



## **IDW Mission Grant Evaluation Report Form**

Grant recipients are to complete and submit the report form within one month of the completion of the effort. If this is a continuing ministry, please submit a report by January 31<sup>st</sup> of the following year, in which the grant is received. Include pictures/videos that help share the story with other congregations to encourage them in their own ministry. Final grant funds will be sent upon receipt of this evaluation.

### **Contact Person, Congregation, and email address:**

**Jenn Grundmeier, DCE**

**Messiah Lutheran Church/Loving Arms Children's Center – Johnston, Iowa**

**Email: [Jenn.Grundmeier@gmail.com](mailto:Jenn.Grundmeier@gmail.com)**

---

1. Please provide a brief overview of the effort: With the Mission Grant Funds, we were able to build a brand new website for Loving Arms Children's Center. It was built so that we could connect better with our community and let them know that we are here to provide Christian Childcare and Preschool for their children. The website is much more pleasing to view and easier to find information.
2. What goals were established for this effort and what did you hope to accomplish? Our goals were to have a working website that was easily accessible to anyone and everyone. To make sure it was bright and eye-catching. Also, to make us a viable Christian Childcare Center and Preschool in our area. We hope, with the new website, to bring in more children and more families to our center and to our church. We hope that with this new website, we can show our community that we are here and a viable option.
3. Did you achieve your goals? If not, what do you think were some of the contributing factors? I think that many of our goals have been met. Our website is easily accessible and is bright and eye-catching. The goal of our website bringing in more children and families to our center and church is yet to be determined. However, I do believe that the new website will help us greatly.
4. Is there anything you would do differently if you were to undertake this effort again? I don't think so. It was a learning experience and the company that we worked with to build our website was very patient and answered all of our questions as we went. It actually was a very enjoyable process. The only thing is to get things to them faster so we can have the site up and running sooner. Overall, I'd do things the same.
5. What lessons were learned through this effort? Many lessons were learned. First, the lesson of patience was taught over and over. Still is being taught. Our

old website is very broken. It is not working at all. Patience is waiting for our new one to be ready and placed out for all to see. Second, the lesson of too many words and not saying anything. As we looked over our old site and tried to move things to our new one – it was evident that whoever wrote things on the last website like to use a lot of descriptive words – which is great, yet not always helpful. It took a lot of time to try and trim down the words to say what we needed to say – plainly. Third, the lesson of understanding technology. This is a lesson that we are still learning. We will need to update the site and I am praying that they will teach us how this all works and that I and others will understand it all. Technology is wonderful, yet can be confusing. I'm hoping that the company we used will be excellent teachers on how to work and update the site. Fourth, the lesson of what is to come. I'm unsure what other lessons will come from this – but I know there will be many. Again, technology is wonderful, when you understand. When you don't understand it completely, it can be a challenge. So we are all praying that we will be taught well and will understand the teachings.

6. Will this outreach effort continue and be sustaining? Did a new outreach opportunity present itself? We hope that it will be! We are a Christian Childcare Center and Preschool and we want everyone in our community to know it! So, this new website will make us a viable option for families to consider. I think that with time, we can grow and our new website will assist in our growth. People today are more technology focused. So by having a brand new website that is bright and cheery and eye-catching, we can compete in our community with the other centers. I hope and pray that God will bless our efforts and create new outreach opportunities for us – like having our Center Clients become Church members. Time will tell what God's plan is! We look forward to what is to come!
  
7. What suggestions would you give to a congregation considering a similar effort? Take your time and look over every aspect of your old website before you build your new one. Make sure that your website speaks to who you are and that you are happy with what is being presented. Make sure that you have a wonderful and patient company to work with. Also, make sure that you are not going through this process alone. Surround yourself with people who are encouraging and willing to help put information together. Ask a lot of questions and make sure you understand what is being said. If not, make sure that you say that. Take the time to fully understand. Also, enjoy the whole process! It is amazing to see the progression of going from what was to what is and what could be!