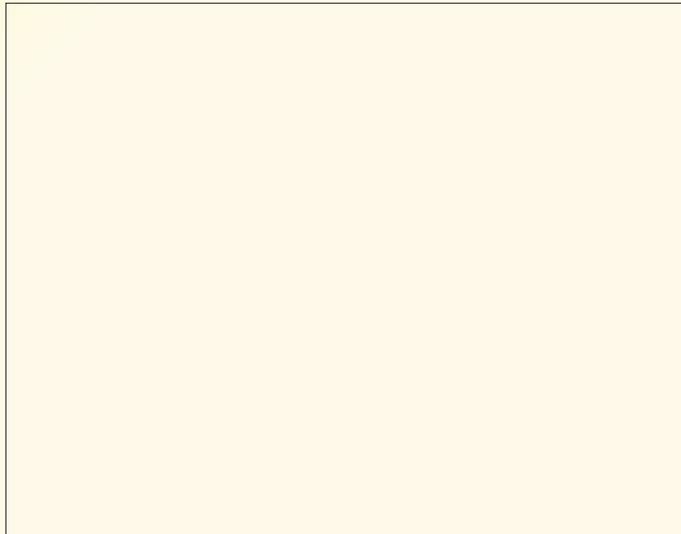


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In the Spotlight

Help Me Grow Champion

Janae Moss



***Parent Champion
Help Me Grow-Utah***

Janae Moss is a busy woman. She's a mother to seven kids, toddlers to teenagers. She and her entrepreneur husband, Jon, co-own more than a dozen businesses, including the largest janitorial company in the state of Utah. She regularly participates in community service, and she faithfully blogs about her many endeavors at pink-moss.com.

Janae and Jon have been staunch supporters of HMG from its earliest days in the state, contributing both funds and their marketing and outreach expertise. Recently, Janae shared some of the reasons that she and Jon have embraced Help Me Grow-Utah.

Why are you a Parent Champion for Help Me Grow?

I come to this work as a stepparent, foster parent, biological parent, and adoptive parent who has herself needed the resources that HMG helps people find.

When my husband, Jon, and I got married, he already had a daughter, and pretty quickly we had two more daughters of our own. Not long after, Jon's niece came to live with us. I was young, 22 years old, and suddenly I had four kids--and then Jon lost his business.

It was a scary time. I was so young and had so much responsibility. We didn't have money for food; bill collectors were banging on the door. I didn't know where to look for help, how to apply for food stamps, how to get my niece the counseling she needed. It was hard to find help, though once we did find those resources we really used and needed them.

I believe in the HMG model, because I know from my experience that the resources for families are there, but too often people can't get to them. And whether it's your first child or seventh, we as parents all need help!

What is a favorite moment from your work with HMG-Utah?

At the very first community event Jon and I helped Barbara put together, we set up different stations, showing parents how to play with kids with inexpensive toys and games. Parents could fill out the Ages & Stages Questionnaire, too. It was so exciting to see parents learning about their kids, to see parents and kids playing together. I loved it.

What is the best part of doing philanthropic work?

I think it helps us teach our kids that service is part of a happy, fulfilling life. I see it already in them, how they've changed. On Valentine's Day this year, my daughter took her babysitting money from the last six months and bought a rose for every kid in the special needs class in her school. Even the boys were like, 'I got a rose!'

When Jon and I lost everything, it changed us. Partly because of those hard years, I truly believe that happiness and success come through service. *With HMG-Utah, we have a structured and hands-on way to give back the help that was given to us.*