



August 2009

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Movies in the Park and Parachuting Cows

Julie Baumgardner, who leads the Marriage CoMission Community Mobilization Working Group and is also the Executive Director of First Things First in Chattanooga, Tennessee, recently wrote the following on her blog about an event that she and her staff coordinated. Julie and her team have found unique ways to highlight the importance of marriage and family and she involves lots of community stakeholders in the process!

These pictures show the scene at Coolidge Park on Saturday night as families gathered to watch the Wizard of Oz as part of First Things First's Movies in the Park series. Chick-fil-A partnered with us to do a cow drop. A crowd of approximately 6500-7000 watched as 750 little Mini-moo Chick-fil-A cows with parachutes came flying in from a helicopter. There was almost no wind and it was an exceptionally beautiful evening, for which I am VERY thankful. This was a huge hit with the kids!!!!



I love Movies in the Park because it brings to life so much of what First Things First espouses when it comes to building strong families. We see families from all walks of life show up hours before the movie starts to enjoy a picnic and fun time in the park. There is an awesome fountain for kids to play in and a large expanse of green grass where kids can be seen chasing their parents, playing catch or participating in a game of tag.

When the movie starts I see kids nestled in the laps of their parents or families huddled on a blanket. There are usually a lot of teens who come to the park on a date. One time a group of college kids brought their couch along so they could watch the

movie in total comfort.

In a day and time when families are often going in lots of different directions I love hosting an event that brings them together for an evening of relaxation and fun.

I am incredibly grateful to Chattem, Comcast, Sunny 92.3, Geico (Chattanooga office), City of Chattanooga Parks and Recreation, The Chattanooga Times Free Press, Chick-fil-A and Lifeguard Ambulance for making it possible for us to provide this opportunity to our community for FREE!

You can follow Julie on her blog at
<http://juliebaumgardner.blogspot.com/>

Key Principles and Experiences Shared at Business as Unusual Event

The recent Business as Unusual Conference at WinShape highlighted some essential concepts that can help businesses not only be more profitable but more influential. Participants delved into two landmark Gallup studies which reveal the power of emotional connections and the impact that disengaged workers can have on customer relationships and productivity in general. The facilitators then shared ways to re-engage team members with relational tools that then equips their teams to reach their customers in significant, loyalty-building ways.

Brian McCoy, President of McCoy Building Supply, demonstrated how he uses these relational tools in his organization. By actively listening, knowing his employees' top relational needs and how to meet them, and making the time to engage, Mr. McCoy has found creative ways to emotionally connect with his workforce.

The training also provided a unique opportunity for some area pastors to reach out to the business people in their congregations and share an experience together that was mutually impactful: the business leaders received great information and tools that will help them be more profitable and the pastors got an inside look at the challenges and opportunities in the typical workplace.

For more information on Business as Unusual, please visit the Center for Relational Leadership website at www.crlleadership.com.

Summit on Marriage, Parenting & Family at Hampton University

Hampton University and the National Center for African American Marriage and Parenting (NCAAMP) will host a National Summit on Marriage, Parenting and Families this fall at the University's campus in Hampton, Virginia. This groundbreaking event will gather a small group of influential leaders to discuss the critical issues facing marriage and families. Please see the [Summit brochure here](#) for more details. This important event seeks to encourage more national dialogue on how to help marriages and families thrive.

Corporate Conference Call: Helping Companies Do Good While Doing Well

We had a great call on August 11! You can read an overview and find the recording information here: [Marriage CoMission Corporate Conference Call, August 11.](#)

Upcoming Events

Galatians 6:6 Retreat

WinShape Retreat, Rome, GA: Sept. 7-9
[Please see the flyer here.](#)

Thirst Conference

WinShape Retreat, Rome, GA: Sept. 14-16
[Please see flyer here.](#)

Shepherd's Care Retreat

WinShape Retreat, Rome, GA: Sept. 28-30
[Please see flyer here.](#)

Summit on Marriage, Parenting & Family

Hampton University, Hampton, VA: Sept. 29-30
[Please see flyer here.](#)

Relational Foundations Conference

WinShape Retreat, Rome, GA: Oct. 7-9
[Please see flyer here.](#)

If you have any questions or needs, please contact Andrea Lee at andrea@marriagecomission.com or 404-775-8808.

Thanks!
Marriage CoMission