

## **Group works to “make a better world, one mom at a time”**

Written by Wauneta Breeze

Friday, 12 October 2012 17:48 - Last Updated Friday, 12 October 2012 17:50

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**Women from throughout southwest Nebraska gather in Hamlet twice a month for MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) meetings. The purpose of the group is to find friendship, community and support each other as women and mothers.**

**By Sheri Hink**

### **The Wauneta Breeze**

Eight years ago six moms started a chapter of MOPS International based in Hamlet. The group aims to support women, both as women and as mothers.

The group has grown in the past eight years to include 29 moms at the last count.

The moms get together twice a month, on the first and third Thursdays at 9 a.m. CT from September through May at the Hamlet Union Church in Hamlet.

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The group is frequented by moms as far away as the Kansas state line to the south, Elsie to the north and Champion to the west.

The bi-monthly meetings serve multiple purposes. First, each meeting includes social time where moms share food and conversation with other moms.

The rest of the meeting will vary depending on the program that week. Six times a year the group will watch a DVD with a lesson and then break into discussion groups. Other times, the group will do a craft or creative activity, have a speaker or do an outreach project.

“We have meetings to make a better world, one mom at a time,” explains mentor mom Amey Jutten.

Jutten goes on to explain the intent of the international group, “the organization believes that better moms make a better world and that no mother should mother alone.” The organization strives to encourage every mom during the early childhood years. Moms are eligible to join the group from pregnancy through their last child’s completion of kindergarten.

The group tried something new last month, where they hosted a craft night for the entire community. Jutten explained it was intended to help reach moms who can not make their regular meetings due to other responsibilities and also as an outreach to non-MOPS moms in the community. The group hopes to host another, similar event, in the spring.

The group also hosts outreach projects for the community. Recently, the group brought in Antiquities Photos which enabled community members to have family pictures taken at reasonable rates. The event doubled as a fundraiser for the group.

The group is led by a steering team. Team members include Jutten, mentor mom; Sabrina Sandoval, coordinator; Renee Wheeler, publicity; Tiffany Bley, finance; Leann Colemorgan and Lyndsay Lashley, hospitality; and Allison Sandman, Gayle Dinnel and Courtney Clark, discussion group leaders.

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Jutten emphasized that the bi-monthly MOPS meetings would not be possible without the 12 MOPette Ministry Team members. The MOPettes take care of the moms' children during the meetings. “Without them, MOPS is not possible,” says Jutten.

### **How to help or get involved**

The primary need of the group is the need for more MOPettes. Additional people to help take care of the children during the MOPS meetings would be a huge help to the organization, said Jutten.

New moms are always welcome at MOPS meetings. Those interested in learning more about the group or helping watch the kids can call any steering committee member. Amey Jutten can be reached at 308-285-3509.

### **Series on local service organizations and clubs**

This story is part of an ongoing series highlighting service organizations and community clubs in the Wauneta area. The purpose of the series is to inform the public of what local organizations are doing for the community and how they can help.

At the end of the series, Breeze readers will be asked to vote for their favorite organization or club. The organization or club receiving the most votes will be given a \$50 donation to use towards the project of its choice.

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Organizations and community clubs interested in being featured in the series should contact the Breeze at 308-394-5389 or [waunetabreeze@bwtelcom.net](mailto:waunetabreeze@bwtelcom.net).