

December 2023 ENews

Celebrating 40 years!

Dear Friend,

40 years ago three at-home mothers founded our grassroots nonprofit organization, naming it Mothers at Home. They spent a few years planning before the launch, working "between diaper changes, cub scout meetings and peanut butter and jelly sandwiches." The first issue of the 22-page newsletter *Welcome Home* was published in January 1984. It was typed on a typewriter, printed and mailed to subscribers' homes. The introductory subscription price was \$10 for 12 issues!

Stunned by the reader response to the first issues, the founders—Linda Burton, Janet Dittmar and Cheri Loveless—tackled another project: they wrote a book. When Linda went to New York City to talk with a potential publisher, he exclaimed: *What's a Smart Woman Like You Doing at Home?* That question became the title of their book.

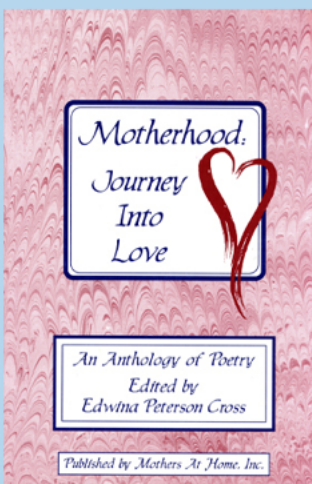
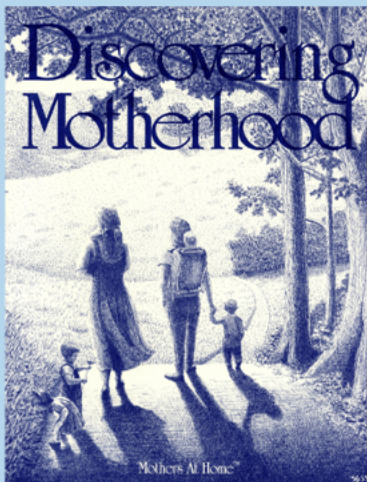
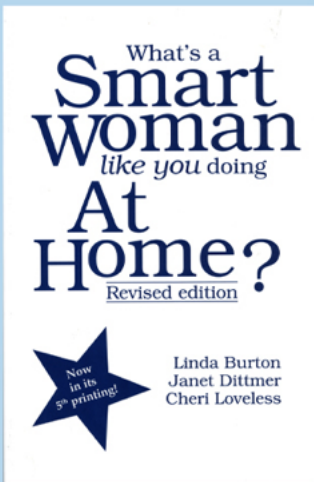
The founders inspired dozens of volunteers to get involved in the organization's work, and thus the work continued as the founders stepped away from day-to-day involvement. A small team of part-time staff members and many volunteers kept publishing *Welcome Home*, offering parents opportunities to share their thoughts and feelings, to explore ideas and find connection. Filled with parent-to-parent essays, poems, and informative articles, *Welcome Home* grew in size to 32 pages—free of advertising. It won several prestigious Parents' Choice Awards for Excellence in Parenting Publications. Over the years, we published three more books, collections of writings from *Welcome Home*. In 2000 the Board of Directors changed the name of the organization to Family and Home Network, in order to be more inclusive of at-home fathers, of parents working part-time or sharing the income-earning/caregiving by tag-teaming. And then in 2004, faced with dramatically rising costs and the growth of the internet, the Board made the tough decision to suspend publication of *Welcome Home*.



Our Founders

We can't do this work without generous donors who believe, as we do, that parent-child time together is essential.

Please make an end-of-year donation to our grassroots 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization



Decades of communicating with parents gives us a rich understanding of the joys and challenges of at-home parenting. I started volunteering when my children were young. Here's a 1989 photo of me with my children and the children of a colleague, stuffing envelopes with our public policy paper, [Mothers Speak Out on Child Care](#). We hand-delivered it to each Congressional office, children in tow.

We continue to learn and build on our experience and knowledge. We speak up to correct misconceptions about [statistics on families](#) and point to reliable data on parents' preferences for the care of their children. We belong to a [coalition of organizations](#) working for policies that ensure all families have basic support for the costs of raising children. We communicate with parents, media representatives, academics, colleagues in other organizations, and policymakers. If you haven't already seen it, don't miss our 4-page brief: [The Power of Parents](#). For more about our decades of work, please see: [Timeline – our organization's history](#).

Right from the beginning, individual donors have made it possible for us to keep operating. (We have applied for grants from foundations but have not yet received a "yes.") Although we work on a shoestring budget, we must raise enough funds to cover the costs of technology, liability insurance, and professional accounting services. I met with our [Board of Directors](#) recently, and as we look ahead to the next year, it's clear that we need to prioritize raising funds before we dive into new projects.

[Would you please support our ongoing work with a generous donation?](#)

I've been reflecting on the many thousands of hours I've spent volunteering with Family and Home Network. I learned so much from colleagues with expertise and education in a wide range of subjects. Over those years I've cared for my children, for family elders, and these days I'm lucky enough to spend time with my grandsons. It's almost impossible to get them all together into one photo, so I captured a selfie with each of them (they range in age from 17 to 9 months).



Cathy Myers
Executive Director
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P.S. Your financial donation helps us offer parents affirmation, information and advocacy. You help us stand up for parent-child time together. [Click here](#) to donate!

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Make a donation *in honor of or in memory of a friend or family member*,
and send one of our Ecards with a personalized message.



If your employer (or your spouse's) offers a matching gifts program, please use it to increase the value of your contribution. Family and Home Network's EIN: 52-1344987.

We gratefully accept donations of long-term appreciated securities, including stock, bonds, and mutual funds. Please contact Cathy Myers: cmyers@familyandhome.org or 703-304-3982 (Eastern).

Your contribution is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law: Family and Home Network is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, registered in the Commonwealth of Virginia. A financial statement is available from the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Office of Charitable and Regulatory Programs.

See Family and Home Network's profile on [GuideStar](#).

Thank you!

Soon, we'll announce our new projects for 2024, and we'd love to have your help as a volunteer. Look for the next ENews and see our [Volunteer information page](#).

Are you connected with us on social media? Follow and share our posts on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#)!



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