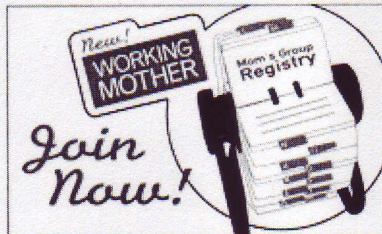


Working Mother Moms Group Registry

MOMS GROUPS
by Julie Jacobs

Every month I look forward to getting out of my basement office to connect, converse and commiserate with other local home-based working mothers over lunch. Our group, called HOME (Home Office Moms Engage), has been meeting informally for four years. We have grown from five to 15 and, as a founder, I coordinate our lunches via e-mail.

While we're all working moms, we're an eclectic bunch career-wise. Our rank includes writers, teachers, an ad director, a psychologist, personal coach, massage therapist, retirement specialist, nurse, development officer, virtual assistant and lawyer. The primary purpose of our lunches is to socialize, to bust the isolation that surrounds many of us during working hours. Networking is secondary, although some of us have grown our businesses from contacts made through the group.



Each month the restaurant changes as does the number of attendees. What remains the same is the reason we're there—to gather as working moms and lend one another support. And we're not alone.

Working Mother spoke with other grassroots moms groups across the country. Some developed as offshoots of larger organizations, some met on the Internet and one had its origins in church. No membership fees required, just commitment. By learning how they came and stay together, you, too, can form a group in your community and reap the benefits of sisterhood among working mothers.

Find Like-minded Moms

Tammie Aaron-Barrada, 41, found kindred moms when she attended a trade show in spring 2004. The inventor of Pottie Stickers, a portable toilet training reward system, Tammie was drawn to three other attendees also showcasing their creations. All were working mothers who were resolute in developing unique, affordable, solution-oriented products to help with child-rearing.

They quickly decided they could better promote their inventions together than apart and formed Made for Mom, an exclusive group of mom inventors that now has a product line. Though they live around the country—Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Michigan and Arizona—they've become great friends and business associates, says Tammie.

Similar geographics describe Biz Moms, a quartet split evenly between Oregon and New York. The mom entrepreneurs were introduced five years ago through a website for mom business owners. They kept "meeting" in a particular forum and after two years of cyber-chatting chose to break away to begin their own online group.



"The website was really for people just starting out and we were at a different level in our businesses," points out Nancy Cleary, 37, head of Wymac Publishing, which assists mom authors in publicizing their books. "We support each other, professionally and personally. Even though I've never actually met the women in New York, I consider them close friends."



SUBSCRIBE ➔

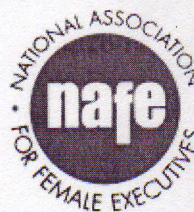
FREE NEWSLETTER SIGN-UP

BOOK PICKS amazon.com

Bottom Line PERSONAL

Working Mother Marketplace

Working Mother Franchise Guide



Newsletter Sign Up

Sign Up Today! ➔