

COMMUNITY



Photograph by Jacqueline Ramseyer

Jim Rossi created the Campbell-based Foundation of Family Values. The nonprofit group focuses on creating cohesive family ties through parenting awareness. Rossi was inspired to create the organization after experiencing the benefits of parenting classes.

Foundation of Family Values creator Jim Rossi says times are changing

By EMILIE CROFTON

Eight years ago Jim Rossi, founder and executive director of Foundation of Family Values, was going through a custody battle when he unwillingly stepped into a parenting class.

The experience proved to be a rewarding, and he began attending classes on a regular basis.

Rossi's experience led him to create Foundation of Family Values in June 2006. The nonprofit organization rents space from the Campbell Community Center in the hopes of improving the values and parenting patterns of today's families.

Rossi, a San Jose resident, says the organization, which has no religious affiliation, focuses on the physical, emotional and spiritual aspects of a family. "I want to teach families to be more emotionally open and available, develop closer connections and improve communication," he says.

Rossi created the organization in honor of his father, Donald Rossi, a successful businessman who died of a heart attack at the age of 57.

"My father was a stereotypical, masochistic man but he also had a

real soft side," Rossi says.

It was with his father's support and financial help that Rossi was able to start the organization.

"He was never open to work on his own internal feelings, but he was more than willing to support me," he says.

He was also motivated to create the organization through personal need.

"Back when I was going through a lot of issues as a father, there really wasn't anything out there, especially for fathers," Rossi says.

While other organizations may be helpful, Rossi, 35, says many of these programs are stuck in the past.

"Foundation of Family Values is all about being innovative and changing the dynamics of the modern family," he says.

One of those dynamics is to provide a better support system for fathers. Rossi wants to help fathers become nurturing parents, something that generations of stereotyping has made difficult.

"Men have grown up in family environments where they are taught not to show their emotions and that being nurturing is a mother's role," Rossi says. "Times are changing; fathers need to change," Rossi says.

Along with parent education counseling, the organization offers various classes for children and families.

The classes, which are either free or on a sliding scale, include conscious parenting, teen development, divorce and effective co-parenting, an anti-drug program, proper nutrition and anger management.

Some of the support groups and services offered include a father's support group, music lessons and recitals, therapeutic massage programs and the Koly chess club.

Rossi's father was an avid chess player, which is why it was important for Rossi to include the chess program.

"Chess is a tool that allows the mind to grow," he says.

Rossi will soon offer a program for children and parents with gaming and Internet compulsions.

"I don't just want to help people," Rossi says. "I want to solve issues."

Foundation of Family Values, located at 1 W. Campbell Ave., suite J66N, is a nonprofit organization that supports families in all religious, political, economic, political and racial categories.

For more information, visit www.fofv.org or call 408.866.6686.