

**RESOLUTION of the
American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences
20th Anniversary – International Year of the Family 2014**

WHEREAS, the American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences is a professional organization focused on individuals, families, and communities, and

WHEREAS, the American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences (AAFCS) holds membership in the International Federation for Home Economics (IFHE) with status as a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) with the United Nations, and

WHEREAS, the family constitutes the basic unit of society and as such, warrants increased attention. Families assume diverse forms and functions from one country to another, and within each national society. Families reside in communities which offer support and services that enhance quality of life, and

WHEREAS, the 20th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family with a theme of **Empowering Families, Individuals, and Communities through Home Economics** focuses world attention on international issues confronting individuals, families, and communities, and offers substantive and visible opportunities for AAFCS to demonstrate support, and

WHEREAS, Family & Consumer Sciences engages in four areas of practice to address the needs and interests of individuals, families, and communities:

- Through *research* that creates new knowledge and ways of thinking and acting for professionals and for society,
- Through *everyday living* in households, families, and communities for developing human growth potential and human necessities or basic needs to be met,
- As a *curriculum area* that encourages students across their life span to discover and further develop their own resources and capabilities to be used in their personal life and,
- As a societal arena to *influence and develop policy* to advocate for individuals, families, and communities to achieve empowerment and well-being, to use transformative practices, and to facilitate sustainable futures, and

WHEREAS, IFHE has identified three challenges facing families in the 21st century for the 20th Anniversary celebration:

- Confronting poverty and social exclusion for individuals, families, and communities,
- Ensuring work-family balance, and
- Advancing social integration and intergenerational solidarity, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that for the designated 20th Anniversary Year of 2014, the American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences:

- Supports and engages in activities that promote observance of the 20th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family,
- Focuses on the international dimensions of various subject matters and program efforts,
- Incorporates the 20th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family via observance in the 105th Annual Conference, and
- Encourages members to engage in activities within their everyday experiences.

RATIONALE

AAFCS should adopt this resolution in support of international activities that benefit families. The 20th anniversary celebration of the United Nations International Year of the Family beautifully dovetails with the work of professionals belonging to AAFCS. The International Federation of Home Economics (IFHE) has identified three focuses which AAFCS members can highlight in a variety of settings and activities.

REFERENCES

Source for 20th Anniversary information: IFHE. (2012). IFHE campaign 2012-2014: 20th anniversary international year of the family 2014 – Empowering families, individuals and communities through home economics. Bonn, Germany, pp. 1-14.

Implementation ideas: adapted from documents for 1994 IYF celebration.

IMPACT STATEMENT

- The role of AAFCS members in improving life for individuals, families and communities is highlighted by work on newsworthy projects.
- Increased visibility for AAFCS and affiliates.
- Use of the logo on documents and publicity demonstrates the global connection.

- Cost to AAFCS itself would be minimal. Affiliates may incur costs, depending on the level and type of involvement.

SUGGESTED IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- Form an International Year of the Family (IYF) committee.
- Select one of the three themes to focus on in your affiliate. Research how your state or community is affected. Develop a plan to impact this area.
- At the annual conference, include sessions and/or speakers on the theme topics.
- Involve local VIP's – governor, mayor, local community leaders – have them declare 2014 as the 20th Anniversary Year of the International Year of the Family
- Use the IYF logo everywhere!
- Submit stories about work-family balance to local newspapers, newsletters or other community publications. Remember those electronic newsletters!
- Ask a local librarian to feature the International Year of the Family anniversary celebration in 2014 library displays
- As an affiliate, participate in community activities that help the less fortunate. Ideas include food banks, community action centers, homeless shelters, Habitat for Humanity builds. What are the needs in your community?
- Encourage FCCLA chapters and 4-H clubs to plan intergenerational projects. The FCCLA program, Families First, has lots of great ideas in this area. Many projects would fit nicely with FCCLA STAR events.
- Invite an agency working on your selected theme to your annual conference. Have them present a keynote or workshop. Take a cue from our Student Unit – collect items or money that would benefit that agency at your annual conference.
- If you have exhibits at your annual conference, use exhibitors from agencies in your community working on family poverty and social exclusion.
- Hold a series of community sessions on work-family balance. Offer child care provided by FCCLA chapters or 4-H club members. Do pre- and post-questionnaires to show growth in knowledge.
- Check the IFHE website for the latest IYF news to include in your affiliate newsletter.



2014 - TWENTIETH
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