

# Marriage and Family Counseling Service



July/August 2015  
Quarterly E-Newsletter

Rock Island, IL

## Florecente Depression Workshop



On June 27, the Spanish Family Therapy Program held its 2015 workshop on Depression at the Palamares Social Justice Center. Xochi Hierrara Pannell conducted a three-hour workshop on depression for Hispanics in the Rock Island – Moline Floreciente neighborhood. Speaking about the workshop, Xochi said, “ I got the idea for conducting the workshop

because in so many of the couples I see, many of them are bogged down with depression – partly because of their lives as immigrants. They face economic hardship, family disruption, deportation fears, among issues that affect their lives.” Another workshop is planned for this fall.

## Habitat for Humanity Plans for Floreciente

MFCS’s Spanish Family Therapy Program, begun in 1999, has continued to serve families from the Floricente neighborhood, over the years. Now, Habitat for Humanity announced that while it continues to build new houses in the Floricente, it will start a new program in Moline’s Floreciente Neighborhood.

Neighborhood Revitalization Director, Mary Chappell, says Habitat is joining an international initiative, to make a bigger impact on local areas. In September, volunteers will kick off the new program by holding a work day in the largely Hispanic neighborhood in north-western Moline. They’ll break ground for a new home, make minor home repairs, and clean up yards. Chappell says that it will work in Floreciente for three to five years.

## 2015-2016 Leadership:

Karen Brooke  
President

John Horn  
Vice President

Laurie Skjerseth  
Secretary

Jerry Goddard  
Treasurer

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## Committee Chairpersons:

Endowment Fund  
Jerry Goddard

Finance  
Jerry Goddard

Honors / Annual Mtg.  
Marsha Pedersen

Communication Committee  
Laurie Skjerseth

Nominating  
Laurie Skjerseth

Personnel  
Chuck Austin

Policy & Planning  
Dennis Norling

Resource Development  
Jim Horstmann and  
Lance Willett

## Managing Staff and Volunteers Workshop



Dr. Michael Pater, Atlanta, will once again return to the QCA to conduct a workshop on management for the directors of not-for-profit agencies and clergy. The workshop entitled "Managing Others: Staff & Volunteers" is for people who supervise both staff and volunteers in a not-for-profit setting. The workshop will explore self and other management styles and conflict management styles. The workshop will be held September 9th and 10th.

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## Gottman Level One Training

The Hiebert Institute will again be the site of another John Gottman Level One Training entitled "Bridging the Couple Chasm." Graham Thompson, Springfield, Illinois, is a certified trainer for the Gottman Institute and will conduct this two-day workshop for therapist. The workshop will help therapist manage gridlock issues with couples and help couples through the use of new research-based assessment. This workshop will be held at the Institute also on September 11th and 12th.

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## Karen Brooke, New Board President



Karen Brooke was elected to succeed Rick Best as the president of the Marriage and Family Counseling Board of Directors. The 48th Annual Meeting was held on June 4 at the Crow Valley Country Club. Rick Best, outgoing president, chaired the meeting of some forty board members and guest gathered to elect new officers and enjoy the keynote address by Dr. Jake Johnson. Completing last year's annual meeting, newly elected president Karen Brooke presented former president Chuck Austin with his presidential plaque.

After serving as the Agency's 2012-13 intern, Dr. Johnson became an assistant professor of Marriage and Family Therapy at Wheaton College in Wheaton, Illinois. Dr. Johnson's talk was entitled, "You Don't Complete Me: Injecting a Healthy Dose of Reality into Intimate Couple Relationships." A summary of Dr. Johnson's speech can be found by clicking [here](#).

**Samantha Kammermann, part-time secretary is named Miss Blackhawk Valley '15**



**Karen Brooke and Rick Best**



**The Presidents**

## Six People Elected to the Board

At the annually meeting, five individuals were elected to the board of directors. All of these people were renominations and include: Charles Austin, Karen Brooke, James Horstmann, Tom Lytton and Laurie Skjerseth. Also joining the board will be new member Amy Wells from Bettendorf.

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## 2015-16 Intern

After interviewing candidates, a doctoral candidate from the University of Iowa was selected. He then declined the invitation for financial reasons. The second choice, a newly graduated woman from the Masters in Marriage and Family Therapy program in Springfield, Missouri was then selected. However, after considering the offer, she decided to seek employment rather than an internship. For the summer, the agency will go without the intern and may take another intern after the first of the year, especially since there are candidates who are completing their academic work during the fall semester and will be available for employment January 1, 2016.

Asmaa Alotaiby ended her internship on June 30, 2015 and returned to Portland where she is completing her doctoral work for St. Louis University.



Asmaa receiving her internship plaque at a board farewell at Huckleberry's

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## Linda Neuman named to Iowa Women's Hall of Fame



Linda Neuman, former president of the MFCS Board of Directors (1980-81) was elected to the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame. The Iowa Commission on the Status of Women established the Hall of Fame in 1975 to highlight women's heritage and recognize their contributions.

Linda Newman will be inducted in to the Hall of Fame at a luncheon on August 22, 2015 at a historical building in Des Moines. Linda will be honored together with three other women during the August ceremony.



**Aggie Waterstreet**

## News of Former Interns

Attending the 24th World Family Therapy Congress in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, were former interns Aggie Waterstreet, Jake Johnson and Daniel Stillwell. At left is Aggie Waterstreet at the Batu Caves in Kuala Lumpur, where the world's largest statue of the Hindu deity Murugan is located.

Jake Johnson presented a workshop entitled Strategies for Working With Couples Raising Children on the Autism Spectrum. In the workshop he presented the key challenges to fostering vibrant relationships among these couples will and family therapy-informed interventions for addressing these challenges.

Daniel Stillwell's presentation, Toward International MFT Accreditation, focused on IFTA's new accreditation process and how it is better suited than AAMFT's process for international accreditation.

Presenting at the World Congress: Stillwell and Johnson

Christian Jordal (Drexel University, Philadelphia) presented at the American Association of Sex Educators, Counselors and Therapist in Minneapolis (June)



**Jake Johnson**

Jake Johnson (Wheaton College) was appointed the Editor of the Research e-Forum, an IFTA newsletter about research in family therapy



**Daniel Stillwell**

Daniel Stillwell was selected as Association Professor of Marriage and Family Therapy at Hope International University (Los Angeles)



**Christian Jordal**

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