



Family portrait by Sarah Richman, then age 5

## The Homeschool Journal Solution

from Jesse Richman

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I've known about the *Homeschoolers Journal* for about twenty years. When I was a teen I shipped thousands of them while working for Pennsylvania Homeschoolers. However, this fall Patricia and I discovered the Homeschoolers' Journal for the first time. It changed our Saturdays and our lives.

Patricia plans out homeschooling activities for the upcoming week on Saturdays. I endeavor to distract, amuse or library the children while she plans. Last year Patricia handled school planning using a forty-dollar set of planning pages from *Franklin Covey*.

The *Franklin Covey* pages had interesting quotes for every day, and several kinds of boxes for writing notes, prioritizing and scheduling-- but they were not designed for

homeschooling. The result: planning took a long time, and was more stressful. Patricia wrote that she wanted to write her own curriculum but “when I write my own, I'm tired and don't enjoy homeschooling because it takes too much out of me.”

Enter the *Homeschooler's Journal*, acquired while visiting Pennsylvania in August. The *Journal* puts planning for a week on a two page spread with boxes for different subjects/children. It makes it easy to plan activities and record them, to tell at a glance whether one subject area needs more thought, and to quickly evaluate what we have done.

The *Homeschoolers' Journal* helped Patricia cut planning time in half while merging many more resources into planning a rich mix of activities, learning sessions and read-aloud times for our children.