

WHY GIFTED HOMESCHOOLERS?

In 2004, a time of education budget cuts and No Child Left Behind (NCLB), a group of parents felt frustrated at the lack of understanding and resources in schools for kids like theirs: gifted and twice-exceptional. Clearly something different was called for. The needs of their children were difficult or impossible to meet in schools, even in gifted programs, but the homeschool community at that time didn't have a place for them either. This group of parents banded around a kitchen table and formed a nonprofit: Gifted Homeschoolers Forum, now better known as GHF.

Our view of giftedness is geared towards the whole child—not just intellectual giftedness—but also the social, emotional, and sensory intensities and asynchronies that are part of the package. The further along the spectrum of giftedness children are, the more intense those challenges and rewards can be. Add any other learning differences—twice exceptionalities (2e)—and you have an educational challenge which goes beyond what most traditional schools have available. Custom, home-based, and alternative educational options allow families to address these needs, and GHF helps them do so with the resources we provide.

OUR MISSION

GHF exists because most homeschool and alternative education organizations do not address giftedness, and school-based gifted programs, when they exist, often do not serve children whose intense giftedness or twice exceptionalities require home-based supplementation or truly customized schooling.

We view homeschooling broadly and inclusively. Our membership is diverse and far-flung, hailing

from across the U.S. and the world. Many families who use homeschooling as an alternative do so more “on the go,” with heavy community involvement and plenty of driving to outsourced classes, play dates, park days, museums, and the like. Learning at home can also coexist with full- or part-time enrollment in school.

GHF supports, educates, and advocates for gifted and 2e children, their families, and the professionals who serve them, as they pursue alternative, lifelong educational paths. GHF emphasizes understanding and acceptance of neurodiversity and seeks to normalize and celebrate the ways individuals can contribute to the learning environment and workplace.

THE GHF ORGANIZATION

GHF has a small board of directors, staff, and contractors, and a broad range of world-wide volunteers. Closer to a flat organization than a more typical pyramid, GHF reflects to a great extent the HTML of its website. GHF prides itself on being nontraditional and nimble, able to adjust to changing needs and new opportunities for growth and outreach. GHF runs entirely virtually, leveraging the power of the internet to keep overhead low and quality outreach the primary focus. GHF also has a publishing arm, GHF Press, which publishes books tailored to its target audience, and GHF Online, which offers courses designed for gifted/2e students ages 7 to 15. GHF has the largest digital footprint in any related field: the community reaches up to one million individuals per month on all continents. GHF also partners with a variety of businesses and organizations, including Reading Rainbow and PBS Digital Media, has received several grants, including a Google grant, and was included in a program grant from the Knight Foundation for the 2015-2016 school year.

WHAT WE DO

GHF believes that a gifted child needs more than an education, and the family of a gifted child encompasses innumerable complicated relationship dynamics. Further, none of us lives in a bubble and it benefits everyone in our society to build bridges and encourage an array of options for all. The GHF community includes professionals, others whose mission overlaps with our own, public school teachers, and parents who are not sure their child is gifted but find our information useful. All are welcome. Our children may be at home with us now, but they will eventually go out into a world that we hope will be a more welcoming place for them than it was for previous generations of the gifted and twice exceptional.

Today we reach over one million people per month on six continents via a variety of platforms, and the diversity of our community is astounding. We support families whose children are currently in a traditional school setting, and we support adults just discovering their own giftedness. We offer most of our services regardless of ability to pay to ensure that no one is left out.

Our website is a clearinghouse of information about existing homeschooling and gifted support resources and related topics, including an entire section on twice exceptionalities, a section on giftedness and diversity, and other resources. We have also begun translating our materials into additional languages. We plan to extend our influence in directions that will help parents and their gifted children and impact education generally by offering more curated information, free brochures, low-cost books, online classes and webinars, sponsored speakers, and events.

GHF also hosts a forum for professionals who work with gifted children in education, advocacy, and healthcare, providing information, support, and networking. Perhaps most importantly, we have created a global community for families that utilizes a variety of online platforms as well as opportunities to meet in real life.

WHERE WE GET FUNDING

We keep our overhead low, but we still require financial support. GHF is particularly adept at leveraging strengths and skills to minimize our costs through extensive use of volunteers, technology, and other free or low-cost resources. Our financial revenue comes from:

- Family and individual memberships
- Institutional memberships which allow us to monetize our exceptional outreach and gives other institutions a chance to reach and support GHF and our community
- GHF Online which offers an increasing array of engaging classes
- GHF Press which publishes highly focused books on topics important to our community
- A limited amount of relevant advertising from non-members

We have also benefitted from grants and a range of donations, sponsorships, and partnerships.

Through their support, Sponsors and Institutional Members play a vital role in GHF's outreach and support efforts, while gaining access to our supporting members and extensive social media community. Partnering with GHF gives Sponsors the greatest possible impact and engagement with our large and rapidly growing audience.

To learn more about GHF, visit our website at <http://giftedhomeschoolers.org/membership-options/>.

Gifted Homeschoolers Forum
3701 Pacific Ave. – PMB #609
Olympia, WA 98501



Supporting the needs of gifted learners and their parents

Resources

Information

Events & Speakers

Networking

Advocacy

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