

# We are family!



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**A**s I sit here pondering my first article as editor, I keep seeing it everywhere... "We are family!" That's the theme being shouted from the rooftops and printed on all GaMPI collateral from now until the end of June! What does **family** mean to me?

**Forming partnerships.** In this industry, we all know it's all about relationships. Having seen both sides of the industry, I have no doubt this industry is built on partnerships. There isn't a week that goes by that I don't call on a GaMPI member to request or offer assistance on a work or volunteer project. What a great feeling to know that such a support system is right at my fingertips!

**Action.** My new motto is, "Why put off till tomorrow what you can do today?" Items on today's to-do list include sending out a proposal for a group in March 2006, editing the upcoming edition of *BreakOut*, assisting the member care committee with a marketing piece for table host packets, attending that spinning class at the YMCA, calling my mother to catch-up on family news and doing a load of laundry. Don't let it sit and roll over to tomorrow's to-do list. Feel that sense of accomplishment today, no matter how big or small. If you have time to do it today, do it!

**My return on investment.** Recently my director of sales asked me a question that I stopped and pondered before giving my answer. "What is your ROI from GaMPI?" Wow, what a loaded question! I listed off my usual responses of education programs, volunteer opportunities and membership resources. However, what I found most important to my membership's ROI was the GaMPI members. GaMPI members make my resources, opportunities and programs worthwhile!

**Involvement.** "I have 23 emails about GaMPI committee work and it is 6:30 p.m." I can't deal with it today!" After a relaxing dinner with my husband and some TLC from the cats, I'm back on the computer working feverishly to participate in the committees I've committed time to. Yes, it takes time. Yes, sometimes it becomes overwhelming and I have to remind myself of the term "volunteer." No, I wouldn't trade it for the world! It's all worth it when you see your name as Gampion on the screen at a luncheon or people call to tell you the latest issue of *BreakOut* is super. GaMPI wouldn't be GaMPI to me without involvement.

**Live. Laugh. Love. Family.** Whether I'm writing metaphorically about my GaMPI family or referencing life on a personal level, it is important to remember family to make each day count. This hit home for me when my mother went through her battle with cancer. One day, she was a healthy, young woman and the next I was sleeping and showering in a Northside Hospital room just hoping we would make it through two surgeries and chemotherapy. Today, she is three years without cancer; we consider each day together a gift. Live life. Laugh much. Love all those dear!

**Your network. Your family.** I consider the partnerships and friendships with GaMPI an extended arm of my family. Things I accomplish on a professional level could not be done without my family network at GaMPI. What a clever motto for this year with GaMPI.

**Family.** ○