



CAPITOL CONNECTION

WISCONSIN FAMILY ACTION
Marriage|Family|Life|Liberty

WFC Partners to Make a Difference in Wisconsin

Making a difference. That's what we all want. We know that's what you want as our ministry partners—and that's certainly what we need in our culture. In partnership with you, we are always looking for new and creative ways to make a difference in the lives of individuals and families, and ultimately in churches, communities and our state.

This past spring, our good friend Daniel Weiss, president of The Brushfires Foundation (brushfiresfoundation.org), called with an intriguing project opportunity.

Daniel and Brushfires are front-line partners for Wisconsin Family Council. Here's why: by inspiring, transforming and engaging, Brushfires "equips the Christian church to offer a compelling Christian response to the sexual brokenness of the world." So much of what we work on has at its roots "sexual brokenness"—in both Christians and non-Christians. Daniel is an expert in this area and offers excellent resources and insights to us and to church leaders across the state.

His idea? Do a Christian film series on various aspects of sexual brokenness over the next year, showing, on average, a film a month. Would we be interested in co-sponsoring this effort? Yes, as a matter of fact, we would.

And that's how it happened that on a Sunday afternoon in June, WFC president Julaine Appling, and WFC Director of Church Relations Dave Lingle joined about 80 people in Oshkosh at the Grand Opera House for the showing of "Irreplaceable," a film all about the irreplaceable nature of married dad-and-mom families. After the film, Julaine was part of a three-person panel to give observations about the film and answer questions from the audience. In addition to Daniel as the panel moderator, Focus on the Family family-studies expert and author, as well as long-time WFC friend Glenn Stanton rounded out the panel.

The second film was "Sing Over Me," which is the story of Christian song-writer Dennis Jernigen's recovery and transformation from same-sex attraction. WFC personnel were out of town for that one, but reports said this was another success. Joining on that after-film panel was another wonderful WFC friend, Mike Levenhagen of Reclamation Resources. Mike knows personally the hope and restoration available in Christ for those struggling with same-sex attraction, and

now helps others deal with this aspect of sexual brokenness. Mike and Daniel were joined by Jeff Johnston, Issues Analyst with Focus on the Family.

Then on Saturday, August 7, Julaine once again made the trip to Oshkosh for the showing of "The Heart of the Matter," a film about the pernicious addition of pornography. It was a smaller group than before but very engaged and asked insightful questions after watching this very moving film. Julaine was again honored to be a panelist, joining Daniel and Jeremy Keeton, Director of Counseling Services at Focus on the Family.

Future films include "Nefarious: Merchant of Souls" (human trafficking) and "The Drop Box" (adoption). More will be announced over the next few months.

"With this film series we are able to deal with really important issues in a different way and in a different venue. Daniel's vision for this project is so encouraging. We are honored to be involved in a small way. Each film presents unique opportunities to offer help and hope to people who are either themselves dealing with sexual brokenness or have a loved one doing so. We work with Daniel to do what we can to be sure churches within a reasonable drive of Oshkosh are aware of the series and the individual films. We've received great feedback from pastors and laity alike," says Julaine.

This is just another way that your partnership with WFC is being put to use to share the good news of Christ's redemption—including our sexual brokenness—with many in our state.



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by Wisconsin Family Action

August 2016

WFC Consorts with Fellow Christians in the Arizona Desert on Future Strategy

Who goes to the desert in late July? Family Policy Council leaders and elected officials from all across America, that's who!

The last week of July found WFC president Julaine Appling and WFC Event/Project Coordinator Diane Westphall in the Sonoran Desert in southern Arizona at the Family Policy Alliance annual conference. This year's theme was "Unleashing Citizenship," very timely for this election year.

Julaine discovered she's not really a desert type of person, finding the plentiful cactuses "menacing." But in spite of daily highs well exceeding 100, snakes, scorpions, poisonous toads and the menacing cactus, the conference was excellent and profitable.

"While we are a totally independent organization, we have some fantastic national partners, including Family Policy Alliance, which used to be CitizenLink. Each year FPA plans and sponsors a week-long conference for all the state policy councils, which now number thirty-eight. It's always a great time to be with others from all across the country who are involved with this work. Truly iron sharpens iron—and I always come back knowing I've been blessed to be sharpened by some of the best 'iron' in the country," Julaine comments.

This year's speakers included Dr. Wayne Grudem, author of *Politics and the Bible*, retired US Senator Tom Coburn, US House of Representatives member Daniel Webster (FL), and a host of other experts in religious freedom, school choice, the transgender issue, The Family Prosperity Index and more.

An exciting addition this year was the first-ever Statesman Academy, designed for Christians serving in elected office. Each state FPC was able to nominate people to apply to attend. WFC was incredibly pleased and proud to

have State Assembly Representatives Scott Allen (R-Waukesha) and Jesse Kremer (R-Kaukauna) attend as part of the inaugural class.

"It was fabulous having Jesse and Scott there. We had some joint sessions and shared some meals, laughs and fellowship. What a blessing! Our collective assessment was there was great camaraderie at the conference and much excellent content. My prayer is these Wisconsin statesmen will be re-energized and even

better equipped to be the leaders in our state legislature that God wants them to be."

Julaine was asked to be part of The Family Prosperity Index (see May/June newsletter for details) presentation, as the project was introduced to the FPC leaders. With Wisconsin being the first state that the economists have done an

in-depth report on, we are being asked by others about our experience with this powerful and innovative resource. "While we were in the hot and dry desert physically, our spirits were definitely enjoying refreshing water and nourishment every day. It's always encouraging to be with my colleagues as we pray with, learn from and encourage one another in this unique work that is growing more and more critical every day. This iron sharpening iron thing is very real."



Left to right: Rep. Scott Allen, Janet Kremer, Rep. Jesse Kremer, WFC President Julaine Appling, and WFC Event Coordinator Diane Westphall

wifamilyaction.org

P.O. Box 7486 · Madison, WI 53707 · Phone: 608.268.5074 · Email: info@wifamilyaction.org



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Why Does WFC and WFA Exist?

Why does Wisconsin Family Council (WFC) and Wisconsin Family Action (WFA) exist? From time to time, this question percolates to the top of my mind, demanding renewed attention. In this our 30th Anniversary year for WFC, it's been especially persistent.

So why does WFC and WFA exist? First and foremost, we believe God called this work into being. It's not our work, not our organization; it's God's. We exist to bring glory to God through this unique ministry. Our mission of advancing Judeo-Christian principles and values in Wisconsin by strengthening, preserving and promoting marriage, family, life and religious freedom is predicated on our belief in and understanding of God's Word, the Bible. Our beliefs about and positions on legislative and cultural issues come from His authoritative, all-sufficient, forever-settled, inspired Word. We don't wake up each morning wondering what we believe about these foundational matters.

Our vision of healthy Wisconsin families based on God's principles as revealed in His Word is lofty but worthy and completely consistent with His teachings. This vision is what drives us each day as we consider how we can help build strong marriages and families through our educational and action-oriented efforts in the government, the churches, the media and the culture at large.

God began humankind's earthly existence with family squarely at the center of His divine plan. He commissioned Adam and Eve, as husband and wife, to subdue the earth and to be fruitful and multiply. Family is God's heart. We see it from the opening verses in Genesis through the Book of the Revelation as Christ the Bridegroom claims His Bride, the Church. Just read through the genealogies. Family matters to God. And marriage and family are the building blocks for every society. Whether or not people acknowledge this truth, it stands—on the authority of God's Word and as borne out in history and current experience.

I don't say this next statement in a braggadocious way; it is simply the truth. In Wisconsin there is no other group that has the well-being of God's plan for marriage and family at the heart of its mission and vision.

And then there's the rest of our mission—the sanctity of human life and religious freedom. Human life is God's crowning creative act, and we alone among His vast creation bear His image. That's why we work hard to make Wisconsin a place where human life is cherished. Other groups in the state have that as their single issue and focus. We are honored to partner with them in that important work.

As for religious freedom, we believe the Bible teaches that tyranny is wrong; and we further believe God ordained and blessed us with a participatory, representative form of government, based on the rule of law as evidenced in and safeguarded by the US Constitution and our state constitutions. We are to be good stewards of this blessing. Both our state and US constitutions clearly protect freedom of religion. Recognized by our founders as “the first freedom,” this freedom enables us to live according to the teachings of our Christian faith, everywhere at all times. In Wisconsin, we are the only organization standing up for and working hard to protect this freedom. We know when religious freedom flourishes, everyone benefits.

We believe all the work we do is ultimately good for everyone. When God's principles, precepts and commandments are the law of the land, everyone is better off, even if they don't recognize that or agree with it. God's ways are for our good and our protection; He's not a cosmic bully seeking to make life boring or hard.

We believe our work is really all about fulfilling the commandments Christ gave in Matthew 22:39: “love thy neighbor as thyself.” We want and work for what is best for our own families. And if we really love our neighbors as ourselves, we'll want what is best for them, too. Truly loving someone means meeting the needs of the cherished object—sometimes needs they don't even know they have--without expecting anything in return. Each day we seek to do this ministry in love, grace, and humility, while standing firmly on the Truth of God's Word.

We don't exist to bring about a better America or Wisconsin, although I'm convinced that will happen as we fulfill our mission and vision. It's not about winning elections or even legislative victories. It's about doing what's right. It's about loving and honoring God and loving others to promote God's standards, often in the face of strong resistance from those we are loving.

As God wills, we will keep on keeping on, loving God and loving people and working to see Wisconsin become a place where God is honored, religious freedom flourishes, families thrive and life is cherished. We'd love to have you join us.

Julaine Appling, President WFC and WFA

State Pro-Family PAC-Endorsed Candidates Have Good Showing in Primary Election

Madison, WI – “We are proud of the candidates we endorsed,” said Julaine Appling, Wisconsin Family Action PAC director. “And we congratulate those who prevailed in their primary contests yesterday. We look forward to having these candidates take their pro-family, pro-life, pro-liberty message to an even bigger audience in their respective general-election races.”

WFA PAC candidates won in 4 out of 6 races in which WFA PAC had endorsed candidates.

Appling continued, “In November, we anticipate that these individuals will prevail because voting citizens will recognize that their total-package conservative positions will truly keep Wisconsin on the right track. The policies and positions they champion and will implement are good for Wisconsin's best natural resource—her traditional families—and that means they are good for Wisconsin. We wish these candidates all the best as they gear up for the final stretch in this election cycle.”

Senate District 18 - Dan Feyen

Senate District 32 - Dan Kapanke

Assembly District 3 - Ron Tusler

Assembly District 83 - Chuck Wichgers

WFA PAC endorses and supports candidates who strengthen, preserve and promote marriage, family, life and religious liberty in Wisconsin.



WFA PAC endorsed candidate Chuck Wichgers