

# Unmarried America



the promise of equality applies to everyone regardless of marital status

## We're Building a Team for Unmarried America

The American Association for Single People is building a team for Unmarried America – a group of people who believe that the promise of equality applies to everyone regardless of marital status. AASP is a federal tax-exempt 501(c)(3) nonprofit and nonpartisan national organization.

**Individual members.** Three years ago, we started with a small number of founding members in a few states. Today we have members in every part of the nation. Individual donors are the core of our organization.

**Elected officials.** Only a few political leaders supported AASP when we started in 1999. Today, our members include federal, state, and local officials from coast to coast. In April 2002 alone, more than 20 elected officials joined AASP. Momentum is building!

**Book authors.** In recent years there has been a flood of books published for and about unmarried and single people on a wide variety of topics. Many authors of these books have joined AASP to lend support to our cause.

**Media.** Before AASP was launched a few years ago, the story of Unmarried America was not being told. We have reached out to journalists and producers with facts, issues, and real life examples. Today the media is telling our stories and in the process are educating the public and policy makers alike.

**Nonprofit groups.** We are building alliances with civic organizations and membership groups. National Volunteer organizations, such as Connect America and Points of Light Foundation, have welcomed AASP as a community partner. Please let us know about nonprofit organizations in your area with which we should consider developing a relationship.

**College Interns.** Although not enough young adults are voting these days, there is no shortage of enthusiastic volunteers for worthy causes. The influx of students doing unpaid internships at AASP demonstrates that young people do identify with our mission.

### What You Can Do

There are several ways in which you can help us build an even stronger and broader team for Unmarried America.

**Join AASP.** If you are not already a member of AASP, please join today. We need your support in order to be effective in our educational programs and our advocacy. Make a tax-deductible donation of \$10 or more and become a part of this team.

**Renew membership.** If you are a member but have not made a tax-deductible donation to AASP during the last year, please take a moment to send us a check or make a donation by credit card, mail, or phone, or through our website.

**Increase donations.** The minimum donation of \$10 is barely enough to cover our costs in producing and mailing you our quarterly newsletters. Join the ranks of many of our members who donate \$25, \$50, or \$100 per year to support the work we do for you and other unmarried Americans.

**Gift memberships.** Many of our members have given their friends or relatives a gift membership in AASP. This would be a good way to remember someone who is special to you and to introduce AASP to them.

**Spread the word.** Share the newsletter with others, or send e-mails to friends letting them know about our website. They will be glad to hear there is a group like AASP for unmarried and single Americans.

**Honorary memberships.** Send us the names and addresses of unmarried elected officials in your area. Nominate them for an honorary membership in AASP.

**Corporate sponsorship.** Businesses can gain positive visibility with unmarried consumers by sponsoring an AASP program, a newsletter mailing, or a website page. Give us a tip and we'll contact the business you suggest. Perhaps your employer would like to be a sponsor.



Please see reverse side for information on how to join AASP.

# Programs Designed With You in Mind

## What we do

**Advice & Resources.** We provide advice and resources – financial, legal, health, travel, books – for solo singles, domestic partners, single parents, single women, and others. You won't find information and referrals as comprehensive as this anywhere else on the internet.

**Website.** We report current news that directly concerns unmarried people. We let our members know about pending legislation which could affect their lives or pocketbooks. New book releases and interesting essays are also found on our website.

**Newsletter.** We publish a quarterly newsletter for our members to keep them informed of our progress as we promote equal rights for them as taxpayers, workers, and consumers.

**Media Outreach.** Favorable public opinion is essential to any equal rights campaign. This often depends on how the media portrays us. We work with reporters, journalists, and producers to create media products which are fair and balanced.

**Research & Policy.** Spectrum Institute, our research and policy division, analyzes academic studies about single people. We also assist elected officials as they conduct studies and publish policy reports on issues of concern to unmarried Americans.

**Awards Program.** To acknowledge leadership and excellence, we give awards to individuals and organizations who have helped unmarried Americans in some significant way: elected officials, corporate executives, and members of the media. These awards encourage others to emulate the actions of these good role models.

**Counseling & Advocacy.** In appropriate cases, we counsel members who are experiencing unfair treatment. If warranted, we will write a letter or file a brief proposing a solution to the problem.

**Networking with Other Groups.** We share information with groups for single parents raising children, and groups focusing on the social and recreational interests of all unmarried and single people, as well as many other nonprofit educational and service organizations.



## Who we serve

**Unmarried Individuals.** About 27 million Americans live alone. While families are important to society and to the nation, so are individuals who work hard, pay taxes, vote, and contribute to their communities.

**Unmarried Couples.** About 12 million adults live with an unmarried partner. Government and businesses should not treat domestic partners as legal strangers. These families deserve legal protections and equitable economic benefits.

**Unmarried Relatives.** Millions of other unmarried adults live with relatives in households without minor children. "Family friendly" policies, whether implemented in the workplace or by government agencies, should not ignore or exclude these unmarried adult family relationships.

**Unmarried Workers.** All workers deserve "equal pay for equal work" regardless of marital status or family status. Equal benefits compensation should apply to workers who live with a relative, a partner, or live alone.

**Unmarried Consumers.** Insurance companies, landlords, and other businesses should be fair to all customers. Consumers should not be penalized because of their marital status.

**Unmarried Taxpayers.** Unmarried workers pay a disproportionate share of income and social security taxes, but receive fewer benefits than married people. Estate taxes exempt a surviving spouse but can take 50 percent of the estate of an unmarried person. Tax codes should be marital status neutral.

**Unmarried Voters.** Political parties and candidates usually reach out to married couples and to parents with minor children but ignore solo singles, domestic partners, and unmarried families without children. Party platforms and campaign outreach should include unmarried Americans. We are 35 percent of voters nationally.

## Our Mission

The American Association for Single People promotes the well being and fair treatment of 82 million unmarried Americans whether they live with a family member or partner, a roommate, or live alone. The promise of equality applies to all people – as workers, taxpayers, consumers, and citizens – whether married or not. AASP's mission is fulfilled by conducting research and providing information and advice to members, elected officials, corporate policymakers, and the media.

### I accept the invitation to become an honorary member

You may list me as an honorary member of the American Association for Single People.

I understand that by accepting this invitation I am not endorsing any specific piece of legislation nor am I expressing my view on specific legislative proposals.

By becoming an honorary member I am showing my general support for AASP and its mission as stated above.

I understand that I will receive newsletters from AASP and will have access to the members areas of its website.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Contact person: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Return this form to the address below or sending it to us at the fax number below.

