

A Princess Party Report

How the event come to be: Craving someone to mentor/disciple myself, I found myself seeking out women and moms who I could glean any amount of advice from in raising my kids and having an awesome marriage. I talked with women from our church, as well at the pool, park, etc ... basically whenever I had a chance to learn more. I saw how specific moms had or were raising their kids to LOVE GOD and LOVE OTHERS and wondered what helped them train their children. What encouraged them when they were tired? What challenges have they faced that I can learn from? etc. As I began talking with more and more women, it was obvious that I was not alone in desiring these relationships. Also, the more I studied God's Word and in particular Titus 2 (the command for older women to train the younger women), it was clear to me that God created us for these relationships. How then could I (and others) continue to learn from these Godly women? I had so many questions. Thus the idea of a panel to ask questions of was formed. I also knew that as a young mom (and one who also worked for part of her child's life) that an event where this could really thrive would be by creating an event where moms and kids (in particular daughters) could attend together. It is clear that overall we are a generation dedicated to our kids, and if something doesn't allow our kids to attend through childcare or an activity, it is a stretch to get us moms there. How could I encourage moms/women while also providing an opportunity for us as believers a way to invest in their kids as well. So in thinking along those lines, naturally is the SAVING GRACE of the GOSPEL applies to EVERYONE! According to Romans 8, those of us saved are already called "heirs to the throne" ... thus being females we are DAUGHTERS/PRINCESSES of a HEAVENLY KING and what a message to share with those who don't know Christ as their Savior at any age! Thus the idea of a Princess Party began.

So what do the young girls do?

0-3: Childcare was provided. Most moms likely find someone to watch their young kids because lets face it, 3-4 hours in a nursery is not ideal. However, some women are only able to attend if this is provided.

3-12: They participated in the following: learned a dance to perform, created a couple crafts, did jazzercise, and most importantly heard THE GOSPEL during Story-time & Etiquette Lessons! Also, there is NO COST to participate in these!!!

12-18: These girls lovingly volunteered their time to help the younger girls all morning and overall LOVED it themselves. * Our older HS and College girls also kindly dressed up as Disney Princesses to make the event seem all the more magical to the young girls ... but they all know that being a Daughter of the King is the BEST princess that one can be!

What do the women do?

Women this year could select 3 out of 6 different panel sessions to attend. Those sessions were Loving Your Spouse, Raising Boys, Raising Girls, Christian Literature, Dealing with Hard Things, and Discipling/Mentoring. Basically, we have tried to create sessions that are applicable for moms as well as those who are not yet moms or have passed that phase of life. Here they get to hear personal stories and ask & listen to a variety of women who "have been there" on a wide range of topics. The women all come from different backgrounds: single, newly married, seasoned in life, etc. and have also dealt with a variety of things: infertility, single parenting, traveling spouse, role reversals, working mom, stay at home mom, etc. and have also had unique experiences with the following: kids who are adopted, spirited, shy, outgoing, popular, outcast, a bully, a victim, gay, depressed, disabled, over-achiever, the loss of a child as well as having kids who attend different schools: home, private, public. They admit they are not experts and that every situation is different, but they are willing to share what they have learned thus far in life. The majority of these panel sessions also met prior to the event to go over questions submitted and to pray for the ladies as well as well as one another. We have had a handful of women reach out to our panel speakers after the event wanting to hear or learn more about what was shared that morning. The women also have a keynote speaker who also shares some encouragement and most importantly the Gospel as well! These sessions are recorded and on the website so that everyone has an opportunity to hear them if desired (esp. for those who couldn't attend last minute or the mom's who stayed with the young girls who may have been scared to go alone).

Everyone also gets ...

A light lunch together, watches IMPACT (Aurora's female show choir) perform, a professional family picture, & fun before and after the event with the photo-booth, dessert table, chances to win door prizes, time with friends, etc.

Registered

Some Stats from the 2018 year!

- 410 Registered (See column on right for age breakdown).
- Roughly 375 actually attended the event.
- Of the 375 in attendance, roughly 3/4 were NOT from Monroe.
- 18 different communities were represented.
- Lunch Seating 355 (Used ALL church tables + 8 of Mullarkey's)

What you CAN'T see on paper:

- Hearts encouraged & softened
- Women and girls feeling loved and valued
- Friendships formed and strengthened (as well as some reconciliation)
- Generational bonding w/ grandma-mother-daughter...
- Lives Changed & Eternal blessings

Some ways to improve the next one:

While there are little ways here and there we can improve on, the biggest way we can enhance what we did this year would be by adding some additional childcare helpers and offering shifts for those serving in that area. We also need to have an additional registration table set up at both outside doors (North and South) since both parking lots were full.

	2017	2018
0-3	14	20
3-6	47	110
7-12	51	54
13-18	19	24
19-29	21	37
30-39	42	99
40-49	30	33
50-59	11	15
60+	15	18
TOTAL 3-12:	98	164
Total Adults:	119	202
TOTAL REGISTERED	250	410

66 Sponsors & Donors:

* To see how they specifically gave, please visit the web-site:

Amy Curtis
andmiss98 (eBay) in honor of sisters
Anna Hunnicutt - The Pampered Chef
Anne Daly
ap62940 (eBay)
Ashley Derr
B2B Network
Bethany Wilson
Black Tie Entertainment
Capture It Photography
Clint Jensen
Custom Rentals of Grand Island
Dawn Betz (FB Marketplace)
Dena James Grantham
Denise Denning

Doug & Cynthia Willey
emilwilso-0 (eBay)
Feather Flag Nation
Fisekas Toy World - fisekas (eBay)
freakofn1nt3nd0 (eBay)
Hardt DJ Services
Hobby Lobby
Joe & Lori Mullarkey
JR & Kristen Roebuck
Julie Uhrmacher Stevenson -
ThirtyOne
Kim Staehr
Lauren Krug Photography
Laurie Anderson
LittleAdventures.com *
Loutinen Events (Etsy)
MA Nelson

MiniPress (Etsy)
Monroe E-Free Church
msellegonzales03 (eBay)
muffy2003 (eBay)
NerdyLoot (Etsy)
PeanutButterandJulia Designs (Etsy)
Preferred Popcorn
princess-awesome.com *
Princess Party Prints (Etsy)
Pure D Light Spau Services
Raising Canes
Randy & Kim Rasmussen
RebelLettering (Etsy)
S&S Worldwide
SAM's Club
Scott & Diep Moore
Sheri Bettenhausen

Signs.com
Sonic on South Locust
Spring City - Grand Island
Stacy Groetzinger
Susie Evans - Norwex
The Mason's Jar
The Old Homestead Market & Floral
The Toy Nation (eBay)
ThinkFun
Tiffany Stevens - MONAT
Timberlake Ranch Camps
Timaree Goertzen
toddzgal (eBay)
Top Shelf Brands (eBay)
TrinJensen Photography
wesellthemagic (eBay)
Yourchaircovers.com

Some other fun facts from this year:

- The DJ (Brandon Warner) excitedly dressed up as Flynn Rider from Tangled to fit into our theme.
- Timberlake brought a white horse to play the role of Maximus from Tangled for the girls.
- We had 12 "Disney Princesses" present.
- There were over 60 Door Prizes given away.
- Roughly 70 Volunteers made the event happen!
- Men kindly served in the kitchen so that women would not have to be asked to fill that role and could attend.
- Registration opened Jan 1st and was full with 250 people by 8 pm and a waiting list started while a Plan B was being created.
- This event would have costed roughly \$7,000 but due to God's provisions. we were able to do it for a little less than \$2,500.

Website: <https://lorimullarkey.wixsite.com/princessteaparty>

* This site contains all the information from the event, including all the handouts, session downloads, photos taken, resources, etc.

* To be involved in the next one, talk to Lori Mullarkey or visit the website and click on 2019? or go to

<https://lorimullarkey.wixsite.com/princessteaparty/to-be-involved-nex-time> to see a list of all the volunteers needed: Childcare, Panel Speakers, Food Crew, Crafts, Dancing, Jazzercise, Donations...