

Homeschool INDIANA

a publication of the Indiana Association of Home Educators | Issue 23, Volume 1



New Feature!
Days to Remember

Conquering Your Child's
Math Phobia
...page 14

Save Money as a
Homeschooling Mom
...page 26

What Are You
Afraid Of?
...page 30

**2020 Home Educators'
Convention SNEAK PEEK**
...page 16

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in this issue

- 11** The IAHE Reading Corner: Off My Bookshelf
Amy Sager
- 12** Unlocking Knowledge
Jill Pike
- 14** Conquering Your Child's Math Phobia
Greg Sabouri
- 16** 2020 Convention Sneak Peek
- 19** Homeschool Spotlight:
An Interview with a Homeschool Graduate
Anna Fichtner
- 20** Parenting Children with Giftedness,
Special Needs, and Twice-Exceptionality: Part 2
Kristina Gillquist
- 24** Get INSPIREd to Learn a Foreign Language
Jess Lehman
- 26** Save Money as a Homeschooling Family
- 28** Hoosier Spotlight: Gene Stratton-Porter
Tomi Carroll
- 30** What Are You Afraid Of?
Karen McDaniel

departments

- Editor's Welcome...**5**
- Regional Representative Map...**7**
- Days to Remember...**8**

Issue 23, Volume 1

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Homeschool Indiana Core Values

To be Christ-focused
To be Indiana-focused
To be encouraging
To be a resource

Our HS advisor, Noelle Brennan, is here to help you!
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Welcome

Homeschooling is growing across the country.

The National Home Education Research Institute says:

- There are over 2.3 million homeschool students in the United States. That is, there were an estimated 2.3 million in spring 2016, and this was up from one estimate of about 2 million home-educated children (in grades K to 12) during the spring of 2010 in the United States (Ray, 2011).
- It appears the homeschool population is continuing to grow (at an estimated 2% to 8% per annum over the past few years).

What a wonderful time to be a home educator! Opportunities continue to grow in local communities and across the globe.

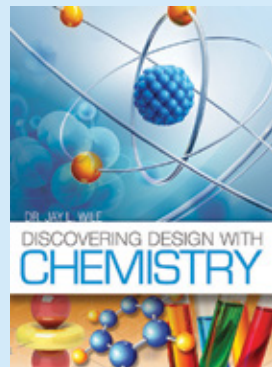
In this issue of Homeschool Indiana, we're excited to share our new **Days to Remember** feature! It's a fun way to discuss historical events with your children and make new memories of your own with creative activities and celebratory fun.

We also have another Indiana spotlight featuring author Gene Stratton Porter. Porter was a prolific writer, silent film producer, and nature photographer. Two of her former homes in Indiana are state historic sites and are great destinations for a fall field trip.

Make plans now to attend the **IAHE Home Educator's Convention**, March 27 & 28, 2020 in Indianapolis. It's the perfect event to encourage your entire family and pour new life into your homeschool. Learn more on pages 16 & 17.

Tara Bentley
Executive Director, IAHE
Managing Editor, *Homeschool Indiana*

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build critical thinkers

The Indiana Association of Home Educators
(IAHE) is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1983 for the purpose of serving the Lord Jesus Christ by supporting and encouraging families interested in home education. We define home education as parent-directed, home-based, privately-funded education.

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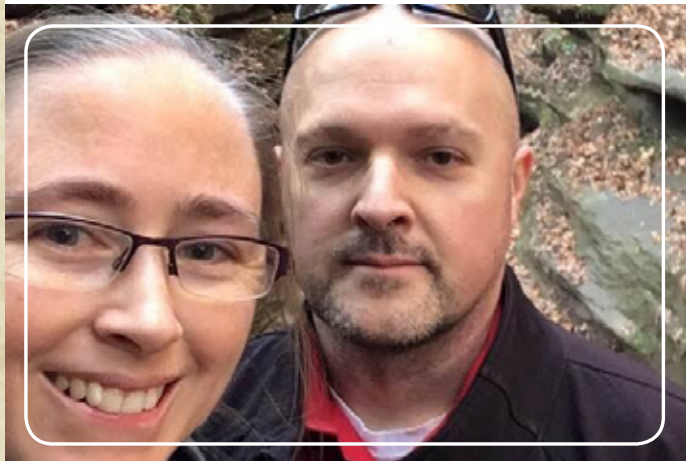
BOARD MEMBERS
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Tim & Becky Zook



New Reps for Region 9

Jared & Melinda Johnson

Jared and Melinda have been married for 18 years and live in Franklin Township. They have 4 children, homeschooling for 13 years. Melinda is a homeschool graduate. Jared works for e2: Effective Elders, a ministry to equip church elders. Their passion is connect parents with the resources they need. Favorite things about homeschooling are the scheduling flexibility and customized academic needs. ■



New Reps for Region 17

William & Ann Munro

William & Ann have lived in Gibson County for eight years. However, in 1994, they began their homeschool journey in California where they were stationed while he was in the Marine Corps. They have been married 35 years and he served 20 years in the Marine Corps and retired. In addition to praying for homeschooling freedom and caring deeply about homeschoolers, they also have a heart for the military. Their three youngest children are still being educated at home and they are expecting their seventh grandchild in May. ■



Have you connected with your IAHE Representative?

Serving the homeschooling community throughout Indiana.

Regional Representatives are veteran homeschool parents who are here to support your family on your home education adventure. Whether you are looking for local activities,

have questions about curriculum, or want to find a support group in your area, your Regional Representative couple is available to help you!

To contact any of our reps by phone, dial 317-467-6244 and then their extension.

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Do you live in an area without an IAHE Representative

and have a passion for homeschooling? Do other homeschool families look to you for answers?

The IAHE is looking for couples with the heart to serve others. Homeschooling is growing across the county and you can be a part of encouraging families with the IAHE.

Contact us directly for more information:

office@iahe.net



DAYS TO REMEMBER

Gettysburg Address | 1863

President Abraham Lincoln delivers the Gettysburg Address at the dedication of a military cemetery in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania during the American Civil War. In fewer than 275 words, Lincoln reminds a weary public of the importance to the entire nation of the Union winning the war.

★ *Have your kids ever memorized Bible verses or famous speeches? This is one to add to the list.*

November 19th

November 29th

C.S. Lewis's Birthday | 1898

Born in Belfast, Ireland, C.S. Lewis was a renowned Christian apologist writer, also known for showcasing his faith in works of fiction. He is known throughout the world as the author of *The Chronicles of Narnia* fantasy series.

★ *Grab a blanket and snuggle up on the couch with a copy of *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*.*

Indiana Statehood Day | 1816

President James Madison signs an act of Congress admitting Indiana to the Union as the 19th state. This was the culmination of a process that began in 1800 with the Indiana Territory, which included Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, and parts of Minnesota, being subdivided out from the Northwest Territory.

★ *Looking for a way to celebrate or an excuse for a field trip? The Indiana State Museum hosts many activities for families to celebrate Indiana Statehood Day.*

December 11th

December 16th

Boston Tea Party | 1773

In Boston Harbor, a group of Massachusetts colonists disguised as Mohawk Indians boarded three British tea ships and dumped 342 chests of tea into the harbor. This act of protest became a rallying cry against "taxation without representation" and was one of the important events that eventually led to American independence.

★ *Think about it! Today, tea is an inexpensive drink option. But, in colonial America, it was considered a valuable commodity. Can you find a value for the 342 chests of tea that were lost?*

Louis Daguerre | 1839

Louis Daguerre takes the first-ever photograph of the moon. Before daguerreotypes (named after their creator), astronomers had to sketch by hand what they saw in their telescopes.

★ *Search online for examples of daguerreotypes for your kids to compare to modern photographs.*

★ *Have your kids sketch something outside. Then take a photograph of the same object and compare it to the sketch. Which is more detailed?*

January 2nd

February 12th

Abraham Lincoln | 1809

Future President Abraham Lincoln is born in Hodgenville, Kentucky to Thomas and Nancy Lincoln. His first home was a one-room log cabin on Sinking Spring Farm.

★ *Abraham Lincoln may have been born in Kentucky, but our own state of Indiana also claims to be home to his legacy. Lincoln lived in southwest Indiana from the age of seven to twenty-one. Plan a visit to our National Park, Lincoln's Boyhood Home in Lincoln City, IN. You can even become a Lincoln Boyhood Junior Ranger during your visit to the park!*

National Brownie Day

– Sunday, December 8 –

This special day celebrates this ooey, gooey, sweet treat loved by millions across the globe.

Brownie Fun Facts

★ Blonde brownies are made with brown sugar and no chocolate.

★ The largest brownie ever made weighed 3,000 pounds.

★ Walnut is the most popular brownie addition.

How can you celebrate?

★ *Create a brownie bar stocked with fun toppings and invite your friends over for a party.*

★ *Ask a family member for their favorite brownie recipe and surprise them with a fresh batch for Christmas.*



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J.R.R. TOLKIEN'S BIRTHDAY

– Friday, January 3 –

Professor John Ronald Reuel Tolkien was born in Bloemfontein, South Africa. Celebrate the author of *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Hobbit* in Hobbit style on the anniversary of his birthday.

So pull out your party hats!

It's time to throw a party, hobbit style.

- ★ *Celebrate Frodo and Bilbo Baggins' mutual birthday.*
- ★ *Feast like a hobbit, play games, wear costumes, set off fireworks (or sparklers), go barefoot. Open the party with a famous quote of Bilbo's: "I don't know half of you half as well as I should like; and I like less than half of you half as well as you deserve."*
- ★ *Read The Hobbit, The Lord of the Rings, or watch one of the movies made by Peter Jackson.*
- ★ *Local libraries often host events, movie showings, or displays about Tolkien during this week.*
- ★ *Read aloud John Ronald's Dragons: The Story of J.R.R. Tolkien by Caroline McAlister.*

National Puzzle Day

– Wednesday, January 29 –

Founded in 2002 by syndicated newspaper puzzle maker and professional quiz maker, Jodi Jill, National Puzzle Day is a fun way to learn! Puzzles come in many varieties including crossword, jigsaw, trivia, word search, brainteaser, and more. Puzzles are a fun way to exercise your brain! Working on a puzzle can improve your memory and your problem-solving skills. Word puzzles can also increase vocabulary and language skills.

How can you celebrate?

- ★ Spend the afternoon putting a jigsaw puzzle together with the entire family.
- ★ Have you ever tried a Sudoku? It's a number puzzle that builds logic and critical thinking skills. Search online for "Sudoku printables" to see how well you will do.
- ★ Create your own crossword puzzle! Start with a list of 15 to 18 words and create clues for each one. Use an online puzzle generator or layout your puzzle on a piece of graph paper. Then share your puzzle with family and friends.



WORLD RADIO DAY

– Thursday, February 13 –

Long before the invention of smartphones, smart TVs, YouTube, Siri, and Alexa, families gathered together around a radio for their entertainment and news. For generations, the family radio was the hub of life in households. Guglielmo Marconi invented the radio in 1899 and despite being more than 100 years old, radio broadcasting continues to be a vibrant means of sharing information, music, and more.

Did you know?

Radio has been with us longer than any other kind of broadcast media. That means more people have access to radio than anything else.

- ★ Fictional dramas were popular family entertainment for many years. On October 30, 1938, CBS broadcast the drama "War of the Worlds." Intended as a Halloween prank, the broadcast created panic and chaos as listeners weren't aware it was a fictional drama. This was the power of radio. Search online to find a recording and experience the original broadcast for yourself. How would you have reacted when you heard the "news"?

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The Reading Corner

As homeschool moms, we focus on shopping lists of curriculum, school supplies, and great reading material for our children. But, what about mom? What books are you reading this season? Check out these recommendations from our team.

Off my Bookshelf



With This Pledge
by Tamara Alexander
Christian historical fiction

Carnton House, a southern plantation in Franklin, TN, is turned into a field hospital during the Civil War. The relationships that form and the events that take place are based on historical fact and shine a light on the personal and collective cost of war.

If you need a push, start with this one. I visited Carnton House and the tour guide recommended this book because of the accuracy of the historical detail and the extraordinary character development. You won't be disappointed.



Silas Marner
by George Eliot
Victorian novel/pastoral fiction

Falsely accused of theft and forced to leave his home, Silas Marner cares only for his weaving and his gold...until one snowy evening he discovers something on his hearth that will change the course of his life.



Peace Like a River
by Leif Enger
Fiction

Leif Enger's debut novel takes the reader on a thought-provoking journey. Eleven-year-old Reuben narrates a story of faith, miracles, and a father's love for his children.



On the Edge of the Dark Sea of Darkness (The Wingfeather Saga #1)
by Andrew Peterson
Fantasy/Adventure novel

A wonderfully imaginative tale, the first book of this series introduces the Igbly family and follows them as they try to escape the evil Fangs of Dang. This book is filled with everything from heroic adventures to absurd wackiness that will keep the reader coming back for the next book. Was this book intended for youth? Yes. Did my children read it first and insist that I read it? Yes. Was it any less fulfilling than an adult novel? Absolutely not. Now, where did that second book go? ■

The other day I fixed lunch for my kids, called them to the table, and informed them that I needed to go get some work done while I ate. Without a moment's thought, they all dashed off to find the new books they had just picked up at the library. Peeking out of the office to see them silently eating and engrossed in their wonderful stories warmed my heart. Don't be misled. There's plenty of boisterous chatter and wild play in this household. But there's also a love of books. It's contagious.

Remember the good old days when you could read for hours on end? Well, they're gone. Maybe they will come again later, but for the time being, I content myself with little snatches of time here and there. It's been years since I have read Jack London's "To Build a Fire," and even though it took me several days longer than my teenage daughter to find twenty minutes to read it, we thoroughly enjoyed discussing the author's worldview. We marveled at and lamented how different his values were from ours. I was reminded of one of the reasons why I read. It pushes me to ask questions about human nature and who God is.

Here are several of my recent favorites that do just that and so much more.

Happy Reading!



Amy Sager, IAHE Writing Director and her husband Mike homeschool their five children in the rolling hills of southern Indiana. The whole family enjoys reading quality literature, playing music together, and working on their farm.



Unlocking KNOWLEDGE

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Epiphanies come at the most inauspicious times. I was in the car with my many children, and as usual, we were listening to a book on tape. That week I had begun to worry about my nine-year-old daughter's understanding of what we read, so after listening to a paragraph of our book, I stopped the tape and asked her some questions: Who is this story about? (no idea) Where is it happening? (not a clue) My daughter understood the English language and had a good vocabulary, but she needed more help to get the gist of a story.

Think about it: How do you grasp what is happening in a story? For example, a story might say, "Dave climbed up onto the pitching deck. Waves crashed over the bow, and salt stung his eyes. The sails cracked menacingly overhead, threatening to break the mast." How does the reader take those words and figure out what is going on? By using inference—taking the facts that are presented and using them to paint a picture. The story appears to be about Dave since the reader is experiencing the ship from his perspective. The mention of waves, salt, and sail indicate that the setting must be a ship at sea. Furthermore, the crashing waves and cracking sails suggest that a storm is brewing. The ship and Dave are in danger. Some children pick up these inferences easily. Others need to be taught. Where is a teacher to start?


Picture books are a wonderful way to start the process, and they are not just for little children. Caldecott Medal books such as *Sam, Bangs, and Moonshine* have great depth. Moreover, I once led a group of moms in an hour-long discussion of Patricia Polacco's *Thundercake*. Thus, picture books are the perfect place to start literary instruction.

In a picture book, the main character and setting are usually portrayed on the pages along with important elements of the story. Discuss the picture before or after reading the text on the page. Have your student point out the characters in the picture. Discuss the setting: Where in the world is this? Is it real or make believe? What time of day is it? How do you know? It is those "how do you know" questions that are most helpful. If your student is not sure, patiently explain it to him. Work on developing the concrete elements of the story—who, what, where, when—before moving on to the more abstract questions of how and why.

When reading chapter books, stop often and discuss the story. Help your student paint a picture in his head of what is going on. This is not easy to do from words alone, so connect it to experiences he has had. If needed, find images online to help him see where the story is happening. Act out parts of it to help him form a movie in his head about the story. As time-consuming as this is, it is well worth the time and effort to build the skill of inference with your kids. Be patient. Like Anne Sullivan teaching Helen Keller to sign, there will be a long period of no understanding. But then like Helen with the word w-a-t-e-r, understanding will suddenly blossom, and all your hard work will quickly come to fruition.

Using a series of books with repeated characters is also helpful. I had lamented that my daughter would never be able to retell a story, but one day it happened. She came down and for the first time excitedly told me about a book she had just read, relating the characters and the plot. The book? The first in the *Series of Unfortunate Events* by Lemony Snicket. Those books are a gift to kids who struggle. All thirteen books have the same characters and essentially the same plot, and the author presents the story in a clever yet clear way. Here is a sample from Chapter 1 of *The Bad Beginning*: "The three Baudelaire children lived with their parents in an enormous mansion at the heart of a dirty and busy city, and occasionally their parents gave them permission to take a rickety trolley—the word "rickety," you probably know, here means "unsteady" or "likely to collapse"—alone to the seashore, where they would spend the day as a sort of vacation as long as they were home for dinner."

Note that the text is both clever and entertaining while at the same time it fills in information and vocabulary definitions for the reader. Thanks to Lemony Snicket, my daughter finally grasped how to understand a story. Another series that is equally helpful is John Erickson's *Hank the Cowdog* books. Both series are available on audio, which brings the stories to life all the more. Dr. Seuss wrote, "The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go!" But for this to happen, some kids need a parent to show them how to connect the dots. Trust me, it works. By high school, my daughter was delving into Shakespeare with the best of them. She just needed the key to getting there. So the next time you read a book with your kids, ask a few questions early on to ensure they are picking up on the story. If not, take the time to point out what is happening and why. In this way, you can provide them with the keys to unlock the impressive knowledge contained in books. ■

 **Jill Pike** is a homeschooling mother of eight and an IEW® Accomplished Instructor. She has authored many lesson plans offered by the Institute for Excellence in Writing, including IEW's popular reading and writing program, Primary Arts of Language. After graduating seven children, Jill and her husband, Greg, continue to home educate their youngest in Indiana.

Did you hear?

IAHE's 35th Home Educators' Convention will be
March 27th & 28th!



Conquering Your Child's

MATH PHOBIA

— Greg Sabouri

Math phobia is the fear of anything mathematical. A person with math phobia basically has a negative emotional, or sometimes even a physical, reaction to math. Of course, many people assume that a person who is afraid of math is just not good at it, but this is not true. Many highly intelligent people have math phobia.

Math phobia can cause a person to “freeze up” when faced with numbers of any kind. The person will immediately start thinking, “I can’t do this” or “I’m just not a math person.” So math phobia can cause people to “run away” from anything mathematical.

Math phobia can also cause a person to fake it. Instead of coming right out and saying, “I’m confused,” a math phobic might pretend to know a mathematical concept. For example, he might guess at an answer and if he misses it, he’ll say, “Oh, right. I meant that.” This is especially common among young people because they don’t understand how transparent they are.

Where Does Math Phobia Come From?

Math phobia often comes from traumatic experiences early in life. For example, some teachers might inadvertently embarrass kids by putting them on the spot in front of the rest of the class. Casual remarks from fellow students, such as, “That one was easy,” can also undermine a child’s confidence in math. Math phobia can even stem from bad curriculum. That’s because many textbooks contain very little explanation. Instead of recognizing that the problem is

the textbook, the student assumes that he or she just isn’t smart enough to understand. Parents can sometimes cause math fear as well. A parent’s bad attitude toward math can carry over to the child.

And these aren’t the only sources. Hatred or fear of math can also be caused by the general social environment a person is in. For instance, some students don’t want to be good at math because they think it is for nerds. Also, girls may shy away from math because they think it may make them seem less feminine. Of course, later on, these

types usually realize the importance of the subject and feel frustrated because they’re so far behind.

Math phobia can also be caused by learning gaps from earlier math courses. Math builds on itself. For example, there’s no way to understand trigonometry or calculus without a strong base in algebra. So some people develop an inferiority complex about math simply because they’ve missed something important in an earlier math course.



Ways to Conquer Math Phobia

So how can you deal with a fear of math if you have it? Well, start by not believing the myth that math is just a natural talent for the select few; then, consider the following suggestions.

1.

Face your anxiety. The first step is to face your anxiety about math. Don’t ignore it, try to bluff your way through it, or give up. Instead, remember that when we do anything regularly, we get better at it, so just take one day at a time and persevere.

2.

Be positive toward math. The next step is to change your attitude. Start talking positively to yourself about math. Build yourself up. Turn math into a challenge and congratulate yourself when you do well.

3.

Slow down. Don’t rush through math problems. Mull each one over. If you’re working on a tough word problem, read it several times, write down the key facts, and study them carefully. If a problem is particularly tough, you may not be able to figure it out on the first try. But if you come back to the problem later with a new perspective, you may succeed in solving it.

4.

Get the basics down first. Don’t be afraid to go back over the basics. There may be some learning gaps that are the root of all your difficulties. If there are, you don’t necessarily have to redo an entire course. You might just need to review where you’re weak.

5.

Find the way you learn best. What kind of learner are you? Some people are visual learners who might thrive with manipulatives. Some are audio learners. Others are great readers and prefer written explanations. Follow the path that feels most natural to you.

6.

Inject humor. Next, inject some humor into your math studies. Make up your own humor. For example, if a word problem says that car A is chasing car B, change it to a one-legged pirate is chasing a 90-year old ninja. This approach can take some of the seriousness out of math and make it less intimidating.

7.

Use role models. Reading about people who have overcome obstacles can be very inspiring. For example, you may have heard that Thomas Edison’s teacher considered him to be dull-witted. Albert Einstein also had some trouble in school. Obviously, both of these men are proof that anyone can become the victim of false and damaging labels.

8.

Connect it to the real world. Finally, try to connect math to the real world by tying it to an activity you enjoy or a career aspiration. If you enjoy woodworking or baking, learn the math that goes along with those activities. And if you want to become a physical therapist, spend a little time researching what math courses are required.

Of all of these, the most important thing is to just keep trying. You can do it, if you just don’t quit! ■



Greg Sabouri is a co-founder of Teaching Textbooks, a company that produces award-winning homeschool math curricula.





Home Educators' CONVENTION

I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth. — 3 John 4 (ESV)

Our Featured 2020 Speakers!



Zan Tyler's passion is to encourage parents to raise children who love the Lord, understand their callings in life, and become active citizens who understand the principles of freedom that undergird our American heritage. She currently represents BJU Press Homeschool/HomeWorks by Precept. For sixteen years, Zan worked with Christian publishers to develop homeschool curriculum and resources. She considers the twenty-one-years she and her husband, Joe, spent homeschooling their own three children from kindergarten through high school to be one of the greatest privileges of her life.



Adam Andrews is the director of the Center for Literary Education and a home schooling father of six. Since 2003, he has traveled throughout the United States and Canada presenting an innovative method for teaching the crucial skills of literary analysis. Adam's dynamic presentations enable students to enjoy great literature as never before, while his fresh insights inspire parents and teachers with a new vision for their task as educators.



Connie Albers is a popular speaker whose insights and humor and practical strategies have encouraged and motivated educators, parents, businesspeople, and students to focus on strengths to achieve success. With a goal for bringing out the best in others, Connie has brought hope and life to countless families, but she remains humbled by the way God uses her message to make such a difference.

It's the homeschool event of the year! Join us for two days of encouraging workshops and curriculum shopping!

Something for the whole family!

Children are welcome to attend with their family. Our Exhibit Hall includes **Learning Express** with workshops and activities designed just for the younger crowd. Learning Express is **not** a drop-off program.

Teens are welcome to attend the convention with their families. We also offer a special add-on program just for students ages 13 to 18. CREW 4:12 is a **full two-day program** for teens that includes a component of serving in the exhibit hall.

Grandparents are encouraged by IAHE to become knowledgeable about home education and value the contributions they offer. Therefore, **non-homeschooling** grandparents may attend for free when registered as part of a Family Registration. The grandparent's name(s) must be included on your registration form.



Save the date! March 27 & 28
Indiana State Fairgrounds, Indianapolis
Pre-Register Online or by Mail!
iahe.net/2020-convention/

Registration Special

- **Early Bird Registration** •
November–December 31, 2019
\$45 Individual / \$65 Family
- **Pre-Registration** •
January 1–March 15, 2020
\$50 Individual / \$75 Family
- **Crew 4:12** •
Teen Staff Program
\$35

IAHE Members Save \$5 off Family Registration through March 15!

Register Early & Save!

At-the-Door Pricing | March 27 & 28

- **1 Day Convention Registration** •
\$40 Individual / \$65 Family
- **2 Day Convention Registration** •
\$55 Individual / \$85 Family
- **One-Day Exhibit Hall Only Pass** •
\$35 Individual / \$55 Family

Connect. Shop. Learn. Sleep. Repeat.

Hotel Discounts

The IAHE has arranged room blocks with these hotels, providing a limited number of rooms at special prices until the deadlines listed, subject to availability. Rates quoted do not include tax.

NOTE: Be sure to mention "IAHE" when you book your rooms to ensure our special convention rates.

Baymont Inn & Suites

\$129/night (King or Queen)

9790 North by Northeast Blvd. Fishers, IN 46037
317-578-2000

14 min./9.7 miles from Fairgrounds

"Free breakfast buffet, free wireless high-speed Internet."

Reservations deadline: 2/27/2020

Comfort Suites - Fishers

\$130/night (King with sofa)

9760 Crosspoint Blvd. Indianapolis, IN 46256
317-436-9996

17 min./9.5 miles from Fairgrounds

"Free premium WiFi, Free hot breakfast, fitness center, indoor heated pool. Guest rooms have microwave, refrigerator, and coffee maker."

Reservations deadline: 2/27/2020

Hampton Inn - NE

\$109/night (Standard Double or Standard King with Sleeper Sofa)

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21 min./8.7 miles from Fairgrounds

"Free hot breakfast and WiFi"

Reservations deadline: 3/13/2020

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\$159/night (1-Bedroom King Suite with Sleeper Sofa)

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18-22 min/10 miles from Fairgrounds

"On-site Guest Self-Laundry Facilities, Complimentary Breakfast Buffet, Standard Wireless Internet service is free for all members, On-Site Fitness Center Available, Guest Rooms with Full Kitchens"

Reservations deadline: 3/13/2020

iahe.net/2020-convention/hotel-discounts/

Homeschool Spotlight

An Interview with a Homeschool Graduate

— Anna Fichtner —



Q: How many years were you homeschooled?

I was homeschooled all twelve years of my education with the majority of my junior and senior years spent taking dual credit courses at a local community college.

Q: Can you share one of your fondest memories from your homeschool years?

Throughout my childhood, I grew up going on many field trips such as visiting the zoo, watching plays, visiting museums, etc. My fondest memory is a week-long field trip I took in high school with a co-op class after studying the history and foundations of our country. Touring historical sites and monuments in Washington D.C., Philadelphia, and New York City was a unique opportunity that created lasting memories.

Q: What is the most positive result of your years as a homeschooled student?

I think one of the most positive factors is the amount of flexibility it gave me. I had the ability to determine my schedule and easily fit in extracurricular activities and sports. I also had the choice to focus on hands-on learning instead of test-based curricula. This helped me work at a steady pace and focus on understanding material without feeling pressured by test scores. In addition, I appreciated being able to complete my classwork during the day so I could spend my free time playing sports, going outside, and recharging for the following school day.

Q: If you could go back in time, would you change any of your homeschool experiences?

Looking back, there were times that I was burnt out by focusing on a school subject for an entire year. At college, I've realized how refreshing it can be to have the school year separated by semesters and if I could change anything it would be the amount of time spent on certain subjects. I also would take advantage of my schedule by going on more field trips.

Q: How did being homeschooled help prepare you for success in college?

I am starting my senior year at the University of Southern Indiana, and I felt prepared coming to college because homeschooling taught me discipline and self-control. When I pursued my education at home, it often required me to push and teach myself, and I believe this helped me adjust to the self-motivation and responsibility that is required for success in college.

Q: What are your future plans after you graduate?

I am currently studying advertising, and I also have an interest in public relations. I will be seeking an internship to help gain experience and narrow down the direction I want to pursue after college.

Anna Fichtner grew up in Bloomington, Indiana and is now attending the University of Southern Indiana.



Parenting Children

with Giftedness, Special Needs, & Twice-Exceptionality: Part 2

— Kristina Gillquist

Part 1 of this article series established a basic understanding of twice-exceptionality, a term commonly applied to individuals with skills at both ends of the proficiency spectrum (often referred to as highs and lows), as well as extraordinary demands and stressors on the child’s family. Here in Part 2, we will describe common areas of difficulty for this unique population, including binocularity, sensory processing, and executive functioning skills.

These critical skill domains contribute to the developmental basis on which all learning takes place and largely determine the child’s ability to self-modulate or self-regulate. Certain children may be at higher risk for difficulty in these areas. Some examples would be children who had complicated or traumatic births or infancies, children who did not crawl, children whose speech or mobility was restricted by excessive use of a car seat or prolonged use of a pacifier, children with food allergies (either known or undiagnosed), children adopted out of families of origin, children with delays in the integration of their primitive reflexes...the list of possible circumstances, very few of which any parent can affect, goes on and on. If, however, you are the parent of a baby or very young child and you notice the writing on the wall regarding any of these observations, reach out to appropriate supports right away. Early intervention makes a tremendous difference.

One of the first things I recommend to parents is that all children annually see an optometrist who is as interested in a child’s overall development as he or she is in the child’s eyes. Annual physical exams at a traditional pediatrician’s office miss many vision problems common among school-age children. Your child’s eyes may be “healthy”, but his or her vision could still be very dysfunctional. An exceptional optometrist will not only perform an exam for nearsightedness, farsightedness, and overall ocular health, but will also assess your child’s binocular function. Do your child’s eyes maintain a midline position at rest, or are they rotated out or in a few degrees? Does your child use both eyes in tandem? More frequently than not, parents who are already so familiar with a child’s physical appearance and level of function cannot tell. Oftentimes, a child will not track well in the vertical direction, horizontal direction, or both. When this is the case, the list of common symptoms includes task avoidance, fatigue with reading, reluctance to read aloud, poor reading comprehension, fidgeting while reading due to motor overflow from increased exertion, and general distractibility. Understandably, these behaviors can be sources of tremendous frustration for both parent and child. In addition, it is estimated that a whopping 80% of the energy needed for us to process sensory information is used for vision;

as a result, the visual sense is often nicknamed “the hog of the nervous system.” With this in mind, it is easy to see why a child’s oculomotor function should be supported at optimal efficiency!

As this variable is addressed and the child has had the opportunity to complete any appropriate vision therapy, it is important to take stock of overall sensory processing. Sensory processing is the foundation of neuromotor development. Is your child a sensory seeker, or an avoider? Is it mixed? Do sensory sensitivities impact your child’s diet? It is not uncommon for sensory needs to limit dietary intake and lead to poor concentration and even nutritional deficiencies. Other areas of daily routines that can be impacted include hygiene and tolerance to transitions. Sensory Processing Disorder, also referred to as Sensory Integrative Dysfunction, is treatable. If it is “all” your child has going on, proper therapy can fill in the gaps, and you can do a great deal of this on your own. But if it is part of a bigger diagnostic picture, as is common with many developmental disabilities and autism spectrum diagnoses, sensory processing and integration will need ongoing support and adaptation.

If you have concerns in this area, seek a comprehensive evaluation of sensory processing and integration from a specially trained physical or occupational therapist, and do a great deal of reading, before and afterward, on your own. In most instances, home-educating parents have a strong sense of their child’s most natural learning style and know what their kids crave or avoid, and can figure out the neurologic basis for these preferences for themselves. Is your kid an auditory learner? The auditory (hearing) and vestibular (balance) senses are married, so get a huge platform swing for that tree in the yard. Yes, swinging, tipping upside down, moving the head around with dancing, cartwheeling, tumbling, and outdoor play will stimulate the development of the inner ear which will support both senses. Is your kid visually sensitive? Work very hard to declutter your home environment remembering that in this situation, less is way, way more.

There is no shortage of simple strategies for thrifty and creative parents. Many children concentrate better with crunchy snacks or

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a water bottle with a straw. You may find that having rough textures (hook and loop fastener adhered beneath the edge of your table) or putty available takes the edge off and enhances concentration. And it is important to note that for many children, the visual and auditory processing systems do not work in concert; one is usually on high alert while the other is dialed way, way down. If it seems that your child avoids eye contact when he is listening closely, you are not seeing things. He is turning his eyes “off” and triaging his available energy in order to take in and process auditory information. An appropriate evaluation or printed resource can give you specific things to look for and many other compensatory ideas to try. And it is important to remember that the needs of the nervous system are fluid; your child’s needs and responses to stimuli may be different from month to month, week to week, and day to day.

After you familiarize yourself with the topic of sensory integration and have a workable plan in place for your child, study your child’s executive functioning skills. Children with unmet sensory needs are more prone to difficulties in this area than the rest of the population. Initiating a task, maintaining focus, breaking a job down into manageable parts, budgeting time, and general organizational and study skills are examples of skills grouped under the umbrella term of executive functioning. There are self-assessments on the market that can lend a lot of structure to an assessment of your family and will also aid your ongoing effort to understand the needs of your home and support growth in these important life-skill areas. Remember, our body’s systems are all interconnected, so we have to be big-picture thinkers here, not allowing ourselves to become bogged down and overwhelmed by minutia. Flexibility and an enduring sense of humor go a long, long way!

Finally, it is important to note that printed and prepared resources abound on twice-exceptionality. Readers who are interested in a list of my personal favorites are invited to contact me at the email listed below. Thanks for reading, and enjoy your special kids! ■



Kristina Gillquist is a physical therapist from Bloomington, Indiana where her husband, Fr. Peter, is an Orthodox priest and their wonderful children, ages 17 to 1, keep too much grass from growing in any one spot. She is grateful to God for the privilege of choosing home-based education and can be reached at itsalwaysbrightmonday@gmail.com.

Do YOU have a child who is Gifted, Special Needs, or Twice-Exceptional?

Be sure to check out the IAHE webstore at iahe.net/shop to purchase workshop audios from past IAHE conventions, including:

- Teaching the Right Brain Child* | Pamela Gates
- Teaching Struggling Learners At Home: Nuts and Bolts for Success* | Faith Berens
- Help! How Do I Reach this Highly Distractible Child* | Carol Barnier
- Reading Strategies for the Non-Reader* | Andrew Pudewa
- Brain Training* | Cindy West

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Get INSPIREd to Learn a Foreign Language

—Jess Lehman

Exploring a new language is fun. Doing it for free is even better. You cannot imagine my excitement when I discovered an Indiana resource for free access to Rosetta Stone.

The Rosetta Stone computer program (rosettastone.com) works by teaching a language without translating. So, it will show you the German words *eine Katze* and then show you pictures of different animals. Your job is to figure out that *eine Katze* means a cat and click on the cat picture. Rosetta Stone wants you to learn to think in another language.

You can use this program through INSPIRE (inspire.in.gov), supported by the Indiana State Library. This website contains several free informational and educational databases. Of course, my favorite INSPIRE resource is Rosetta Stone. INSPIRE offers

the first level of Rosetta Stone in thirty languages (two of them are American English and British English).

How to Start

Make sure you use Google Chrome or Firefox as your web browser; Internet Explorer will not work. Go to inspire.in.gov. Click on Rosetta Stone at the top left. Type in your email address, create a password, and then pick a language from the drop-down menu. Sign in and click Launch Rosetta Stone® Language Lessons Version 3. If you do not have Adobe Flash Player installed, you will need to enable it to run. You may have to close out and log back in again.

You can choose what kind of course you want: a focus on reading and writing, a focus on speaking and listening, a standard course that covers everything, or an extended course that offers more practice. When the course loads, make it full screen.

When you click a lesson to start it, you also need to connect the program to your computer's microphone so it can compare your voice to the native speaker's. If you do not have a microphone, just deny access and the program will skip the speaking parts.

After completing one screen, the lesson will go immediately to the next screen. If you want time to digest what you have learned, click

on the settings icon in the top right and deselect "Continue to next screen." Then when you are ready to move on, click the next number or the arrow at the bottom.

What You Get

This is level one, or unit one, of Rosetta Stone. Depending on what course you choose, there are probably four lessons with a short cumulative review (the milestone lesson) at the end. In this level, you will learn a few words in each of these basic categories: animals, food, occupations, colors, numbers, clothing, items around the house, verbs in present tense, and people and pronouns. When I went through the Spanish course, I counted about one hundred different words (depending on if you count different verb forms and plural nouns).

Ways to Use It

The first reason for using this free resource is obvious: try out Rosetta Stone. If you are thinking about purchasing Rosetta Stone for your students but are not sure if it works or if they will like it, you can give it a test run on INSPIRE.


But there are other reasons to take advantage of this. You can try out a language, too. If your students are not sure what language they want to take to get those high school credits, they can try the twenty-eight different languages available. Do they like the way Chinese sounds? Do they like the way Greek looks? What language appeals to them?

This course would be a good review during the summer, so students do not forget what they learned during the school year. Or, they can use it during the school year to supplement another beginning level class—or even an advanced class that somehow skipped the basics. A student who needs more review than what the regular class gives can get it here—you can go through the course as many times as you want. One caution: make sure Rosetta Stone complements your struggling student's class and doesn't actually throw them a bunch of new words.

You as a parent can learn a language along with your students. You may not have the time or money to sit in on their hour-long

class. But with Rosetta Stone, you can learn whenever you have a few spare minutes. You may never know as much as your kids, but you might learn every parent's favorite question: "What are you doing?"

Or maybe you just need to learn one word or phrase really well. Do you have a cousin from New York who acts all snobby because, "I speak French with an impeccable accent and you don't know anything"? Load up the French course and figure out how to impress relatives with "I eat the big apple and you run." ■

 **Jess Lehman** is an Indiana-based writer and librarian with a B.A. in English. As a freelance writer, she specializes in biblical and Christian topics for children. She also enjoys writing about foreign languages.

A Word of Caution!

Online tools can be a wonderful educational resource for kids, but they also come with risks. Never assume that any website is safe for your kids. Check it out for yourself, set clear boundaries for your kids, and stay close so you know what they are viewing. Check out accountability software like Accountable2You.com, [Covenant Eyes](http://CovenantEyes.com), or other programs.



*Promo code "Informer" for first month free

Accountable2You Computer Accountability Software monitors all computer and Internet activity and displays the reports to your accountability partners.

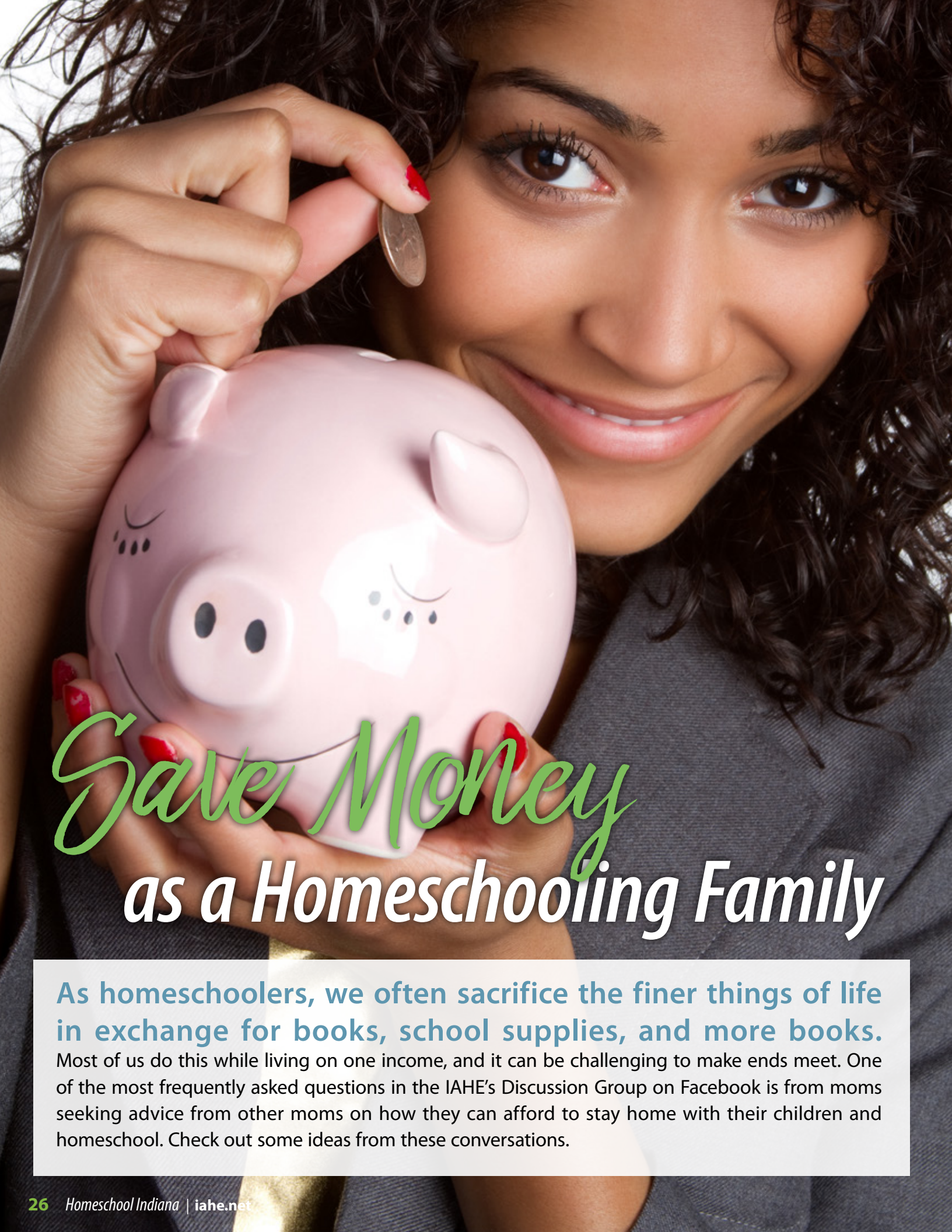
 Be Responsible. Maintain Integrity.™



FEATURES

- Records all activity on Windows, Mac, Android, Chromebook and Linux including the Internet, pictures, videos and movies
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- Special plans for churches, schools, groups, and businesses

Accountable2You.com



Save Money as a Homeschooling Family

As homeschoolers, we often sacrifice the finer things of life in exchange for books, school supplies, and more books.

Most of us do this while living on one income, and it can be challenging to make ends meet. One of the most frequently asked questions in the IAHE's Discussion Group on Facebook is from moms seeking advice from other moms on how they can afford to stay home with their children and homeschool. Check out some ideas from these conversations.

- \$ Look for companies and stores that offer teacher discounts**
- \$ Take advantage of free community events for cultural enrichment**
- \$ Shop at thrift stores for clothes and household goods**
- \$ Develop a budget that is doable for your family and stick to it**
- \$ Make a meal plan and grocery shop once a week or less**
- \$ Cook your own meals from scratch, make eating out a rare and special event**
- \$ Cook more than you need at a given meal so you have leftovers**
- \$ Only buy used cars**
- \$ Borrow movies from the library in person or use the library's online system, HOOPLA**
- \$ Borrow books from the library**
- \$ Check out a Christian healthcare sharing plan that may cost less than traditional health insurance**
- \$ Choose reusable household products over consumables**
- \$ Consider starting a home-based business on the side that the kids can be a part of**
- \$ Try a "homemade" Christmas where everyone makes gifts instead of buying them**



One Mom's Money-Saving Story

By Jennifer Mull

I have been a stay-at-home-mom for twenty-three years this summer, and I have homeschooled eight kids over the last nineteen years. My oldest is twenty-nine and my youngest is ten.

We were blessed with a rather low, single income when I first became a stay-at-home-mom. I was convinced we couldn't make it for even six months. I say blessed because it taught us a level of frugality and trusting in giving that we had never known before. We were amazed at how the Lord met our needs. Before I knew it, we made it six months, then a year, then a couple of years. This helped tremendously with the decision to homeschool.

In fact, the day after we made the decision to homeschool, I went to a garage sale where the lady sold everything for a dollar. I found this beautiful L-shaped bookshelf, expecting it to cost more, and no, it was only a dollar. I felt like the Lord was blessing me and affirming our decision. Now it is a positive reminder for me when I question what we are doing.

The Lord helped me build my library with used materials, garage sale finds, and so many other items graciously given to me. People would just drop off bags of clothes or food or call us to ask if would like some furniture...FREE! When I bought new or consumable items, I found ways to make them last for more than one child.

We have driven older vehicles, which can be difficult at times, but even with engine repairs, it never cost us more than the cost of a used vehicle. When you average the monthly cost, it did not add up to even a typical car payment. We have had seven vehicles given to us over the course of time. And, as one son became a mechanic, he saved us money in return for hands-on experience. Before that, we found mechanic friends who offered to do repairs at cost.

Three of my sons received therapy for dyslexia that would have cost us more than \$36,000, but my husband's employer had an employee assistance program we didn't even know about that offered to help pay for most of it.

One of my sons wanted to learn to fly, and he was able to fly twice in his teen years with the Civil Air Patrol for free. He was also able to help build an airplane which directed his future career in mechanics. The Lord provided ways for our kids to play sports and be involved with drama.

Now, I should point out that my husband works two jobs, and has had many different second jobs, and has even worked three jobs at times. It has not been easy, and we went into debt when I had some health issues, but even with a low income, we paid it off and built our savings. The Lord has continued to bless us in amazing ways.

So, yes, there is a lot of work involved along with changes in mindset. However, don't forget, if you are a person of faith, He can be trusted! ■

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**HOOSIER
SPOTLIGHT**

Gene Stratton-Porter

— Tomi Carroll

At their peak in the 1910s, Gene Stratton-Porter's novels

attracted an estimated 50 million readers, making her Indiana's most widely read female author. Her best-known novel, *A Girl of the Limberlost*, is about a lonely, poverty-stricken girl who lives on a farm in Adams County and escapes from her sorrows in the Limberlost Swamp. Do you enjoy movie adaptations after you have read a book? This novel and many of her others have been adapted for film.

Growing up exploring her family farm in Wabash County encouraged a love of nature and ornithology that would shape Gene Stratton-Porter's life. Born Geneva Grace Stratton in 1863, she was the twelfth child of parents Mark & Mary Stratton. Her parents encouraged her to read and tend the birds she found, even taming some wild ones.

In July of 1872, her favorite brother, Laddie, drowned, leaving the family grieving and with no one to help their father with the farm work. In 1875 the family moved in with an older daughter, and shortly thereafter their mother died after a long illness.



Stratton-Porter disliked living in town and especially disliked the local high school. She preferred to discuss favorite novels and write her own stories rather than write on assigned topics. Her teachers and classmates praised and encouraged her writing. However, she did not graduate and began to participate in a public lecture series near Sylvan Lake where she met her future husband, Charles Porter, a successful druggist and businessman. They married in 1886, eventually moving to Geneva, Indiana to be closer to one of Charles' stores. Their only daughter, Jeannette Stratton-Porter, was born in August of 1887.

In 1894 the family began to build a two-story, fourteen-room home which they named Limberlost Cabin. The home was designed by Stratton-Porter herself and sits near the Limberlost Swamp. The Limberlost setting inspired her in her nature writing, and she also took up nature photography. During their eighteen years there, she spent much of her time in Limberlost Swamp and in her gardens and orchards. She submitted her writings and photographs to magazines and was published in several.

Between 1888 and 1910, the area's wetlands at the Limberlost Swamp were drained to reclaim the land for commercial and agricultural development. By 1912 the work to drain the wetlands for cultivation was complete and the natural habitat of the wildlife that Stratton-Porter documented in her books was destroyed. As a result of the development, she and her family decided to relocate. In 1912, they moved to land by Sylvan Lake near Rome City.

After a time, they started construction on a cabin at "Wildflower Woods." The cabin was their beloved home for several years, and the vast forest allowed Stratton-Porter to continue her nature studies, writing, and photography. Helping to preserve endangered plants in her gardens, she gathered approximately fourteen thousand plant types to grow on her land. She also became active in fighting for environmental causes. Using her knowledge gained as a conservationist and wildlife photographer and status as an author of best-selling books, she took the Indiana General Assembly to task in 1917 over the destruction of wetlands in northeastern Indiana.

In 1918, the family moved to California, and Stratton-Porter formed her own company, the Gene Stratton-Porter Film Company. A total of eight of her novels were produced as motion pictures. Stratton-Porter died in December 1924 at age 61 from injuries suffered in a car crash with a streetcar in Los Angeles, where she was at the height of her movie production career. Nearly 75 years after her death, her remains and those of her daughter, Jeannette Stratton-Porter Meehan, were moved back to Indiana and were laid to rest near her cabin at "Wildflower Woods."

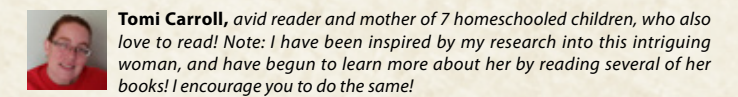
Her first book, *Song of the Cardinal*, was published in 1903. In her novels, she combines her knowledge and love of nature with stories of romance, hardship, adventure, and memorable characters. Gene Stratton-Porter's fame grew with each work published. People were fascinated with her descriptions of the Limberlost Swamp and many came to Geneva to visit the author. She published 12 novels, 7 nature studies, 3 books of poetry, children's books and many magazine articles. Her novels have been translated into more than twenty languages, including Braille.



The Gene Stratton-Porter Memorial Society was organized in 1945 to share her legacy of conservation, life-long learning, and enjoyment of the natural world with visitors by telling her story and making her achievements relevant for today's society and future generations. The home at Sylvan Lake, land, some furnishings and memorabilia were purchased from her daughter, Jeanette Stratton-Porter Meehan in December of 1946. In 1974, the 16-room log cabin on the property was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Encompassing nearly 150 acres, the Gene Stratton-Porter Site is made up of shoreline, fields, woods, and formal gardens. You can take a guided tour of her beloved Cabin at Wildflower Woods or simply walk through the grounds on your own. The site also hosts many special events each year. A complete list may be found on the website.

Plan a visit to the GSP Site, view photos from around the site as well as those taken by the author, and watch videos about the author and the historic grounds. You can also download and print information sheets to learn more about several conservation-related careers from the website's Environmental Resource Center.

You can also visit the Historic Limberlost Cabin in Geneva, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, along with 148 acres of gardens, woods, lakeshore, and newly restored wetlands and prairies. Some of Stratton-Porter's possessions are on display in the cabin, including her collection of mounted moths, household furnishings, and other memorabilia. The site also has over 3 miles of grass and mulched trails in the woods and along the fields. The Visitors Center has many opportunities to learn about moths, wildflowers, woodpeckers, carnivorous plants, and other nature topics. Tours of the Cabin are also available. ■



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depositphotos.com: #151943878 & #11098279; Wikipedia

What Are You Afraid Of?

- Karen McDaniel



What was I afraid of, anyway?! A knock on the front door had sent me into shivers. Nervously, I peered through the curtain, expecting to see the school superintendent, or perhaps a county official with some kind of warrant. Nah. It was the boy scouts selling popcorn.

In our first year of homeschooling, I probably fit the label of “a nervous wreck.” The grandparents were still very suspicious. We had recently moved to a new town, new job for my husband, new church, new neighborhood. So many changes in a short time! So many people watching and judging us (I thought)! I must prove myself—and the children—beyond perfect (I thought)!

We knew the switch to homeschool was not to be taken lightly. We prayed, researched, attended a homeschool conference, and made connections with other homeschoolers. My husband was fully supportive. Curricula were carefully chosen. The Lord provided confirmation with several free items and funding for the rest. We were prepared, prayerful, and excited!

But then, my right eye began twitching. Sometimes my heart pounded. I suffered insomnia. I jumped like a scared rabbit when the phone rang or the dog barked. I pushed the children with detailed lesson plans and elaborate record keeping. However, I found it impossible to maintain.

“Look at my teacher’s book,” I moaned. “I’m a failure!” Thankfully, my husband and children were doing well in spite of my anxiety. Looking back, I think homeschool was God’s calling for me personally, as much as for our children.

Hear me well. I *NEEDED* the lessons of homeschool.

I *needed* the character and faith-building lessons as much as my children needed release from the regimented classroom. I *needed* to “go back to school” alongside my children, despite my record of good grades in public school many years ago. Looking back, I realize many learning moments were primarily intended for me.

Toward the end of our first, rocky year, I agreed to ditch the traditional lesson-plans in order to try a new focus on family unit studies. This was a frightening decision because I do not like change! A few months later, our unit study included the human

Is that what was happening to me? Like a person who just bought a new car and begins noticing the same car all around him, I began noticing references to fear in daily conversations.

“Oh, I could never do that. I’m *afraid*...” “I’m *afraid* that you-know-what might happen if ...” “Your advice sounds good, but, I *fear* ...”

nervous system. In particular, we read about the fight-or-flight response of the autonomic nervous system. God knew just what I needed.

The unit included stories of natural disaster survivors and hikers surprised by fierce animals. We prepped emergency kits for the car and learned First Aid and CPR skills. *The Worst-Case Scenario* book provided some hilarious family game nights. Rich learning was happening in our home and it was exhilarating!

Sometime during this period, I was uncomfortably brought up short by an essay on stress causing irrational triggers of the autonomic system. The body and brain can become confused, and a person may panic, flee, or attack something beneficial just because it is new or unknown. Another may cling to a destructive situation while rejecting the very thing needed for relief. A fight-or-flight response can happen when no real threat exists.

Is that what was happening to me? Like a person who just bought a new car and begins noticing the same car all around him, I began noticing references to fear in daily conversations.

“Oh, I could never do that. I’m *afraid*...”

“I’m *afraid* that you-know-what might happen if ...”

“Your advice sounds good, but, I *fear*...”

I knew God was calling me into a deep heart examination. Consider the front doorbell. Where was the threat? Small town neighbors revealed our family had a good reputation. Local librarians knew us well. We were providing at least an equivalent education and keeping required attendance records according to Indiana law. I posted the HSLDA number by the phone, just in case. Then, I hung a Scripture poster.

“Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the LORD.” (Psalm 31:24, KJV)

I still worried. Voices told me our five children, with a normal variety of health issues, academic challenges, social needs, and hormones would surely render homeschool impossible! My first fear to be conquered was breaking out of “the box.” Age-graded textbooks, daily busy work, weekly tests, quizzes, grades, and never-ending paper piles had grown disheartening. My heart yearned to homeschool my children, but what if I ruined things? I had to be pushed out of “the box” twice. First, when we withdrew from the classroom, and again as I learned to do this thing called “homeschool.”

I did not learn overnight. Every other year or so, we seemed to hit a wall for one or more children, calling for major adjustments. Oh, I still disliked change! I would fret and complain, and sometimes shake my fist at God. However, each time my heavenly Father would gently lead me around a new corner to better study tools, a better schedule, a better attitude, a better love for my family. Adopting family unit studies was just the first adjustment. Next, I learned to keep a daily log for recording those studies. Co-ops, 4-H, and a family enterprise were each blessings in their own time. My teacher’s log looked nothing like my initial expectations of “homeschool.” It was a heart-strengthening testimonial of the children’s ongoing growth into maturity.

“And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness....” (2 Corinthians 12:9a, KJV)

What about the suspicious grandparents? I realized it was fear for the children’s future that fed their suspicions. They loved their grandchildren dearly, but their disapproval was a heavy burden to me. My husband decided to host monthly show-and-tell parties with grandparents as special guests. I nervously allowed Pawpaw to spy on lessons when he dropped by. We invited them to every homeschool fellowship, every 4-H show, every seasonal program. As they watched the grandchildren blossom, they became our most ardent supporters.

Through our years of homeschool and beyond, God regularly drove me to pray for help as He pushed me out of my comfort zone. Always, He proved Himself loving, present, powerful, and faithful. I realized my most important lesson was in gaining stronger confidence in Him—because Great Is His Faithfulness (Lamentations 3:23)! My adult children now thank me for homeschooling them, even through the dark days.

The reward is truly sweet as I look back over twenty-two years. Love for our children motivated us. I expect it was love for your child that led you to this article. God’s love will continue to lead you as you seek the best for your own child. He promises to walk with you around every new corner.

“Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee - I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.” (Isaiah 41:10, KJV) ■



Karen McDaniel is an Indiana native who married a Texas native and had five wonderful children. They began homeschooling in 1997 when their oldest was twelve years old, graduating all five from home. Together, they also worked to encourage new homeschooling families. As a widow, Karen now lives in Bloomington, Indiana.

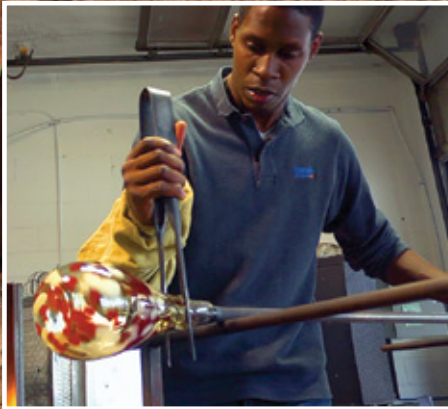
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