

## Client Quotes

**Male:** "I am more confident about my relationship. I have learned different ways in which I can effectively interact and communicate with my partner without conflict. [The workshop] allowed me to get a better insight on her feelings and the way we view each other in our relationship. We were able to develop a plan, and implement future goals that we both believe [we] are able to accomplish within the time line set. Thank you."

**Female:** "I really enjoyed this workshop! I will apply the skills I learned to my every day life and work on building a better relationship with my partner, especially for the sake of our son."

**Male:** "FRAME-Works allowed me to look deeper in myself and define my readiness to marry."

**Female:** "[FRAME-Works] is a wonderful program. I am glad that I was able to be a part of it. I know how to communicate better with my partner and I learned how to make plans that will benefit us both."

**Male:** "[I learned] that it's not always about you, and you should want to build for your family. [The most helpful part of the training was hearing] married couples and unmarried couples putting their different views together, and the coaches teaching us how to talk to each other."

**Female:** "I feel this is a great start for the baby that we are about to have and [for] us as a family"

**Male:** "All the male staff [were] great at being real about real marriage situations and not sugar-coating trials and tribulations brought by marriage. It was very helpful to save good memories and look to the future of my relationships."

**Male:** "I confide in my partner more now and trust her more now than before."



## FRAME-WORKS, GEORGIA: An Answer to High Risk Expectant and New Parents

Implemented by  
**Bethany Christian Services of Georgia**

### FRAME-Works (Family Relationships Anchored in Marriage Education-Works)

Designed to provide relationship building services to low-income, unmarried couples, 18 years or older, who are expecting a baby or have a new born child in order to strengthen their relationship and prepare them for parenting.

## Quantitative Results

Post-Training Attitudes: 1:Much less satisfied, 2:Less satisfied, 3:Same, 4:More satisfied, 5:Much more satisfied

**Relationship with partner - women: 4.23** (n = 469)

Relationship with partner - **men: 4.29** (n = 440)

**Parenting together - women: 4.29** (n = 468)

Parenting together - **men: 4.33** (n = 439)

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**Locke & Wallace "Marital Adjustment Scale"**

Improved adjustment score – **women: 75.6 %** (n = 234)

Improved adjustment score – **men 77.2%** (n = 224)

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**FRAME-Works Scale: "Love's Cradle" curriculum**

Improved skills – **women: 75.4%** (n = 240)

Improved skills – **men: 66.8%** (n = 229)

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**Improved ACF Selected Skills Scores:**

**6a Improved communication - women: 74.7%**

Improved communication - **men: 64.8%**

**6b Improved conflict resolution skills - women: 74.5%**

Improved conflict resolution skills - **men: 67.7%**

**6c Improved abuse prevention skills - women: 58.0%**

Improved abuse prevention skills - **men: 52.5%**

**6d Improved money management skills - women: 63.1%**

Improved money management skills - **men: 55.6 %**

## Curriculum

FRAME-Works utilizes  
IDEALS' (Institute of Developmental and Emotional Life Skills)  
**Love's Cradle curriculum**

**14 hour curriculum completed over 2 days focuses on:**

- Relationship Enhancement
- Communication & Parenting Skills
- Conflict Management & Abuse Awareness
- Problem Solving & Financial Compatibility
- Marriage Education & Trust

## Research

Data analyzed using sub-scores measured by combining focused items on:

- The Child and Family Associated Consultants 2007 FRAME-Works Pretest/Posttest #1
- The adapted Locke Wallace FRAME-Works Pretest/Posttest #2
- The Training Evaluation completed at the conclusion of training
- Post Surveys completed any time after 3 months of service date

## Demographics

**Births to Unmarried Mothers:**

- State of Georgia: 39% of all births
- Metro-Atlanta Counties all ages: 35%
- Under 25 years: 65%
- Muscogee County all ages: 45%
- Under 25 years: 84%

**FRAME-Works Demographics Served**

- 11 Metro-Atlanta counties and Muscogee county, Georgia
- 519 served March 2007-March 2011
- Age 18-52 years
- Age 20-25 =45%
- Race: 88% African-American; 2 % Caucasian; 3% Hispanic

## Strengths, Challenges & Recommendations

**Strengths:** FRAME-Works is helping to build a better, stronger Georgia, one relationship, one couple, and one family at a time—not only for the present—but for generations to come! This is based on the premise that healthy relationships are key to forming healthy families and healthy families are the building blocks of successful communities which in turn impact our state, our nation, society at large, and ultimately the world.

**Challenges:** FRAME-Works may not be able to reach and/or change *every* relational dynamic in the state of Georgia for the good due to limited finances, inadequate resources, public disregard, and lack of involvement. However, *one* individual, *one* couple, or *one* family *positively* impacted over time is a *major* step towards improving the over-all well-being of the state at large—no matter how slow the process or apparently insurmountable the obstacles.

**Recommendations:** It cannot be negated that there are tangible and intangible benefits to providing relationship building resources to families. Bethany Christian Services is committed to serving children and the care-givers who nurture and support them. This includes parents, grandparents, adoptive and foster parents, aunts, uncles, and others who believe investing in a child is an investment for the future. Bethany Christian Services of Georgia is committed to carrying on the work that FRAME-Works and other Healthy Marriage Initiative programs in the state have begun through its BEHR (Building and Enhancing Healthy Relationships) program. Without funding, services may be offered on a smaller scale, but with eligibility guidelines lifted, BEHR services can be offered to *any* individual who desires to improve the overall well-being of his or her family. It is Bethany's hope that other organizations will also invest in building strong, healthy families in Georgia. Why? Because Georgia's future, and a lot more, depends on it!