

RICCI BLACK
ULTIMATE HOMESCHOOL EXPO

WHO Ricci is

I joined the staff of the Home School Foundation part-time as coordinator of the Ambassador Program in March 2010. My responsibilities include developing a national team of volunteer ambassadors who become personally involved in their communities to help homeschool families in need.

I am married to HSLDA Senior Counsel Dewitt Black. We home schooled our four children through high school for a total of 21 years. My motto through those years was "You gotta' have a plan, but plan to be flexible."

I substitute teach in the public school system for special needs children a day or two a week and have run a wellness business from home for 15 years. I like being busy!

Now that my children are graduated and mostly independent, my hobbies include reading, staying healthy, and loving on my new Chihuahua puppy.

HSF back story -- founded in 1994 as a 501 (c)(3) non-profit under HSLDA to benefit needy homeschoolers

HSF Ambassador Program founded in 2008 with 3 charter Ambassadors who still serve as "State Ambassadors," along with 12 other State Ambassadors and 15 Community Ambassadors who have joined our Program.

We now have Ambassadors in 23 states and have helped 10 families continue to home school through hard times with "many hands making a difference" (our motto).

We need at least one State Ambassador per state and many, many Community Ambassadors.

What's the Ambassador Program?

The Ambassador Program is a ministry of the Home School Foundation, the charitable arm of HSLDA. We are a network of volunteers seeking to meet the physical and financial needs of struggling homeschoolers.

We bring together the resources and volunteers necessary to implement service projects and meet tangible needs of hurting homeschool families.

Ambassador stories:

TEXAS: A Comm Amb held a Mary Kay party in her home and gave the profits to her SAF. Those funds were doubled by HSF and then she held a simple Christmas get together for 5 families who couldn't afford gifts for the tree or homeschool supplies.

ARIZONA: Another Comm Amb spoke with her state home school organization which gave a generous gift to the Arizona SAF, which was doubled and turned into the new year medical deductible for a 12-year old boy who has cancer and is awaiting a bone marrow transplant.

These and other stories can be found on the HSF website. Ambassadors make a difference one family at a time.

Each state has its own State Ambassador Fund – contributions to this special fund are earmarked for use only in that state to help homeschoolers in need in that state. People like giving to their State Ambassador Fund knowing their own homeschool families will be helped.

Do you know a homeschooling family in need of financial or physical assistance to continue homeschooling? Do you have a knack for pulling together resources and people to accomplish good things? Then you're a good candidate.

Why become an ambassador –

People who are attracted to the Amb Program usually have a clear idea of their mission
In a volunteer position, it helps to be clear in one's own mind why YOU want to volunteer

Other reasons:

Want to make a difference where you live in the nooks and crannies of your week
Believe in HSF mission and want to be part of doing good to your neighbor
Were helped yourself so want to "pay it forward"
Want to model generosity and service to your children
Making the most of your time because the days are "evil"
You can help OTHERS as a TEAM – more fun and do-able
Involve the whole family; children can be "junior ambassadors"

What Ambassadors do – volunteer in nooks and crannies of their lives; even 5-10 hours per month makes a difference.

Depending on the Ambassador's availability, gifts, and desire:

Find more ambassadors and form a team
Represent HSF at small and large events
Identify and interview needy families who may not know about HSF's funds
Develop and implement one or more fundraisers a year
Develop and implement one or more service projects around a needy family

HSF GENERALLY APPROVED SERVICE PROJECTS

<i>Short-term/minor</i>	<i>Long-term/major</i>	<i>Professional</i>
Snow removal	House repair	Tax advice
Holiday projects	Roof repair/replacement	Medical care
Meals for a season	Appliance repair/replacement	Legal counsel
Lawn maintenance	Adopt a family for a school year	Foreign language assistance

HSF GENERALLY APPROVED FUNDRAISERS

Bake sale	Candy sale	Rummage sale
Car wash	Silent auction	Gift wrap booth
Golf tournament	Small change receptacles	Solicit businesses for hard goods
Used curricula sale	HSF cookbook/apron sale	Book fair/conference event table

Who to look for to refer to us, if you cannot serve – people with 5-10 hours per month to serve

Your fellow homeschoolers are the best prospects

Retired homeschool parents

The people you use as references

People who are already busy get things done

People who have been helped by HSF themselves

Older children of the homeschool experiences

How to approach new ambassadors and form a team – personally one-on-one to start

] Share your “why” with passion and tell a story (look under testimonials in HSF website or tell your own)

Ask questions like “Have you ever wanted to help another homeschool family but didn’t know how to get started; join my amb team!”

Acknowledge we’re all busy and we want to invest our time not spend or waste our time – even a few hours a month counts.

Ask for action based on availability – we know homeschool parents are busying working and homeschooling – we are grateful for whatever time they can offer

Forward the Foundation Report e-newsletter with a personal note at the top of the email with the link (we get a lot of visits to the HSF Amb page after it comes out)

Follow up with people you know are interested but don’t have the Amb program on their “radar” yet (may take several follow-ups; don’t be shy)

What to do next – seriously consider whether you have a few hours a month to be an HSF Amb

Visit www.homeschoolfoundation.org/volunteer to apply

Implement a fundraiser and service project around a needy family which you identify and interview

Take advantage of the 2012-13 \$2,000 Matching Fund Incentive and see contributions to your SAF doubled for a total of \$4,000.

Earn the “2012 Ambassador Service Award” for contributing the most to your SAF, which will honor the ambassador with a \$1,000 voucher toward attending the HSLDA National Conference in Orlando, FL on September 19-22, 2012.