Family Mission Statements

Mission statements have long been a part of organizations; they provide a clear path for what the organization wants to accomplish and how they plan to go about doing it. Yet, seldom does a family take the time to write a mission statement, and what organization is more important than the family? By establishing who you are as a family, how you want to be known, and how you plan to do it, you are practicing Habit 2: Begin With the End in Mind®. The process is a great way to practice all of the 7 Habits.

**Step 1.**
Ask yourself these seven questions:
How do we want our family to be known?
How do we want to treat each other?
What is most important to us as a family?
What are some of our talents, gifts, and abilities?
What makes us the happiest?
What makes us unhappy?
What kind of home do we want to invite friends to?

**Step 2.**
Write your Family Mission Statement.
Consider all four areas:
- Body (health and physical welfare)
- Brain (learning)
- Heart (relationships)
- Soul (inspiration)
Keep it simple, one to two lines, so the youngest family members can memorize it and find it meaningful. Examples: “We are builders,” “No empty chairs,” “To serve others,” “All for one and one for all,” etc.

**Step 3.**
Stay on course.
As parents, you are the role models. Keep smiling and getting back on track.

The promise: By writing a Family Mission Statement, the message to your children is that your family is important—you know what you stand for and how you are going to work together to accomplish it.