



# City of Owensboro Kentucky

P.O. BOX 10003  
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Explore [www.owensboro.org](http://www.owensboro.org)

Mayor  
THOMAS H. WATSON, C.P.  
Mayor Pro Tem  
CHARLES CASTLEN, CPA  
Commissioners  
GANDANCE C. BRAKE  
JAMES H. GLENN, JR., E.H.D.  
RON PAYNE, CPA

May 4, 2006

Dear

On Wednesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, program providers, policymakers, philanthropists, researchers, business people, volunteers and advocates in this community will have the opportunity to join forces and build a coalition to help strengthen families in our community. The coalition partners, who will hopefully include you, will strategize about what Owensboro-Daviess County might want to accomplish with a portion of the \$100 million in federal funding soon to be available to support Healthy Marriage Initiatives (HMI).

Here are a few ways that healthier marriages impact our community:

- Increases the likelihood that fathers will have a good relationship with their children
- Healthy relationships positively affect couples' physical and mental health and emotional well-being as well as lowering disability issues, all of which play an important role in the productivity of our workforce
- Single motherhood significantly increases poverty of both mothers and children
- Cohabiting or dating women have a higher risk of being involved in domestic violence
- Boys raised in a single-parent home are twice as likely to have committed a crime that leads to incarceration by the time they reach their 30's
- Parental divorce reduces the likelihood that children will graduate from college and achieve higher paying jobs

We hope you will plan to attend this community-wide effort to be a change agent with respect to families and marriage in our community. The event will take place on **Wednesday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. at the Executive Inn (International Room C).**

**Please** email Cathy Lamar, Director of Counseling Services at Audubon Area Community Services, Inc. at [clamar@audubon-area.com](mailto:clamar@audubon-area.com) if you are planning to attend. I also encourage you to circulate this message to others that you think may be interested in being a part of this coalition. Please have them also RSVP to the email listed above.

Thank you in advance for your commitment to our community.

Sincerely,

Tom Watson  
Mayor