Our Annual Report to the Community

Fiscal Year 2016

Celebrating Parent Leaders

Prevent Child Abuse Minnesota

Circle of Parents
Sharing Ideas. Sharing Support.
Strengthening Families. Strengthening Communities.

**Dear Friends,**

For more than 37 years, supporting parents as they learn about and develop increased knowledge of parenting has been the key to our success in making positive impacts in Minnesota communities. When parents learn new skills, they are empowered to become leaders who share their wisdom in their homes and communities while impacting their families and future generations by creating pathways to brighter futures.

In our Fiscal Year 2016 (July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016), Minnesota Communities Caring for Children’s (MCCC) staff and volunteers supported over 5,000 parents, children and community members with a variety of educational programs and resources to prevent child abuse before it starts. Our Circle of Parent support groups and educational presentations about the lifelong impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences help reframe the narrative from what is wrong with those who experience abuse to understanding how what happened to them impacts their behavior as children and for some, as adults.

Our Parent Leaders for Child Safety and Permanency (Parent Leader) program and Tribal Wisdom Project reveal the power of how knowledge leads to transformation. When parents gain new understanding and skills to overcome obstacles they develop confidence in their capabilities, making them stronger advocates for themselves, their families and their communities.

Supporting parents, children and families – especially through times of stress – reduces child abuse and it wouldn’t be possible without the investment of time, talent and treasure of many community members. We are grateful for the support of partners, funders and donors that make this life changing work possible.

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**Support**  
**Education**  
**Leadership**  

**Awareness**

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Nacole Kaai  
Board Chair

Shelley Jacobson  
Chief Executive Officer
Prevention Education and Adverse Childhood Experiences

The Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study and subsequent research studies demonstrate that exposure to adversity early in life can lead to negative health and social outcomes in adulthood. Using the national ACE Interface curriculum, MCCC develops the capacity of individuals as certified ACE Interface Trainers and Presenters so that they can raise awareness about the effects of trauma and the promise of prevention in their communities.

In FY16 MCCC trained more than 40 ACE Interface Presenters, adding to 90 previously trained ACE Interface Trainers and Presenters statewide. Also in FY16, ACE Interface Trainers and Presenters provided more than 85 educational presentations to more than 1,750 individuals in 26 counties.

A FY16 survey of 424 presentation attendees showed that 95% of respondents found the ACE Interface presentation informative and thought provoking. Of those surveyed, 89% of respondents reported that they will incorporate their new knowledge about Adverse Childhood Experiences and resilience into their actions at work and more than 85% said that they will incorporate this knowledge into their actions at home and in their families.

Raising Awareness and Community Outreach

Preventing child abuse starts with raising awareness and providing educational opportunities that include concrete steps for parents, professionals and community members to take action. In Fiscal Year 2016 (FY16) MCCC used a variety of methods to share proven child abuse prevention strategies.

MCCC produces and distributes Minnesota’s Child Abuse Prevention Month materials each April and distributes thousands of pieces of additional prevention education and outreach materials throughout the year. MCCC also raises awareness online through our website and social media sites.

MCCC’s website (pcamn.org), which hosts a variety of educational resources on topics from mandated reporting to resilience, was viewed an average of 68 times per day in FY16. MCCC staff members are present at community events statewide to share information about child abuse prevention efforts and to facilitate dialogue about child maltreatment through Café conversation events designed to inspire individual and community action.

In November of 2015, MCCC held a screening of the documentary film Paper Tigers, which tells the story of a school in Walla Walla, Washington that used a trauma-informed approach to improve educational outcomes for students. The event drew more than 400 attendees.

“I feel so fortunate to be able to be part of this work. Everything aligned; I was at the right place at the right time. Everyone can do this work, but it is really important for me because of my background and life experience. There’s an urgency to it that I understand because of my background. I’ve felt really supported by MCCC. They saw something in me that maybe I didn’t see and I’m able to share what I’m thinking about and what I need without hesitation. When triggered, I’ve called ... to talk, and been supported personally. MCCC respectfully engages with tribes and communities in an inclusive process that is not top-down.” -ACE Interface Presenter

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Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect

Circle of Parents®

To prevent child abuse parents often need to learn to interrupt and change behaviors learned in childhood and that may have continued through previous generations. As the Minnesota chapter of Circle of Parents, MCCC partners with communities to offer support groups for parents and children throughout the state. Participants meet in a caring environment to share their concerns and frustrations, and to identify and commit to their own personal parenting goals. At these sessions, parents share their common experiences, learn about and develop parenting strategies that transfer to their families and communities and support one another through change. Participants are guided by volunteer facilitators trained by MCCC staff.

Multiple research studies show that Circle of Parents successfully increases protective factors – attributes that strengthen families and reduce the likelihood that child abuse will occur. Research demonstrates that parents report positive changes in parenting after they have attended eleven or more sessions and additional improvement after attendance of twenty-five or more sessions.

In FY16, Circle of Parents served 1,313 parents in 42 parent groups and 815 children in 25 children’s groups (offering a total of 2,658 individual meetings). Child abuse is more likely to occur during times of stress. For this reason, more than 1,000 referrals to resources including community education, mental health, job training, health care, crisis nursery, social services, WIC, ECFE/Head Start, mentoring programs and food shelves were made to parent participants.

Lisa Deputie was a participant in MCCC’s Parent Leadership for Child Safety and Permanency (PLCSP) Team in 2009 and is now the Director of Prevention Initiatives in the Metro Area. She has mentored parents with open child protection cases, supporting and advocating on behalf of parents.

“I joined PLCSP because there was a need for parents’ voices to be heard and to begin making a difference in the Child Protection System. I was led by the disparities that showed how African American and Native American children were going ‘in and out’ of the Child Protection System as if it was a revolving door. I wanted to use this opportunity to learn, understand and to teach on ‘the system’s culture’ and how it has no parent representatives.”

Tribal Wisdom Project

This project is a grassroots effort to build the capacity of tribal communities to address the challenging health and social issues related to childhood trauma. The 3 stages to the project include: awareness: ACE Interface presentations are conducted on each participating community to begin raising awareness about the impacts of trauma on the health of individuals and communities; capacity building: a cohort of up to 30 individuals from each participating tribal community are trained as ACE Interface presenters; creating a community response: each tribal community will work with facilitators to identify strategies and a community response for healing and building resilience.

“Because of my involvement I am a better parent and I know when to pause... I let my children have a voice.” - Circle of Parents Participant
The Parent Mentor Program is designed to support parents with active child protection cases by helping them navigate court and social service systems. The program empowers parents to provide safety and stability for their children. The goals of the program are to reduce the amount of time to resolve each situation, reduce trauma for the child or children involved and decrease the number of parents that reenter the system once their case is closed. In FY16 the Parent Mentor Program expanded into 5 additional counties, totaling 7 counties utilizing Parent Mentor services statewide.

Parent Mentors are individuals that have been personally impacted by the child protection system and are able to help parents understand the many organizations that are involved in child protection cases. They also provide parents with the tools they need to successfully advocate for themselves and their families. In FY16, 9 Parent Mentors served 30 Minnesota families.

Parent Leadership for Child Safety and Permanency (PLCSP) Team

The PLCSP Team has been a partnership of MCCC and the MN Department of Human Services (MN DHS) division of Child Safety and Permanency since 2009. The program seeks to empower parents in the prevention of child abuse and to give parents a voice within MN DHS for improving the child protection system, particularly in reducing racial disparities.

As part of this program, leadership training is provided to a group of approximately 20 Parent Leaders one day per month over a three-year period. Funding is also available for parents to attend other trainings or conferences to build knowledge and connections. The intent is to increase Parent Leaders’ skills and influence so they can effectively articulate their experience, add value in their communities and on task forces within MN DHS, and ultimately contribute to a reduction in incidents of abuse, neglect and out-of-home placement (foster care). The program uses a shared leadership model, involving a partnership between parents and staff who share responsibility for team processes and outcomes.

In FY16, 21 Parent Leaders performed awareness activities in their communities. These Parent Leaders worked approximately 1,500 hours advising service providers, raising awareness statewide about family resilience and community needs and enhancing their own knowledge and skills. For Parent Recognition Month (February), MCCC celebrated more than 20 parents at an event including families, legislators and community-based stakeholders in attendance.

Edmund Negron is a Father of 3 daughters. He works at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota as a Care Advocate for the Medtronic group. He is a Parent Leader who joined in order to have his voice be heard in an organization doing work for families.

“I will definitely make people aware of protective factors that reduce the chance that child abuse will occur: 1. Social Connections; 2. Nurturing and Attachment; 3. Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development; 4. Parental Resilience; 5. Social and Emotional Competence of Children; and, 6. Concrete Supports for Parents. Learning about these was a life changing experience. I gained new knowledge and learned new ways to bring up my kids. It helped me remember how it was to be a child and to really think about how important it is for my daughters to feel love and understanding from me.”
Clint and Beth Doroff

Clint is a Senior Vice-President of Institutional Client Service at Nuveen Asset Management and Beth is a stay-at-home mom. Their involvement with MCCC started in 2011 after being moved by stories of child abuse and neglect on the nightly news, and they made the decision to focus their time and resources on child abuse prevention. Clint has served as the vice-chair of the board, chair of the public policy committee and member of the gala planning committee. Beth has been instrumental in designing surveys to assist MCCC to better understand their internal and external partners’ views of the organization. They believe that all of us have the ability to contribute in our own way and would encourage you to do the same.

Joanna Woolman

is an Associate Professor of Law at Mitchell Hamline School of Law where she also directs the Child Protection Clinic. Her role is to carry out the program’s mission to promote legal-system reform on behalf of children and families through education and training, research, and interdisciplinary collaboration. This includes designing and providing attorney and stakeholder training for child protection system professionals; working collaboratively with other institutions to evaluate and study a multi-disciplinary model of parent representation; and engaging partners around trauma based systemic change.

Champions for Children

Victoria Karpeh

is currently the President/CEO of Legacy Family Center. She also serves on the Board for MCCC. She earned her M.A. in Educational Leadership from the University of St. Thomas; and prior to that Victoria earned her B.S.W. in Social Work from St. Catherine’s University. While at St. Kate’s, Victoria founded the group, Students who are Parents (SWAP). SWAP provides a resource point and informal support for parents who are students. She has been involved with Minnesota Communities Caring for Children as a Parent Leader for the past three years. Victoria planned and coordinated MCCC’s very successful 2016 Parent Recognition Event in celebration of Parent Leadership Month.

“It was touched to my essence to be thought of as a Champion for Children. I did not think of myself in that space because it is the love of children that fuels me daily.”

- Victoria Karpeh
Buron-Campbell Innovation Award

The Buron-Campbell Innovation Award is named in honor of Lou Buron and Mary Campbell for their commitment to assuring healthy childhoods through child abuse prevention in Minnesota. This award recognizes organizations that help young people faced with adversity build resilience so they can grow up to be healthy, successful adults. The second annual award was presented to Home Free Shelter.

Home Free Shelter has been partnering with Minnesota Communities Caring for Children to facilitate shelter based Circle of Parents groups for mothers and children for over seventeen years – one of our longest partnerships for this program. In the chaos caused by domestic violence the adult problems sometimes take precedent over what is happening with the children. We salute Home Free Shelter for its long commitment to support the relationships between mothers and children in the midst of traumatic events.

“The support I get keeps my head high, which makes me happy and when I’m happy my kids are healthier.” - Circle of Parents Participant

Pinwheel Awards

Each year, Prevent Child Abuse Minnesota spotlights counties and tribes that have consistently worked to create safe and healthy environments for families and children by presenting them with the Pinwheels for Prevention Award.

The pinwheel serves as the national symbol for child abuse prevention. It is a reflection of hope, health and safety – what MCCC desires for children throughout Minnesota and the world.
Consolidated Statement of Financial Position
Year Ending June 30, 2016

**SUPPORT AND REVENUE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Pledges and Contributions</td>
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<td>Special Events</td>
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**Revenue**

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**Expenses**

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<td>Education and Engagement</td>
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<td>Training and Conferences</td>
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<td>Other Services</td>
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<td>Other Revenue</td>
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**Total Support and Revenue**

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**EXPENSES**

**Program Services**

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**Total Program Services**

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**Support Services**

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<td>Fundraising</td>
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**Total Support Services**

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**TOTAL EXPENSES**

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**Revenue Over Expense**

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Revenue Recognized in Prior Year Designated for use in the Current Fiscal Year Due to Multi-Year Grants and Contracts

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<tr>
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**Net Operating Surplus**

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**BALANCE SHEETS**

**Assets**

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**Total Assets**

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<th>Amount</th>
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**Liabilities and Net Assets**

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<tr>
<td>Total Net Assets</td>
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**Total Liabilities and Net Assets**

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<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$420,726</td>
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Helene has been a significant presence at MCCC since 2012. As a graduate of Penn State, she was motivated to become involved when a Penn State employee was arrested for child abuse. In the media frenzy that followed, finding ways to protect children seemed absent. After researching organizations and meeting with MCCC, she knew she found the place that would allow her to help keep kids safe and strengthen families.

Helene served two terms on the Board of Directors and served as the Board Secretary and Development Committee Chair. In addition to substantial annual financial contributions, she has hosted events on behalf of the organization and has been incredibly generous with her time.

“*I believe that education, a strong support system and exchanging of information are keys to overcoming parenting struggles and life challenges. MCCC programs focus on prevention through parent education and empowering individuals. My passion was ignited.*”
Thank You to Our Donors

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United Health Group
United Health Group Dollars for Doers Program
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Western Bank
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Doug Wold
Tessa Wolff
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Anna Zeuli
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Director of Prevention Initiatives – Northwestern MN

Parent Leadership for Child Safety and Permanency

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Sheree Curry
Shannon Geshick
Pastor Gabe Green
Demond Jackson
Victoria Karpeh
Shana King
Mike Klein
Christopher Melendez
Edmund Negron
Christina Pacheco
Damone Presley
Tisha Salinas
Jennifer Shopp
Bri Stevens
Jacquie Thomas
Laura Torres

“My growth, education, learning, advancement around issues impacting the community has been very valuable to me. I’m blessed to be a part of this team and to learn all I have learned with MCCC.” -Parent Leader
Our Mission
Minnesota Communities Caring for Children empowers individuals and communities to stop child abuse and neglect before it starts through awareness, education, support, and leadership for action.

Our Vision
Our vision is that Minnesota’s children achieve their full potential in safe, healthy, and nurturing environments creating better communities for all.