Creating a Family Mission Statement

1) **Identify Your Endgame**. Think about what "family" means to you. What should families be for one another? Come up with a list of characteristics of the ideal family. These are the things you want to strive for.

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2) **Define Your Purpose**. What is the purpose of your family? To raise children? Well, what kind of children? To give back in some way? What kind of way? Make a list of the things that make up your family's purpose.

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3) **Recognize Your Values**. What are your family's guiding values? Honesty? Trustworthiness? List the most important ten below.

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4) **Craft Measurable Goals**. Using the information you've already written, come up with a few goals for reaching your endgame. Goals are specific, measurable, achievable, results-focused, and time bound.

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5) **Draft a mission statement**. Try to keep all the work you've done above in mind as you work on this step. In a few sentences begin to create a statement that will give direction to your everyday decisions and your long term goals. Try to keep your words positive, focusing on what you want to happen rather than what you don't want.

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6) **Share your mission statement**. I hope that you have been able to work on the above steps with some members of your family. If not, now is a great time to get their input. As you share, invite your family to participate in the process.
7) **Refine your family mission statement**. Creating a mission statement isn't a one-and-done. It grows and changes over time, and therefore will need revision. Keep this in mind as you move forward.