

THE HALFDAY CREEK CLUB

This page is about my grandmother Elsie Chamberlain and the Halfday Creek Club, a group she belonged to for all her adult life, a model of what a support group could be.

The Halfday Creek club was formed over 100 years ago by the ladies who lived along its banks. At first they had around 60 members who met on the first Wednesday of each month for lunch. The remarkable thing about the club is its longevity. Last Wednesday my mother picked up the surviving members of the club for their monthly meeting.

These ladies had no speakers and no officers. The only order of business was to get together to make sure everyone was well. It was the lack of leadership or shared leadership that gave the group it's life...a life independent of a single leader. More truly it was the sincerity of their concern for one another that made the group endure. Finding or establishing such a group in today's world is not easy. It is probably best to begin with prayer...asking God to lead you. A second solid beginning is to contact a local church, especially one that has been around for awhile. Churches are more likely to be connected to other support services in the community.

If your church is considering starting such a group two resources we find helpful are "How to Lead Small Groups" by Neal F. McBride, and "Organic Community" by Joseph R. Myers. My personal advice is to avoid singles groups, partly because our focus is on helping children but partly because very few people stay single forever. As a result the membership is constantly changing and long term friendships seldom occur. Ladies groups or men's groups are most likely to offer real lasting support.

A group which does not regularly pray for one another or does not schedule time for plain old fashioned chatting is probably not the best choice. The longest lasting group therefore has more than one leader, is not composed only of singles or the recently divorced, and is connected with one or more churches. I personally would prefer a group that does not meet in the same home each week. Depending on one person makes the group less likely to survive. In today's world a facebook page might be worth considering. The beginning and ending of a good group is the commitment of it's members. We do not support ANY church or group but we believe with all our hearts that adults need support too. **To try and get through divorce recovery on your own is just not a good idea. Part of helping your children be well and happy is to be well and happy yourself. A local church with a ladies or men's group is the best support we know of.**

One national group we can recommend is **Divorce Care**: www.divorcecare.org/. They have thousands of groups nationwide. Just visit their website and type in your zip code. 800-489-7778 , P.O. Box 1739 • Wake Forest, North Carolina • 27588-1739

**For some great fifteen minute activities designed to help rebond families
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