



Gifted Homeschoolers Forum

It's not hard to find information on homeschooling on the web; that is, unless the child you're homeschooling happens to be gifted or twice-exceptional. Then you find yourself in what Corin Goodwin describes as that "no-person's-land in between homeschooling groups that don't address gifted issues and gifted groups that are very focused on school programs."

Goodwin knows about this difficult place because she homeschools her own two highly gifted, twice-exceptional children. Plus, for several years she was the Gifted/Special Needs Advisor for the HomeSchool Association of California. "Almost anyone wanting to homeschool their gifted child in California got sent to me at some point," she explains. "Their most common concerns were finding friends and activities for their kids and peer support for themselves."

At the urging of several parents, Goodwin began an e-mail discussion list in 2004 to address the needs of this special population. The list, California Gifted Homeschoolers, grew quickly.

Before long, Goodwin and other parents active on the list saw the need for something more. Pooling their efforts, they created the Gifted Homeschoolers Forum, an organization with a website that serves as a repository of information on and resources for homeschooling gifted and twice-exceptional children.


"We 'opened our doors' in February, 2005," remembers Goodwin, who serves as the director of the new organization. "We are now approaching 200 members. Many are from outside of California, and not all are homeschoolers. The e-mail discussion list (now housed on the GHF website) has about

300 active members."

GHF members, who pay \$24 a year to join, receive discounts on certain books and on consultations with some professionals. For those who live in California, there are events such as programs with speakers and various activities for parents and kids. But you don't have to be a member to take part in the online discussion group or to take advantage of the many articles and other resources available on the site, including a listing of 2e resources.

The goal of Goodwin, of GHF co-founder Tiffany Tan, and of other involved parents is not to evangelize for homeschooling. "Rather," explains Goodwin, "we're trying to get the message out that every gifted and 2e child has unique needs and that homeschooling or other alternatives to full-time traditional school are worth considering."

"With the budget issues in California and other states, and with the rise of NCLB and the standards-based curricula, public schools are less likely to provide good matches for our kids. The number of families seeking options for educating their gifted and 2e children is growing rapidly. We want these families to know that homeschooling (in whatever form they choose) is a valid option, and we are here to support them and help them get connected with resources and with other families like theirs."

Goodwin is gratified at the positive response that the Gifted Homeschoolers Forum has received. "I really, really love that I can help," she states. "I was one of those kids once, and I could have used the help." 



Finding GHF on the Web

The Gifted Homeschoolers Forum: <http://giftedhomeschoolers.org>

The e-mail discussion list California Gifted Homeschoolers: <http://giftedhomeschoolers.org/maillinglist.html>