

Moms for Kerry

Motherhood & Politics

Moms for Kerry began in November 2003 as a way for moms across the country to take part in the campaign from their own communities and neighborhoods.

Born out of one mom's wish to get involved in the campaign for Kerry, Moms for Kerry is a grassroots organization that has garnered interest from moms across the country and is represented in small towns and big cities across America.

Heidi Wanken, the group's founder, is the mother of a spunky two year old girl. Wanken reasoned that though she had traveled for campaigns in the past, doing so with a toddler would prove to be a bit more difficult, especially in the cold weather states of Iowa and New Hampshire!

She decided that motherhood and politics weren't mutually exclusive and began looking for a way to get involved in the campaign. A resident of Texas, her state's primary wasn't in-play and there weren't many campaign activities in Dallas, which meant there weren't many local opportunities for her to volunteer her time and experience to the John Kerry for President campaign.

Wanken decided to press on and founded the first Moms for Kerry chapter in Dallas, Texas in early November. The group immediately caught on and has been growing ever since with new members joining daily.

The basis for the group was to create an organization that moms could participate in and get involved with from their own home and in their own community. Mothers' lives are increasingly busy and filled with activities, both for the working and work-at-home moms. Therefore, the group needed to be one that allowed moms to get involved without a large time commitment and also allowed them to organize virtually, coupling the determination and collective voices of American moms with the power of the Internet to create a united force for change in our country.

Why Moms?

Mothers are typically the primary caregiver in the home. From scheduling the medical appointments to shopping for food and planning the parties, we tend to be the planners and organizers for our homes. Everyone in the family looks to us

when they need or want something, be it a ride to the mall, a clean pair of socks or help with that day's science homework.

Whether we carried our children or lovingly welcomed them into our homes through adoption, we are the caretakers of their future. When we see our children, we see the a million tomorrows – we see our grandchildren and their grandchildren. Even if our children are wee babies, we look at them and wonder what their lives will be like – what kind of career will they have, who they will marry, what great things await them.

Yet we have a responsibility to ensure that there IS a future for our children. We must preserve and protect their future. Over the last four years of the Bush administration, we have watched our children's futures erode and our hope diminish. From education to the environment, women's rights to civil rights, foreign policy to health care, from social security to the economy, the Bush administration has proven itself unfit and unable to lead our country.

As much as our children count on us to provide nutritious meals, teachable moments and plenty of love and encouragement, they also rely on us for intangibles like clean air and water, strong and focused diplomatic relations, accessible and affordable health care and a safer and stronger world in which to thrive and grow.

The Bush administration has failed our children and it is time for change. Moms for Kerry will not sit on the sidelines during this election. We are the caretakers of our children's futures and we will take a stand on their behalf. Our children are among our country's most vulnerable and they are relying on us to fight for them.

As mothers, we can do no less.

House Parties, Letters & More

The group has been active for the last nine months in preparation for the final push in the late summer and through Election Day. Among the activities the group will conduct are a Letters to the Editor campaign and House Parties.

The Letters Campaign will include a subject of the week beginning Labor Day weekend, leading up to Election Day. The MFK site will offer tips for writing letters, general ideas as well as the week's subject. The Moms will be encouraged to write letters to their local papers on the subject. Each of the subjects will be relevant to American moms, their children and the future of our country.

Additionally, the Moms will host house parties in neighborhoods across the country. These will be small gatherings of mothers (and others who care about America's children) at which the attendees will discuss John Kerry, what he will do for our kids and how they can get involved and make a difference.

The parties will be an opportunity for moms to visit, get to know each other, plan for upcoming activities and find out ways to get involved and help elect John Kerry. Again, these are designed to be events that can take place close to home and many of them will include children. We will also be planning and organizing our National Rally Day at these house parties.

MFK Rally Day - Join In!

The main focus of Moms for Kerry through Election Day will be a nationwide rally of moms and their children on October 30, 2004. At 3:00 pm EDT that day, mothers and children will gather across this country and unite their hands and hearts for America's future. We will take a stand for our children and show this country that American mothers will be counted and that we will be out in force on Election Day to support John Kerry, the ONLY choice for our children's futures.

Rallies are being planned in small towns and big cities across the United States. Locations include outside of shopping malls, on the steps of state capitols, at city hall plazas and at local parks. Some of the rallies will have famous moms in attendance, others will feature local moms speaking out on behalf of their children and still others will include mothers and children marching in purposeful silence.

Additional locations are being added daily and we expect to have nationwide participation with various locations for each state. We continue to update our website with additional rally sites, so please check back frequently.

Speak Up!

The Moms for Kerry site also hosts a bulletin board where moms can chat, share concerns and plan for upcoming events. We welcome all points of view and do not remove posts unless they contain profanity or racist comments. There are several moms who serve as moderators and take an active role in debunking the misleading and erroneous posts we often get from our opponents and there are days when the bulletin board is quite busy with the musings and discussions of moms across the country.

While the board is a virtual gathering place for political moms who are supporting Kerry, it is also a place where moms can find advice, suggestions and ideas on any number of mom-related subjects. We recognize that we are mothers first, political animals second!

The board is an exciting representation of moms across the country that are supporting John Kerry. Overall, though, they are voting for John Kerry because they believe he will fight for their children's futures and that he is the best candidate for all Americans. The moms on the board bring different experiences, perspectives and opinions and share them in a welcoming and tolerant environment.

Moms for Kerry. Join In.

Please visit our website at www.momsforkerry.com and find out more about our group and what we're planning over the next hundred days. There are many ways for you to get involved. Whether you are interested in organizing a rally, writing letters to your paper's editor, serving on a committee to organize a rally in your hometown, contacting your local media to spread the word about Moms for Kerry or hosting a house party for other moms, there is an opportunity for you to share your skills, knowledge and expertise as part of this grassroots group of moms.

Together, we can take a stand for our children's futures and elect a president that will fight for them and serve all Americans.

Together, we can take back our country.