

## BONNIE O'NEIL – My Eagle Forum Story



As the mother of three young sons, happily married, and attending an amazing church, I thought life was perfect in the 1980s until I began seeing problematic changes in America's culture. Television shows no longer portrayed wholesome families as role models. Instead, the media chose to portray dysfunctional families as the norm, such as "Married with Children." Public schools stopped teaching Christian values in exchange for self esteem programs that caused children to concentrate on themselves rather than consider or be sensitive of others. Sexually explicit magazines and inappropriate advertisements were prominently on display for innocent children's eyes to see and ears to hear. Something seemed very wrong, and I felt a need to do what I could to stop this morally destructive trend and protect my family from these terribly flawed changes. However, I had no idea how or where to start. It seemed an overwhelming task. It was during this time in my life that I met a new friend, Jo Ellen, who belonged to a group called Eagle Forum.

Jo Ellen was equally concerned about the negative changes happening in our schools, media, government, and society. We discussed the problems, and she confirmed everything I had been seeing and feeling. However, instead of just being concerned, Jo Ellen said she was working with an outstanding group, Eagle Forum, who was dedicated to correcting these negative trends. **She invited me to join her at one of the monthly meetings. Attending that first amazing meeting with her was one of the best decisions I have ever made. It positively changed my life!**

Eagle Forum inspired me to believe we could make a positive difference in our community, state, and country by working together to find ways to solve specific problems. Eagle Forum speakers were knowledgeable and inspirational, and the leadership provided various ways and opportunities for everyone to get involved within an area of particular interest to them. I had a renewed hope for America's future as I joined others in projects that helped make necessary changes at local, state, and national levels.

I learned that President Eisenhower was correct in stating: "Politics ought to be the part-time profession of every citizen who would protect the rights of free men." Eagle Forum understands this and equips members with facts and ways to help them hold officials accountable, realizing this effort is paramount for America to remain the greatest country in the World.

Through the years, our Eagle Forum group enjoyed many political accomplishments. I met amazing people and enjoyed special relationships. My most treasured reward, the one which gives me great comfort today, is knowing that I dedicated many hours of my life doing what I could to keep and/or restore American values for our families. I thank Eagle Forum for that opportunity!