements included:
  - Federal Grants to Promote Marriage Are Bad Public Policy
  - Housing Laws Must Prohibit Marital Status Discrimination: Black Jack, MO City Council is Anti-Family
  - Vote No on Marriage Amendment: All Families Deserve Equal Protection, Benefits and Respect
  - AtMP Calls for Social & Political Respect for the Unmarried Majority
  - Defeat of AZ Prop 107 Proves that Unmarried Concerns Resonate for Majority of Voters
  - AtMP Offers Talking Points to Laura Bush, Condoleezza Rice, and All Friends of Unmarried People

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www.unmarried.org  P.O. Box 320151  Brooklyn NY 11232  718-788-1911  atmp@unmarried.org
We answered legal and financial questions for 89 people who contacted AtMP about common law marriage or unmarried rights and responsibilities. In 23 cases, we obtained detailed responses from professionals.


AtMP protested the Boston Globe’s withdrawal of domestic partnership benefits from its Massachusetts-based employees, explaining that it is not fair to cover only the families of married employees, even where same-sex marriage is allowed. Globe employees were compelled to marry to keep their partners covered.

We expanded our coverage of politics and public policy in print and online, with new articles and web pages on topics such as immigration, housing, health care, and welfare-funded marriage programs. AtMP’s newsletter and website encourage readers to take action on issues that affect unmarried people, through new “What You Can Do” features in most policy-oriented articles.

Objectives in 2007:

- Publish a fully updated edition of Let Them Eat Wedding Rings, offering guidelines for the critical evaluation of government-funded marriage programs.

- Work with health care reform organizations to ensure that their platforms explicitly critique marital status discrimination.

- Address more of the issues that affect singles - as well as cohabiting couples and diverse families - in our membership newsletter, Alternatives to Marriage Update.

- Continue to expand the politics and public policy section of www.unmarried.org. Add new topics such as federal income taxes and health insurance. Add more resources and action alerts to help web visitors and members take action locally.

- Mobilize AtMP members to fight ballot measures proposing marriage discrimination amendments to their state constitutions.

- Make www.unmarried.org more interactive, and easier to maintain, by implementing a new content management system.

You can view AtMP’s annual financial report to the IRS at www.guidestar.org, or receive a copy by calling 718-788-1911.
Many thanks to our 2006 donors!


And many thanks to our 2006 volunteers, activists, advisors & media voices!


We make every effort to report your contributions accurately. Thank you for contacting us if you discover an error or omission.
Real things that real people have really written to us:

- I finally found people who UNDERSTAND!!!

- Joining this group has given me a huge psychological boost, and strengthened my non-married relationship. After years of having family, friends and strangers give me negative feedback about my choice to remain unmarried, it is nice to finally get some positive feedback!

- I think your site is a breath of fresh air and FINALLY somebody is speaking out about us single-by-choice people! I’m not a lemming! I think for myself and I think you are doing the public a great service by speaking out on our behalf and soliciting input from various groups. Good show and I’ll support you!

- I just feel that marriage is a highly personal choice, and that people shouldn’t be “forced” into it to obtain health coverage, pension benefits, etc for their partners. I’m very happy to finally find an organization devoted to this point of view.

- Thanks for all the work you guys are doing.

- With the myriad of articles stating the destiny of children born out of wedlock to be that of poverty and pain, it is nice to finally have a place to go that is supportive of committed relationships without being legally bound.

- I just feel so relieved to know that you are out there. I knew there were others like my partner and me, but until I heard about you, I felt so alone.

- Mike and I really want to figure out something that works for us, while at the same time supporting our friends and the ideas that we feel are really important. Your helping us find a way to do that is really special. I’m so glad that you are out there!

- I’m so glad you exist.

Our 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.