

Retrouvaille Program saved our marriage

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Wausau (WI) Daily Herald Letter to the Editor

EDITOR: My husband and I were moved by the recent story on the spike in divorce rates in central Wisconsin. The statistics might lead most readers to believe that there is not much hope, if any, for struggling marriages in these difficult economic times.

We know from personal experience that there is another way. If it weren't for a program offered in Wausau in February of 2000, we would surely have been one of those divorce statistics. After years of counseling, we were at our breaking point when we learned about Retrouvaille, a non-profit program for hurting marriages. More than 700 couples at all stages of disillusionment have been helped in central Wisconsin since 1998, including some already separated or divorced. Here the program is offered twice a year, beginning with a weekend they call "Marriage 911."

We came out of our weekend experience with a whole lot less animosity and our marriage was not over. Looking back, it was just beginning, though we were married 20 years at the time, with three teenage children. We began to learn a whole new way to communicate and manage conflict. The follow-up sessions we attended helped us develop skills to continue healing our marriage, which keeps on getting better as we share our hope with other couples.

The next program here begins on February 19. People can learn more at: www.helpourmarriage.org or by calling 877-922-4673. This program is fully confidential.

Mark and Irene Mehlos,
Merrill, WI
Feb 4, 2010

Notes to Oregon and SW Washington readers:

The word Retrouvaille™ (pronounced re-tro-vi with a long i.) is a French word meaning rediscovery. It is a Catholic peer ministry welcoming couples of all faiths. The program offers tools needed to rediscover a loving marriage relationship. Thousands of couples headed for cold, unloving relationships or divorce have successfully overcome their marriage problems by attending the program. Further information, dates and locations may be found at www.retrouvaille.com or by calling Bruce & Toni Fisher, 503-285-2342.

Marriage Restored is a similar program provided by the Assembly of God Churches for couples who have experienced adultery, addiction, pornography, separation or other marriage-threatening circumstances. Hope, love and relationships renewed. Further information, dates and locations may be found at www.marriagerestored.com or by calling Dallas & Carol Nielsen 1-877-844-2262 (toll-free) for more information.