

What is CHEF of Louisiana?

The Christian Home Educators Fellowship (CHEF) of Louisiana is a Christian organization comprised of Christian home school support groups from around the state. Of these support groups, each member family becomes part of CHEF of Louisiana. This gives CHEF of Louisiana an effective membership of hundreds of families without competing with local support groups for memberships. The unique relationship CHEF of Louisiana has with local support groups offers each homeschool family the comprehensive, unified and affordable support it needs at local and state levels.

CHEF of Louisiana's Purpose is to:

- 1) *Provide timely national and state news.* State organizations have become the point-of-contact for most national home education service organizations, such as the National Center for Home Education and the Home School Legal Defense Association. These organizations depend on the state organizations to inform families in their states of legislation, court cases, and other events that influence the future of home education. On the state level, CHEF of Louisiana maintains a watchful eye on the state legislature, state agencies and the news media.
- 2) *Assist in the formation of new home education support groups* and provide a network of communication between the groups.
- 3) *Direct new families to a group in their area* and inform them of current home study law.
- 4) *Support home education research* to reinforce to the community that home schooling is a viable method of education.
- 5) *Provide training for support group leaders* to strengthen local support groups.
- 6) *Educate the public about home education* and thus improve acceptance in the community.
- 7) *Sponsor the Annual CHEF of Louisiana State Convention and Book Fair.*
- 8) *Watch for unfavorable legislation and initiate favorable legislation.*

Why is a Network of Support Groups so Important?

We live in an age of information and change, and much of this change challenges the very existence of the family. Such a network provides home schoolers with the information needed to influence the changes occurring in our nation and state. If we are not involved, the laws will change and home schooling and family life as we know it will be a thing of the past. In addition, if needed, a well-organized support group can quickly respond to any adverse legislation by calling or writing local, state, or national governmental officials.

How Does a Support Group Become a Member of CHEF of Louisiana?

Upon request, CHEF of Louisiana will send your support group leader information and membership application forms. The support group's leadership must sign the application stating that it adheres to CHEF of Louisiana's "Statement of Faith," "Statement of Education and By-Laws." The membership dues are currently \$10 per member family in the support group. CHEF of Louisiana votes to receive new member groups twice a year at the annual CHEF of Louisiana Convention and at the annual Leadership Conference.

How Do Home School Support Groups Form?

Home school support groups form in many ways. Some have formed when families meet at the park or zoo during the day. Some have decided it is easier to form a support group closer to home rather than commuting across town or another city. Others may meet at their local church.

It doesn't take a large number of families to start a group; some support groups begin with as few as four or five families. Lack of experience should not prevent anyone from starting a group. CHEF of Louisiana can provide assistance to anyone interested in forming a new support group.