

TRANSFORMATION

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2024 IMPACT REPORT
United Marriage Encounter

VISION

Transforming, edifying and nurturing one-man, one-woman marriages leading to stronger Christ-centered marriages, families, and a community of caring couples.



In 2023 the UME-MESF Board launched a strategic plan designed to empower all parts of the ministry to work together to achieve the desired outcomes in the areas of Marriage, Family, and Community. Enjoy stories of transformation in each of these ministry areas - all made possible by your generosity.



Greetings to our Annual Marriage Builders and our 2024 Weekend donors. We want to pause to celebrate the difference you are making in helping build stronger marriages worldwide.

Here at United Marriage Encounter, we recognize we cannot fix all marriages, but we do make a difference one couple at a time. Why? Because God calls us to do this. Because we see the difference a strong marriage can make in families and our communities. We do this because few churches are, few people are, and few organizations are. We must not forget how important marriage is to God and the church. The enemy would love us to be greedy, self-centered, tired, uncaring, disappointed, overwhelmed, and ready to give up on helping couples. However, this year and for many years, you said through your time and money that we are here to reclaim what the enemy has stolen by providing a Weekend Experience to as many couples as possible. We even go to the extreme to say we want them to come regardless of their financial resources. You may not know this, but we only get donations of about 50% to help pay the cost of another Weekend. Our Annual Marriage Builders (donors) fill the gap between the Weekend cost and the donations received to maintain this CORE value. You are awesome, Pam and I thank you on behalf of all the couples' marriages impacted throughout UME's 50 years of ministry. You impacted the kingdom of God by providing hope and encouragement to couples you may never meet or may never know, and may God bless you richly for you answering that call.

In 2024, with the help of our Annual Marriage Builders, United Marriage Encounter provided \$291,650 in funds to help marriages attend our Weekend Experience, regardless of their ability to pay.

The Marriage Encounter Support Foundation spent \$467,200 to support Community leaders, team couples, local volunteers, and Weekend attendees after their Weekend.



STEVE CHAPMAN
Executive Director

"Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full - pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back." Luke 6:38 NLT





MARRIAGE



We renew and develop marriages so a husband and wife are engaged with each other centered around a strong relationship with Christ.



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YOSAFAT & VIERA PRAWIRO

North Parramatta, Australia

We were first encountered in 2017 and realized we had been living as "married singles," too busy with ministry, serving others, work and raising two children to notice our own emotional disconnection.

The UME Weekend had a profound impact on our marriage, realigning our hearts, rebuilding our foundation and purpose, and restoring our emotional connection.

We now feel more united, renewed, and strengthened in our love for each other, with a deep desire to share this blessing with other couples. Thank you for UME invaluable ministry in God's kingdom.





We equip married couples to lead their families toward Christ-centered relationships through every season of life resulting in a Biblical foundation for their future.



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ALEXIS & ILEANA LEBRON

Rochester, New York

After 8 years of marriage and the challenges of raising four children, we found ourselves on the brink of divorce. Attending a UME Weekend was a turning point that gave us the tools to rebuild and strengthen our marriage.

These tools not only renewed our relationship but also empowered us to teach our children how to process and express their feelings in healthy ways, understanding that while no feeling is wrong; the way we express them matters.

Guided by Ecclesiastes 4:9-10, our family feels renewed, strengthened, and united in love. We are filled with hope that other families can experience the same life-changing blessings. We are deeply grateful for how God has used UME to restore and inspire.



community



COMMUNITY

We create a culture where UME couples are committed to come alongside, support, & encourage other married couples and their families resulting in a strong, welcoming community of caring couples.



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REED & KRISTIN BALDWIN

York, Pennsylvania

We were encountered the first time in 2022 and then attended a Weekend Experience as a refresher in 2024. Our lives have greatly changed because of the amazing bonds we have formed within the United Marriage Encounter family - not just in our region, but worldwide.

Last year, we went through a very hard time financially and we had at least 7 couples come alongside us and help us through financially as well as prayerfully. We never knew love like that before. We were shown grace, mercy and love in such an amazing way and are so thankful to be a part of this amazing family. UME is for not just marriages, but for families and communities.





2024 FAST FACTS



14

WEEKENDS COMPLETED: INCLUDING WEST TENNESSEE EXPANSION, RESTART IN MALAYSIA, AND A VIRTUAL PILOT



221

COUPLES ENCOUNTERED



25

MID-ATLANTIC COMMUNITY HAD THE LARGEST WEEKEND & WAS PRESENTED IN 4 LANGUAGES



43

AUSTRALIA HAD THE MOST COUPLES ENCOUNTERED



151

ANNUAL MARRIAGE BUILDERS



50%

OF WEEKEND COSTS WERE FUNDED BY ANNUAL MARRIAGE BUILDERS



46%

DONOR RETENTION

2024 WEEKEND COUPLE FACTS

- ↓ **40%** UNDER THE AGE OF 45
- 🔗 **45%** MARRIED LESS THAN 15 YEARS
- ✓ **53%** SAID THE WEEKEND EXPERIENCE WAS EXACTLY WHAT THEY NEEDED
- 👍 **79%** REPORTED THEY WOULD ATTEND ANOTHER WEEKEND



OUR MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY

a recent barna survey determined **marriage** to be the most urgent **ministry gap** in the local church



72%

of churches lack a substantive marriage ministry



74%

of churches have no ministry for newlywed couples



20%

of churches budget for marriage ministry



100%

of gifts to UME are used in marriage ministry and support the local church



UME is a member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability and is committed to being good stewards of your gifts by using the highest accounting standards and annual audits.

TOGETHER WE CAN FILL THE GAP

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