

COMMUNITY

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Woman finds fun, friendship promoting family games

by Gloria Dawn Irwin
Reporter

Kendy Stoebe and her daughter Karla Marsh have found a job they can laugh at. They are representatives for SimplyFun Games, original games and products that promote the importance of play for all ages.

Stoebe said she started with the company this past April. Marsh was invited to a party in February where she lives. The mother-daughter team went to the game party together.

"It was so much fun," Stoebe said. "It was a blast."

After that game party, Marsh could not stop thinking about the games and decided to look into the possibilities of becoming a representative. She signed up in March and then together she and her mom went to the company office in Bellevue.

"The director of sales and all these head people are like you and me. We sat around a table and played games together and it was a blast," Stoebe said.

The end of their visit convinced Stoebe this was the livelihood she wanted to invest her time and money in.

Stoebe and Marsh went to the Northwest Washington Fair in Lynden this year and were excited about the positive response they received. The product is new to the area, and there are no products that compare to it, Stoebe said. The products were provided by SimplyFun and displayed like in a store. Stoebe also took the games that she plays at the game parties so she could explain what the games are, as well as a table that had a game set up so people could stop and play.

"The laughter that came from that table stopped people and brought crowds over to see what was going on," Stoebe said. The excitement is contagious.

The home parties are fun and a good time for all ages, Stoebe said. The purpose of SimplyFun is to promote inter-generational play where kids, parents and grandparents can all have fun playing the same game.

Home parties occur when a volunteer sets up a party with his or her own friends, and invites Stoebe to "bring the fun."

There are three types of parties that Stoebe gives. One is for families, where all the parents and kids are present. Another is for couples, "which is really fun" and also there is a party for mom's night out.

"All moms need that," Stoebe said. The motto of the company is 'Simple to learn — fun to play.' Every game takes five minutes or less to learn and can be played in 30-minutes or less.

"It's not a huge time commitment for parents," Stoebe said.

The games are exclusive to SimplyFun and cannot be purchased in a store. Ordering through a home party, an event like the fair, or online are the only ways to purchase the games.

Stoebe's goal is to help get society back to where families are playing games together again.

"There is an interaction that takes place when you're playing a game with a person that you don't get any other way," Stoebe said.

Something positive happens when you're connecting with the people you are playing a game with, she said. Families are usually on the run so if you can take 30-minutes and sit around the kitchen table and have fun together, that is huge, Stoebe said.

SimplyFun was launched in early 2005 and has been gaining popularity nationwide. Games are well thought out and move along at a nice pace, Stoebe said.

SimplyFun has been awarded the prestigious National Parenting Center Seal of Approval for three of its popular family games including 'Aargh!', 'Ooga,' and 'Walk the Dogs.'

For more information, call Stoebe at 384-6872, Marsh at (425) 774-9783, or go to the Web site at www.kendystoebe.simplyfun.com.

Marsh grew up in Ferndale and graduated from Ferndale High School in 1999 and currently lives in Lynnwood. Stoebe lives in Ferndale.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KENDY STOEBE

Kendy Stoebe, left, works as a representative for SimplyFun games. Her daughter Melissa often helps out, too.