

## Blessed Marriage Project

John Williams and Josie Hauer with Kate Pugnoli  
September 11, 2014



Tickets for the next Energize! Retreat by the Blessed Marriage Project are now available! It's going to be in the beautiful Captiva Island near Ft. Myers in Southern Florida on November

Go to <https://blessed-marriageproject.squarespace.com> and click on the Upcoming Retreat photo to find out more.

### ABOUT THE BLESSED MARRIAGE PROJECT

The Blessed Marriage Project (BMP) is an independently funded, grassroots initiative by Blessed couples for Blessed couples. It seeks to provide marriage enrichment to enhance relationship satisfaction, resiliency and vitality among Unificationist spouses at any stage of marriage.

The primary offering of the BMP is its Energize! Couples Retreats, which are meant to allow Blessed spouses to experience God's love through a well-deserved mini-vacation, learn useful information and tools, bond and enjoy each other as spouses, and to connect with other Blessed couples.



The purpose of the BMP includes training young Unificationists as retreat staff to learn to carry out such programming in the future. In addition, to extend the benefit of the weekend retreats, the Project provides for training volunteers to facilitate Small Groups and Seminars among past participants and other married couples in their local church communities.

The BMP donor couple generously gave \$100,000 to launch the project in 2014. The retreats are organized and led by professional marriage educators John R. Williams, MFT, and Josie Hauer, EdD, and three young couples—Mari and Richard Curry, Crescentia and Leighton DeGoede, Christof and Lena Yasutake. Kenny Wolfenberger has helped launch the Project, and Kate Pugnoli now serves as community liaison.

The Blessed Marriage Project is offering one more Energize! Couples Retreat in the Miami area in 2014, to serve as many as 50 couples, and to continue throughout 2015. The number of retreats depends upon what hosting communities contribute in terms of funding and local staff, and how their open dates coincide with the availability of BMP staff. Several church communities have expressed interest in hosting an Energize! Retreat, including Los Angeles, the San Francisco Bay Area, Seattle, and Columbus, Ohio.