



For Immediate Release:

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New Book Celebrates “Gifts” from a Mom

Sioux Falls—When mom said, “There’s a silver lining in every cloud,” it’s evidence of an old-fashioned, authentic approach to values training we all received as children, according to South Dakota author and professional speaker, Dee Dee Raap.

Raap, author of *Find Your Pink Flamingos: Celebrating the Gifts of a Mom*, believes our earliest lessons in values came from our moms and were reinforced by key people. Those values, she says, are the best gifts a mother gives her children, and can be found in her words, actions and unique places like plastic pink flamingos.

“Mom said, ‘If you’re going to bother to do something, do it well.’ The value taught? Quality. When did she say it? When I tried to take a shortcut in my chores,” Raap said. “When I complained, Mom encouraged me to ‘count my blessings,’ her way of teaching gratitude. And when I thought something could be thrown out, mom always found another use for it—an early form of recycling and creativity.”

Raap believes those values comprise part of our spiritual heritage—formed from people in our own families, not just distant, famous heroes.

“The heroes who taught us so well are people right in our families and our communities, but they’re easily taken for granted, not seen as special because we knew them, played with them, splashed in Pickeral Lake with them,” she said. “When we look at the lessons on loyalty,

simplicity, faith and forgiveness and see how much we were blessed, it more than fills our cup,” she added.

Raap also believes practicing our core, personal values not brings out the best in us, but inspires the best in others. “If you could give your grandkids a million dollars or the values that would make their life truly wonderful, what would you give them? The answer speaks to the level of appreciation you may have for the values that strengthen us for this journey.”

Why pink flamingos? Her mother’s flock of pink flamingos on a farm in northeastern South Dakota embarrassed Raap as a child. “Moms say and do things that seem goofy to us as kids,” she said. “Finding the life lessons in your stories, the things you cherish and even in the things that embarrassed you is a journey of finding the values that make you who you are today,” she added.

Find Your Pink Flamingos is available April 27 at Zandbroz in Sioux Falls, Prairie Pages in Pierre, Chapter 2 Book Center in Aberdeen, and on-line at www.DeeDeeRaap.com.

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