



Enhancing the lives of individuals and families through quality educational programs and experiences, encouraging responsible leadership and service to the community.”

2019 State Conference

We are so honored to be named County of the Year for the second year in a row. Three of our board members won awards for their education booklets, and our own Carol Myers placed first in the knitted afghan category in the Cultural Enrichment Division.



Our County Board and our wonderful volunteer members work very hard to provide interesting and entertaining programs for both our members and prospective members. Many hours are spent in contacting our members and planning these programs.

Our wonderful Illinois weather caused some havoc these last few months. Several of our programs had to be canceled and rescheduled to another time. Our popular program about hummingbirds, as well as several of our sewing days were canceled because of the inclement weather. Our March program was about Human Trafficking and how it affects our population in Decatur and the surrounding communities. Our upcoming programs include an informative program about the most recent scams in our area, our Spring Meeting, a visit to the local Raptor Center and a delicious presentation about tortillas. Sprinkled in between these programs are several pillowcase sewing days, and a Tri-County meeting.



Our scholarship deadline is Monday, July 1, 2019. We hope that many of our members’ children or grandchildren will apply for these very important scholarships. Our annual planning session is in July. Many people will need to come up with some more ideas for programs. We have such a talented membership that this should not be a problem!!! Macon County continues to be a wonderful, vibrant group that works diligently to provide quality programs and services in our community and the surrounding areas. I am so proud to be part of this wonderful organization.

The article above was sent to State Newsletter by Linda Austin, Public Relations for Macon County



Macon County, as well as several other counties, has been invited to join Christian County for a bus trip to St. Louis on Saturday,

September 21. The price of \$109 includes the bus ride, lunch and a guided tour of the Basilica. The maximum capacity for the bus is 50. You are to mail your payment to Timi’s Tours, P.O. Box 25, Moweaqua, Illinois, 62550, with the HCE group and the date in the memo line of September 21. You may also call 1-800-682-8214 and provide your credit card for payment. Full payment is due to hold your spot. Here is the schedule for that day:

- Bus will depart from the Taylorville Kroger parking lot at 8 am
- Bus will depart from the Litchfield Hampton Inn (park in back) at 8:45 am
- Bus will arrive at Soulard’s, at approximately 10 am and stay until 11:30 am
- Lunch at a restaurant on The Hill at 12 noon
- Guided tour of the Basilica following lunch
- Return to pick-up points

Please Remember to RSVP for All Events 217-877-6042

Upcoming Events

May

Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Spring Meeting

9:00 am - Registration - 9:30 am - Meeting begins

Extension Office - Illini Room

Monday, May 13, 2019

1:00 pm HCE Board Meeting

Extension Office - Clover Room

Wednesday, May 15, 2019

RSVP for May Lesson

Wednesday, May 22, 2019

Raptor Center

5695 W. Hill Road

Meet at the Raptor Center by 9:30 am

Monday, May 27, 2019

Extension Office Closed

June

Monday, June 3, 2019

Tri County Meeting

Piatt County Extension Office

9:30 am to 1:00 pm

Monday, June 10, 2019

1:00 pm HCE Board Meeting

Extension Office - Clover Room

Newsletter items due to Linda Austin

Wednesday, June 12, 2019

RSVP for June Lesson

Friday, June 14, 2019

Flag Day - Flag Retirement

Fletcher Park, Mt. Zion

Thursday, June 20, 2019

Tortillas

Sandy Severe and Pam Walker

Extension Office - 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm

Monday, June 24, 2019

Scholarship Applications Must be postmarked by this date.

Monday, June 24, 2019

Pillowcase Sewing Day

9:30 am to 3:30 pm

Extension Office - Clover Room

IAHCE Conference Memorial So God Made a HCE Member

These are some excerpts from the memorial that was presented at the State Conference in Effingham this past March.

And on the 9th day, God looked down on his planned paradise and said, "Oh dear, the family and the community are going to need help." So God made a HCE member.

God said, "I need somebody who will get up before dawn, make breakfast, work all day in her career, make time to be with her County HCE unit and then come home to fix supper and wash up the dishes." So God made a HCE member.

God said, "I need someone who will stop her work to talk with her HCE members about joys and troubles. Somebody who could cook and clean and not cut corners. Somebody to wash, dry, iron, tidy, feed, rake, water, drive, check the homework and pack the lunch bags and remember the basketball schedule and replenish the refrigerator and finish a hard week's work and end it with going to church. Somebody who would sew a family together with the soft, strong stitches of sharing, who would laugh and then sign and then reply, with smiling eyes, when her daughter says she wants to spend her life "doing what mom does." So God made a HCE member.



Support Our Troops

To continue our celebration of 100 years of MCHCE, we are planning to collect 100 various items each month for the next year to donate to the troops. If everyone donates just one item each month we will make our goal. You can collect the items at your monthly meetings and then get them to the extension office where we will have a box. Remember NO LARGE SIZES as they are too costly to mail.

April: Peanut Butter or Cheese Crackers

May: Individual Powdered Drink Mixes

June: Body Washes, Shampoos, Deodorant

July: Chap stick, Moisturizers

August: Individually packaged Wet Wipes

Good News!

Volunteer Hours!

There were 93 members that reported volunteer hours which was 85% of our membership. We had 20,039 HCE hours, and 8,361 of other hours. Our total number of volunteer hours that we reported was 28,400 hours. CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL.



OFFICERS' REPORTS

President

Bonnie Lanhan

Well, the Spring Meeting is right around the corner and we have chosen Yoder's for catering. The menu is roast beef, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, tossed salad and apple cobbler. Maple Grove will furnish the drinks for the lunch. The cost is \$10.00 and you need to RSVP to Sharon Middleton by April 19th. Maple Grove will provide the breakfast items, and Pleasant Grove will do the registration and the 50/50 drawing. The proceeds for the 50/50 will go to the Macon County Honor Guard. Our speaker will be Dan Watkins from God's Shelter of Love. We will be giving him some pillowcases. Don't forget to bring your contributions to Operation Enduring Support. The list of needed items is on the front page of this newsletter. We were also informed that the puzzle books that come in the newspaper can be rolled up and fastened with a rubber band and included in the packages. Please save those puzzle pages for us.

Don't forget to sign up for the Raptor Center lesson by May 15th. Our craft lesson/membership drive will be in July and hopefully, we will have some craft examples for that lesson at the Spring Meeting. Once again, we will have some of our various craft items for sale at the Spring Meeting. This was very popular at the Fall Meeting. The Chinese auction will also be going on. We hope to see many of you at our Spring Meeting!

First Vice President

Linda Hooge

On March 11th, we had a lesson on Human Trafficking. Our speaker, Cindy Kuro, is a prevention educator. We saw a 20 minute video showing us how young girls become victims of Human Trafficking. A person may offer the girl a ride, offer to take her shopping or get her nails done, or pretend to be her boyfriend. She is taken away and sold into Human Trafficking. We learned that this occurs even in our city. Did you know that Human Trafficking is modern day slavery? Trafficking of humans is one of the largest criminal industries in the world. Trafficking also occurs in forms of labor exploitation such as domestic servitude, restaurant work, sweatshop factory work, or migrant agricultural work. Knowing what clues to look for and what questions to ask can help you identify potential victims. These are the questions that you may have:

1. Is the person accompanied by another person who seems controlling?
2. Is the person rarely allowed in public, except for work?
3. Can you detect any physical or psychological abuse?
4. Does the person seem submissive or fearful?
5. Does the person lack identification or documentation? Is someone else collecting the person's pay or holding it for "safe keeping?"

If you suspect someone is a victim of human trafficking, call the National Human Trafficking Resource Center at 1-888-3737-888. This hotline can help victims safely and securely begin to rebuild their lives by connecting them to basic services.

Linda Hooge, reporting

Second Vice President's Report

Lois Miller

The State Conference that was held in Effingham was enjoyed by many people. I, for one, had a very enjoyable time. The board president, Bonnie Lanham, took Linda Hooge, Carol Flitz, and me in her van, and we went to Effingham on a Wednesday morning at 5:30 a.m. That was way too early but with my coffee and Carol's company, we got there. First, we registered and sat in on the business meeting. Bonnie and Linda were our voting delegates for several changes that were made for IAHCe. We then ate a very delicious lunch provided by the employees of the center. We also got to shop at the various vendors that were also there. After lunch, we all attended the different "share shops". Bonnie and I chose the program about Route 66 nostalgic memories, which was very informative. I then attended the meeting for the 2nd Vice Presidential duties and obligations. This was excellently presented by Angela Hicks, the outgoing 2nd Vice President for IAHCe. She has 2 quotes that she lives by in her life and the main one was "And we all know that all things work for good to those who love God and to those who are called to his purpose." Romans 8:28 The other quote begins with "Aspire to" meaning my hopes, ambitions, and goals." Look at membership very positively which means to me increasing our membership as well as maintaining our present membership, establishing a friendship team (our Macon County unit), and just get people to notice us in various, positive ways.

Community Outreach/Family Issues/CVH

Mary Ann Platt

Our county has supported the Ronald McDonald House in Springfield for many years. We believe in their mission of providing a free, homelike atmosphere for families to stay while their children are being treated at St. John's Hospital. We have provided meals for residents as guest chefs, collected household items, made hundreds of pillowcases for the patients, donated many pounds of pop tabs, and given monetary donations.



Huck Platt receiving one of our HCE pillowcases from Ronald McDonald House.

This is such an awesome place, but a place that you don't think about your family ever needing. My grandson, (Alice Bray's great-grandson) was born full term on March 14, 2019. On March 15, he was transferred to St. John's. Out of respect for their privacy, I am not providing medical details. I called Brian Replogle, our contact at RMDH, to inquire about a space

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for our children. A room was available. I cannot even begin to explain what a blessing this facility is. Our kids were welcomed as if it was their home. A pass key was provided so they could visit their son at any time of the day or night. Free shuttle service was always available. Delicious meals were provided at regular intervals, but always available to reheat. Well-stocked refrigerators were provided. Each room received a donated Thirty-One bag chocked full of personal items, including one of our pillowcases. These amenities allowed our children to focus on the health and well-being of their baby. We were lucky, our baby was in the NICU for 5 days. Many of these babies are there for months. What a wonderful blessing, not only for our family, but for all of the families that were served. By the way, our baby is doing great.

Brian is leaving the Springfield RMDH to launch a new facility in Peoria. We will miss him, but his replacement seems awesome too. I delivered 30 pillowcases in March. and just get people to notice us in various, positive ways.

International

Donna Washburn

"As you travel through India, everything keeps changing - the scenery, the people, the food, the languages. That is why India is often described as not one country, but a collection of countries." (Country Insights, India. City and Village Life by David Cumming). This quote is from a children's library book and perfectly describes my thoughts.

BUT, as I read and work on organizing INTERNATIONAL DAY, on WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2019, I'm moving from overwhelmed to curious about India. Is the caste system still observed? Are cows still considered sacred? Why was India in the World News lately regarding their space program? What is the significance of the red dot on the forehead of some Indian women? Questions, questions, and more questions! If you're as curious as I am, I found a great book in the Forsyth Public Library that's full of great photographs and short essays. It's more of a picture book with little blurbs of information on modern day India, and I'm sure it's available in other libraries. INDIA EXPOSED - the Subcontinent A-Z by Clive Limpkin (copyright 2008). We all want to see world peace and harmony, so if each of us studies and learns about other countries, it will further understanding and hopefully acceptance and respect. We've got to start somewhere, and we're never too old to learn. Besides, it keeps our brains working! "Use it or lose it" comes to mind...:-)

In the last newsletter the question was, "What is the name of the most popular bread in Northern India and where can you purchase it in Decatur?" Did any of you find Naan bread at Aldi? It comes in two sizes and is plain, without spices.

QUESTION: Neem Oil comes from the Neem tree in India, also known as "Indian Lilac". What American products contain Neem Oil? I bet you can find some of them in your local stores, or shelves at home.

Cultural Enrichment

Sally Dennis

I must apologize to everyone for not getting this information in the newsletter long before now. Part of the reason is I wasn't able to get things written down at the Fall Meeting and I was hoping someone else was keeping track for me. Unfortunately, everyone thought someone else was writing things down. As a result, no one recorded the information that was needed. We will strive for a better system this year.

The Cultural Enrichment entries that were picked to go to Conference in Effingham this year are as follows:

Crocheted Afghan--Erma Ragle--Granny Squares
Hand Embroidery--Barb Abbott-- Sampler
Knitted Afghan--Carol Myers--Lavender afghan
Machine Embroidery--Estaleen Earthal--Flowers on Pillow
Photography--Donna Washburn--Chandelier with Solar Lights
Table Runner--Carol Flitz-- Runner with Easter eggs
Wall Hanging-- Eastaleen Earthal--hanging with Oriental Design

I am happy to report that Carol Myers' lavender knit afghan was one of the top five entries that won at the conference.

For those who didn't attend this year's conference, you really missed a really good time. Also, for the ones who came during the day on Tuesday, you left too soon! You should have stayed for the awards banquet. McLean County was walking off with all of the smaller awards, so we figured that they would get County of the Year. But their name was called for Second Place. Then, Macon County was called for First Place as County of the Year!!! YEAH!!! We were all surprised and thrilled and cheering. Congratulations and a huge thanks to everyone who worked hard in all phases to make us County of the Year!!!

Hickory Point Unit

March: We met on March 12, at the Scovill Zoo with director Ken Fry as our speaker. After our business meeting, Mr. Fry talked to us about the zoo. It started in 1967 as the Scovill Farm. The first exotic animal, a Malaysian Sun Bear, was purchased in 1974. It now has over 300 animals. The penguins are the newest display. We took a walking tour and saw many of the animals that were outside. We were shown the extensive water treatment area needed to maintain the water pool for the penguins. We visited the new, longer train route which extends along the lake shore. The new bridge is very impressive. We all enjoyed the program and tour and are anxious to visit the zoo again in the summertime. Mary Beth Wickline brought animal crackers as our snack, and we thought that was very appropriate.

April: We met on April 9 at the Extension Office. Our speaker was Becky Edwards from Starting Point, Aging and Disability Resource Center, which is located in the Macon County Health Department. She gave us much information about the services that are available for the elderly in our community who need help coping. Many, many valuable services are provided free of charge.

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Sharon Middleton reported to us about the state conference. We are proud of Sharon and all that she contributes to our local, county, and state organization.

Next month, we will meet at the Decatur Area Arts Council for a talk and tour. We plan to have lunch after the meeting.

Louise Wickline, reporting

Oakley Unit

January: Our January meeting was held on January 11th at the home of Carol Bork. We discussed the lessons for the upcoming year and filled out our books. The IAHC Conference will be held in Effingham, IL on March 12th thru the 14th. Our new county board president is Bonnie Lanham. Our February meeting will be held at Nancy Flach's home.

February: The February meeting was held on February 7th at the home of Nancy Flach. There were five members present and one guest, Tammy Myers. Patty Lovecamp gave a lesson on small appliances. Tammy joined and now is a new member of the Oakley Unit. We welcome her!

Our next meeting will be on March 7th at the home of Patty Lovecamp at 1:30 pm.

April: The April meeting was held at Cheryl Yoder's home, on April 4th at 1:30 pm. A total of five members were present.

We discussed the Spring Meeting being held on May 1st and you need to RSVP by April 19th. We are to choose what choices for the menu.

We chose a date our date for the Rock Springs Concert.

Sandy presented the lesson on Human Trafficking. Our next meeting will be the Spring Meeting.

Mt. Zion Unit

The Mt. Zion unit meeting was held on February 27th at the Antioch Christian Church, with eleven members attending. Many game books were collected, to send to the Military Men and Women. We shared our memories of our favorite Valentine.

Nancy Napier brought information about First Baptist's free senior trips.

Carol Flitz shared photos and information concerning habits of the hummingbird, an amazing bird! Von Gregory spoke about India's flag to prepare us for the upcoming International Day lessons.

The Mt Zion Unit meeting was held on March 27. Nine women attended our March meeting. It was held at Applebee's Restaurant. Carol Flitz discussed the board meeting. We will be sewing pillowcases for God's Shelter of Love. We will sell snacks at Rock Springs for Sunday Music Events. We then toured God's Shelter of Love, a faith based group that provides a safe place to stay for women and children in need. Long term

a for overnight stay at Care age House. They rely on donations and Blessingdales Thrift Shop for their money and supplies. They take no federal funds. The Pastor reminded us, he would gladly speak to any group or groups about this program.

Maple Grove Unit

We had our meeting at the Decatur Conference Cafe on February 28th. There were 14 members present. Carol Ropp started our meeting at 11:30 with a great joke. The secretary's report was read and approved.

It was noted that several programs scheduled for this month needed to be canceled due to the inclement weather. Several programs were rescheduled to March.

Under old business, Gini Smith reported about delivering the meals to the Decatur Airport T.S.A. workers. We collected money for this at our last meeting. Gini said that they were VERY appreciative and she even had a picture of them to share with the group. There were enough funds to cover meals for two Saturdays.

We set up our next three meetings; March 28th at Imboden Creek, April 25th at the Decatur Club and May 23rd at Primrose. All meetings are at 11:30. The May meeting will have a guest speaker, Mary Haney, will tell us of her book about the World War I.I.P.O.W. Camp Ellis, that was in Illinois.

Carol reminded us of the state conference in Effingham, March 12th-14th and the lesson on scamming on April 8th.

Mary Kay Ennis, reporting

Rock Springs Unit

Our February meeting was held at the Four Star Diner in Mt. Zion. There were 8 members present. Donna Washburn was the hostess. Two items that were discussed at the meeting, which was held after our lunch, was the rescheduling of the Police Academy tour and the hummingbird lesson. Both lessons appealed to our members. The next pillowcase sewing day will be April 22nd. There are other things that need to be done besides sewing. Our unit also discussed the caterer for the upcoming Spring Meeting. Yoder's was the one we liked the best, however, it will be discussed at the board meeting on April 8th. We will not be serving or selling refreshments at the concerts in Central Park, but we will be serving popcorn, cookies, and water at the concerts at Rock Springs. The dates for those concerts are June 2, 16, and June 30. Pleasant Grove will be selling refreshments on June 30th. The other dates are July 21, 28, and August 11th.

Lois Miller, reporting

Maple Grove Unit

March Madness at Maple Grove! Seventeen of us were able to pull ourselves away from watching March Madness to meet at the Imboden Creek Living Center for our March 28th meeting. We answered roll call by naming our favorite recess

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or P.E. activity when we were youngsters. The secretary's report was read and approved. The treasurer's report was also made and accepted.

Carol proudly showed us the award earned by Macon County, as presented at the annual conference. She and Karen discussed some of the happenings from the event. Karen reported on the March lesson about human trafficking as presented by Cindy Kuro. The lesson was well attended and very interesting.

These upcoming events were highlighted: April 8, lesson by Jay Scott on scamming; April 22, pillowcase sewing day; May 2, Spring Meeting, and the May 22nd trip to the Raptor Center in Decatur. In related news, Karen mentioned the Christian County HCE has invited anyone interested to go on a Timmie's Tour bus trip on September 21 to the St. Louis area. It was also mentioned that our wonderful secretary, Diane Dowd, will be retiring April 30th.

Mary Kay Ennis, reporting

Pleasant Grove

We met on March 5th. Mary Shelton chaired the meeting with 8 members present. A few of our members were absent due to illness. Sally gave us updates on the meetings that were cancelled and those that were rescheduled.

Cindy Kuro will speak on March 11th on human trafficking. The Spring Meeting will have a craft sale this year. We talked about the state conference. Some had to cancel going to the conference due to various appointments. The meeting adjourned at 11:30

Alice Bray, reporting

Thank You, Diane

As many of you know, our extension secretary, Diane Dowd, is retiring on April 30. I am sure that you have met people in your lifetime who are especially special to you because they go above and beyond the call of duty. That is the way we all feel about Diane, and I can't express how much I will miss her. I have worked on the newsletter since 2013 with her and I could not ask for a better partner on this journey. Enjoy your retirement, and thank you so much for all of your help and support to our MCHCE for the past 20 years!

Don't Forget!

Be sure to call in your reservation for the Spring Meeting on Wednesday, May 1! Yoder's will be catering the lunch and it sounds delicious! Roast beef, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, tossed salad and apple cobbler. The cost is only \$10. Call Sharon Middleton at 877-7229 or 620-0484 by April 19th. We are looking forward to seeing everyone there!

Thank you from Carol Ropp

I know that I am really late in writing about the four years and Karen and I served as co-presidents, but now, I guess it was good that I did. Karen and I need to thank past and present board members, as well as all of you who have helped and supported us through our co-presidency. The truly "crowning moment" was Tuesday, March 12th when our state president, Jan Chapman, awarded Macon County the title of "2018 County of the Year"! We were truly shocked and so happy to have this acknowledgment two years in a row!

Karen and I enjoyed our years being your co-presidents. We were very fortunate to already be good friends before we started. We were always able to fill in for each other when one of us had to miss a meeting.

So now we are celebrating this great honor. Thank you to all of you--our great members!!

A Memorial to Joan Grider

By Louise Wickline



Hickory Point HCE was very saddened by the recent death of Joan Grider, a dear member. She was with us faithfully for several years. Her daughters cared for her during her illness and brought her to our meetings when she was able. We will miss her gentle, quiet presence.



I would like to Thank all of the HCE members for putting up with me all of these years! It has been my pleasure working with all of you. It has been even more of a pleasure getting to know most of you personally. You are great organization! Thanks Again. I will miss you!

Diane

MARCH MINUTES

Macon County HCE Board Meeting

March 11, 2019

Call to Order: President Bonnie Lanham

Pledge of Allegiance: Bonnie

Homemakers Aim: Bonnie

Joke: Bonnie

Roll Call: Six units represented, seven board members, no additional Unit representatives

Secretary: Judy Wilhelm/Carol Flitz

Minutes of last meeting on January 14 were read. The February meeting was cancelled due to bad weather. Motion to approve was made by Linda Hooze, seconded by Karen Halicki and the motion was carried.

Treasurer: Sharon Middleton was absent, the report was submitted and filed for audit.

Officer Reports:

President: Bonnie Lanham

Spring meeting is coming up on May 1. Bonnie brought a menu for Yoder's Catering. A motion was made by Linda Hooze and seconded by Sally Dennis to choose Yoders with the choice of one entrée with three sides for \$8.95. The cost for each member will be \$10, this covers the tax. She gave copies of the menu, to take to unit meetings for input. She reported that HCE will be providing lunch for the Joint Council of Extension Professionals here on Tuesday. Bonnie, will cook the hamburger for Taco Salad, Linda, Sandy Severe, Cathy Gibson and Carol Flitz helping get ingredients ready to serve the meal. Sixty people are expected at \$8.00 each.

The candidates for State Officers at Wednesday's Conference were discussed. Bonnie and Linda will be Macon County Delegates.

1st Vice President: Linda Hooze

Be sure to RSVP for lessons. We received a listing of upcoming meetings. Including Jay Scott on April 8th. Newsletter information is also due on the 8th. There will be details on the Sew Practical in the upcoming newsletter.

2nd Vice President: Lois Miller

Membership drive will be in July. We currently have 98 members.

Community & Family Issues & CVH: Mary Ann Platt was absent.

Cultural Enrichment: Sally Dennis

Historian: Karen Halicki

She has the 2018 album finished.

International: Donna Washburn was absent

Public Relations: Linda Austin was absent

Extension Advisor: Beth Allhands was absent

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

Rock Springs Concerts will start in June. It was decided to sell water, cookies and popcorn. The schedule: Cactus Ranch on June 2, Last Acre on June 16, Stone and Snow on June 30, Switchback on July 21, Hood Family Band on July 28, Cross Country Classic on August 28. Pleasant Grove will be responsible for June 30th.

Pillowcases: A discussion was held regarding recipients of the pillowcases. Linda Hooze made a motion to give the pillowcases made on April 22nd to Dan Watkins for God's Shelter of Love Guests, with a minimum of 30. Karen seconded the motion and the motion carried. Dan will be the speaker at our Macon County Spring Meeting.

Based on Lesson this morning on Human Trafficking, Linda Hooze made a motion to give 12 of the pillowcases already made to Dove for the beds they provide for victims of Human Trafficking. The motion was seconded by Sally and the motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 pm

Respectfully submitted by: Judy Wilhelm and Carol Flitz

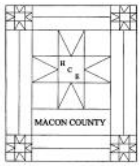
Laughter is Good for the Soul!

I couldn't help but find some cute stories about little children. I have several young grandchildren, so it is really easy to relate to these stories. I hope you enjoy them as much as I enjoyed researching them.

A woman was trying to get the ketchup out of the jar. During her struggle, the phone rang so she asked her 4 year old daughter to answer the phone. "Mommy can't come to the phone to talk to you right now. She's hitting the bottle right now." (Does this remind you of a show called, "Kids Say the Darndest Things?")

Probably the best story I found is one that I can relate to when I visited my grandma when I was a little girl.

While working for an organization that delivers lunches to elderly shut-ins, I used to take my 4 year old daughter on my afternoon rounds. She was always amazed with the various appliances of old age. One day I found her staring at a pair of false teeth soaking in a glass. As I embraced myself for the inevitable barrage of questions, she merely turned and whispered, "The tooth fairy will never believe this!"



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