

# Home Education Foundation

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Charities Commission Registration Nbr: CC24585

13 July 2011

Dear Friends of Home Education in New Zealand,

Barbara & I have been so privileged to work full time for the Home Education Foundation, a registered charitable trust, for the last 12 years. The Lord has blessed this ministry with stability and an influence with the MoE and ERO. Actually, this influence mostly reflects the commitment of so many of you individual home educating families as you have communicated your convictions and concerns to the MoE and ERO as a result of information we have been able to summarise and forward to you to act upon. The Foundation has also been very faithfully supported, almost entirely by private donations and by subscriptions and book sales. The Trustees of the Foundation have never felt comfortable about applying for Grants, either because one nearly has to compromise oneself in answering the many questions they ask in order to remain within the stated criteria of the grant organization, or else because they get their money from lotteries or gaming machines.

On rare occasions, something really exciting comes up that seems to be a “must attend” for home educators at a national level. We were in the USA for our son’s wedding back in 2005 when two conferences occurred nearby, in the same city and back-to-back, one for State leaders from the USA and another for all comers put on by the HSLDA (Home School Legal Defense Association) which we knew was being attended by some persecuted German home schoolers. So we managed to squeeze both of those conferences in just before the wedding, and we ended up not just meeting with but also getting to know many of the top leaders of the USA home schooling movement (Gregg Harris, Joshua Harris’ dad, Michael Farris, the late Chris Klicka, Brian & Betsy Ray of NHERI, etc.) as well as folks from Germany, Mexico and Hungary!

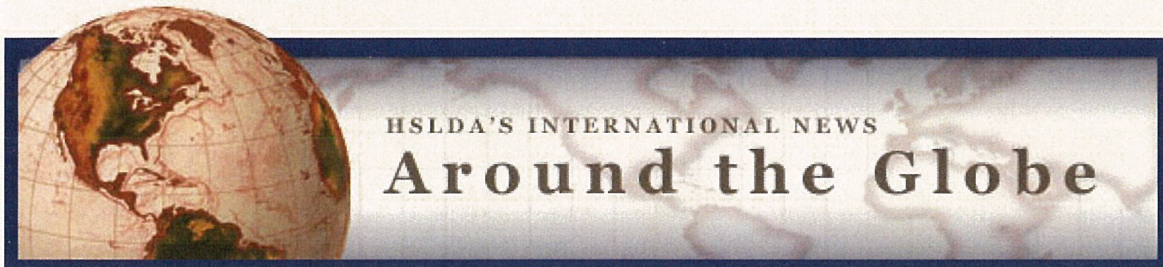
Anyway, another of those “must attend” events is taking place from 31 August through 4 September this year: the first ever (we believe) international home schoolers’ leadership conference in a spot on the globe which is as far away from New Zealand as you can get before you start coming back: Valencia, Spain! It is put on by one of the Spanish home schooling groups with speakers from Sweden, Ireland, USA, UK, Italy, Netherlands and Spain. It is also to be a time for planning for a larger Global Home Education Congress some time in the (near) future.

We’ve been networking with home educators in the UK, USA, Singapore, Mexico, Japan, Fiji and Australia for some time now, so it seems this is a very natural next step. Indeed, we’ve been invited to come, as you’ll see in the correspondence below, which makes it all the more attractive. Barbara is actually going to be near Chicago already when the conference starts, visiting with a brand-new grandchild due to be born some time earlier. So it is a simple direct flight from there to Madrid. I’d need a couple of stops along the way, as I’d be leaving from here in kiwiland but could meet Barbara in Madrid, rent a car and drive the 4 ½ hours to the conference site. The lodging and meals are a real bargain at 20 Euros a day each, Barbara’s flight to Chicago is already covered privately. It would just be her return flight from there to Madrid and my round trip to Madrid from NZ, about NZ\$4,300 all up. A couple of folks have already offered some funding, bringing the outstanding money needed to around NZ\$2,800. The Home Education Foundation can, according to the Trustees, contribute some. So we are writing with the request that, should such a conference seem worth-while to you to have a couple of long-time New Zealand home educators attend, you might please consider contributing \$5 or \$10 to the travel fund to get us over there. Any excess would be used to get us to the proposed, first-time-ever home educators’ conference in Fiji this February 2012, for us to speak at Nadi, Suva and Savusavu (Lord willing, the organizer and her family will be featured on the October 2011 issue of Keystone.)

Thanks so much for considering this request. All donations of \$5 or more receive a Charities Commission approved receipt for tax rebate purposes. Cheques and credit cards are OK: send to Home Education Foundation, PO Box 9064, Palmerston North, 4441. And internet banking to the Home Education Foundation bank A/C #: 030726 0495399 00 would be great too. We need to know if this is a goer by the first of August, so if you’d like to act on this, please do so today. Thanks a million!

  
Craig & Barbara Smith

*Serving, Promoting and Strengthening the Home Education Community in New Zealand since 1986*



**Dear International Homeschool Leaders,**



I have an exciting opportunity to tell you about – an international homeschool conference is now scheduled for September 2011! The *Asociación por la Libre Educación* (ALE) in Spain will host this conference, entitled “Home Education Around the World: Past, Present and Future.” I plan to attend and expect to address the participants along with other international homeschooling leaders. I would like to encourage you to consider coming as well. It is my hope that this conference may create a framework for a future Global Homeschool Congress as well as to advance the cause of homeschooling worldwide through our mutual support and encouragement of one another.

Daragh McInerney, President of ALE, anticipates that the conference will also provide a forum to increase awareness of the current situations in various countries regarding home education, and bring home educators in Spain, Europe, and the world closer together. I have worked with Daragh and ALE and expect many good things to result from this gathering of homeschoolers. Please view the attachment for further details and contact ALE with any questions.

Thank you!

Yours very truly,

*Mike*

**Michael P. Donnelly, Esq.  
Director of International Affairs**



Contact: Daragh McInerney

[daraghmci@hotmail.com](mailto:daraghmci@hotmail.com)

## **Home Education Around the World: Past, Present and Future**

*Organized and hosted by the*

**Asociación por la Libre Educación (ALE)**

**Dates:** 31 August – 4 September, 2011

**Location:** D'Ador – near Valencia, Spain

**Speakers:**

- Mike Fortune-Woods, HE-UK and LU-The United Kingdom
- Neil Taylor, UK-HOME-ED and LU-England
- Sylvie Martin, author of 'The Ten Lies of Non-Schooling' & LU-France
- Jenny Lantz, secretary of Rohus and LU-Sweden
- Erika Di Martino, *Controscuola.it*
- Peter van Zuidam, NvVTO – Netherlands Home Educators Association & LU-Netherlands
- Nick Gudge, Ex-liaison officer HEN/NEWB and LU-Ireland
- Julio Fernandez, Crecer sin Escuela-Spain
- Peter Szil, Crecer sin Escuela-Spain
- Lluís Vives, Educar en familia-Catalonia
- Michael P. Donnelly, Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA)-USA

And more to come!

**Accommodations/Food:** Lodging at Serra D'Ador: <http://www.serradador.es/>

Beds are in rooms of ten, in tatami-style bunkbeds. People need to bring their own sleeping bags (or sheets, given the weather that time of year).

Prices will be 23€ per person (20€ for members of Ale/Learning Unlimited/participants in workshops) per day, with children 3 and under not paying if they eat from their parents' plates (21€ if camping).

Price includes 4 meals a day (breakfast, lunch, evening snack, and dinner). We'll enter the place at five pm on Wednesday, 31 August and leave at the same time on 4 September, so people who stay the five days/four nights will pay for four days.

Payment is by bank transfer, with places being allotted on a first come, first served basis. Deposit should be at least half of total amount of stay, with final payment of total amount due before 1 August. (Write to [daraghmci@hotmail.com](mailto:daraghmci@hotmail.com) for bank details.) We'll start organizing activities for children and adults soon.

Dear Craig & Barbara

If you all can make the effort to attend—financially and practically —we would recommend that you come. The conference is meant to have less of a motivational/encouragement feel and is geared more toward developing key networks among international homeschool leaders, hearing from individual leaders about the legal and practical status of homeschooling in their countries, and discussing specific strategies for how to support homeschoolers around the world from a legal standpoint and to continue growing the homeschool movement.

In addition, as Mike said in his original email, we still hope to put together a future “Global Homeschool Congress” within the next several years. While we certainly want you to attend the Spain conference if at all possible, take note of the fact that there should be another opportunity in the future!

Blessings,

*Brittany L. Paist*

*International Assistant to Michael P. Donnelly, Esq.*

*Legal Department*

*Home School Legal Defense Association*

*540.338.5600*

10 July 2011

Dear Craig

How very nice to hear from you, and funny to hear someone talk about Chicago as being around the corner! The conference is coming along nicely, apart from what you would have already seen we also shall have Jonas Himmelstrand of Rohus in Sweden attending, a family representing HEN Ireland, Chandra Montgomery of Clonlara school and various Spanish speakers and a wealth of activities for the whole family. Apart from the talks by the speakers, we also shall have open debates about the thorny issue of regulation and one about different types of home education. I'm in talks at the moment with leaders around Europe about forming an organisation that will group together both different HE associations in countries around Europe and individual home educators, and I think that the same project and ideas can be used to talk about a similar organisation on a worldwide level. There will be talks about both of these projects at the conference, and I know Mike Donnelly (of HSLDA in the USA) and Jonas want to talk about a gathering next year as well. We would love to have you come over and share your invaluable thoughts on these projects and participate in the conference. There can be no doubt that as individuals and organisations we can benefit from increased contact with each other in the promotion of home education. As regards the event itself, we want to record the talks and give them as wide an audience as possible. For payment, it is 20 euro per person per day full board, and our association(Ale) has a bank account that payment can be made to: IBAN: ES31 ...(details given). (The bank is Banesto and the name on the account is Asociacion para la libre educacion). Alternatively, you could pay in cash there if this is too much trouble..We are about to start a fundraising campaign here, if we are successful in our efforts we'd be more than happy to contribute something towards your expenses, I'll let you know if that happens.

Hopefully together we can make a difference, I, like you I'm sure, believe the world needs people to have the freedom to choose to home educate if they so wish.

Best from Spain, Daragh McInerney, President of ALE, *Asociación por la Libre Educación* (ALE) in Spain