



## **STRATEGIC PLANNING and VISION**

### **CHANGING CULTURE THROUGH THREE VENUES:**

- 1) Love Thinks relationship training for young people
- 2) Premarital counseling/training program
- 3) Enrichment for married couples

### **MARRIAGE WORKS VISION**

***“A vision is a prophetic statement about a preferable future.”***

In the next 5 years we will raise the life long healthy marriage rate to 70% in Harford County by bringing healthy relationship building resources to teens, to couples in pre-marital situations, and to married couples. This will shift the culture away from shallow short-term encounters, living together arrangements, divorce, and toward dating, engagement and marital understanding and skills which will transform our social, economic, spiritual, health and educational atmosphere.

#### **We will do so by:**

- Recruiting, training and deploying a Love Thinks relationship development specialist in every secondary school in Harford County who will reach every middle and high school student graduating from the school system by 2016.
- Develop Love Thinks media tools and technology to teach relationship development skills to the general public through web, phone and/or social networks by 2015.
- Promoting the positive benefits of marriage and deleterious effects of living together through an educational media campaign and materials provided through the County Court House, churches, counselors, businesses and other collaborators through 2017.
- Develop and gain at least 25% participation among all County clergy to sign a pact agreeing to marry only those who have received a minimum of 8 hours of pre-marital preparation provided by them or others by 2016.
- Recruit, train, and deploy pre-marital preparation experts and/or marriage mentors in at least one church in every town/subdivision of the county by 2017.
- Build the Marriage Conference into a multi-site and/or, multi-county event that produces on going marriage strengthening materials, coalition participants, marriage advocates/trainers and marriage mentor couples annually.

## **SPECIFIC ITEMS FOR FUNDING:**

- Train more teachers in Love Thinks curriculum in Harford County schools and/or give Love Thinks presentations in school assembly programs.
- Relationship Skills trainings for singles and married couples that cannot afford to pay.
- Educational campaign to promote benefits of marriage and share the negative benefits of cohabitation.
- Our PREPARE/ENRICH Certification Training provided as a resource for clergy, counselors, therapists, elders, mental health workers and lay counselors.
- Annual Marriage Conference in Harford County
- Build the marriage conference in a multi-site and/or multi-county event
- Community Marriage Policy through Marriage Savers