

Film fest benefits single mothers

Do you know a single mother with children? With an estimated 10.4 million single mothers in America, chances are good that you do.

The single moms I know are amazing women. All of the ones I know have full-time jobs, volunteer at their children's schools, are active with their churches and make sure their children get to participate in extracurricular activities. In addition, these women manage to pay the bills, keep food on the table and many times do this without receiving much child support.

My friend Valerie Daniel knows firsthand how difficult it is being a single mother.

"There are so many struggles that single moth-



ADLEN ROBINSON
Columnist

ers have to deal with, and in many cases, resources are limited," she said. "I was raised by a single mother, and I know there were many choices she had to make that perhaps she didn't want to.

Valerie remarried 10 years ago, but she never forgot her single motherhood days. In fact, during the past 10 years, she nurtured a dream she had to help single mothers in our community.

One step at a time, Valerie has seen her dream

come to fruition in her non-profit organization, Faith's House.

"My dream was always to have a place where single mothers could live with their children while pursuing their educational dreams," Valerie said. "While we are now in the 'raising' money phase to open our facility, we are still actively trying to help single mothers in many areas."

To do this, she conducts monthly networking seminars at the Forsyth County Library's Cumming branch, providing single mothers a safe place they can bring their children and a place to meet other single mothers.

In addition, Valerie shares her knowledge of numerous resources that are available to single mothers in our community and

If you go

What: Lunafest film festival

When: April 24; doors open at 2:30 p.m., shows begin at 3 p.m.

Where: Kiwanis Club, 417 Pilgrim Mill Road

beyond.

"Most single mothers are simply too busy just trying to survive and don't have time to investigate to know what things might be available to them — such as a less expensive place to purchase their groceries or find toiletries at bargain prices," she said.

To raise money for its projects, the organization

will play host to Lunafest on April 24 at the Kiwanis Club on Pilgrim Mill Road. Lunafest is a touring film festival that applauds the talents and stories of women across the globe — short films made about women, by women.

Begun in 2000 by Luna, makers of a nutrition bar for women, all proceeds are donated to charity.

Eighty-five percent of the profits are donated to the local nonprofit and the remainder is donated to Luna's primary cause partner, the Breast Cancer Fund.

To date, Lunafest has raised nearly a half-million dollars for women's organizations.

Valerie said they will show the films one right after the other, taking a

brief intermission half way through. There will also be popcorn, a silent auction and door prizes. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door.

Some of the films are rated R, so please don't bring your little ones to this series.

This is a great venue to bring you sister, mother, daughter or friend to.

Let's support Faith's House and the single mothers in our community. For more information and to purchase tickets, go online at www.faithshouseinc.org or call (770) 205-6311.

Adlen Robinson is the author of "Home Matters: The Guide to Organizing Your Life and Home." Visit her Web site at www.adlenrobinson.com.