



Empowering individuals and communities to stop child abuse and neglect *before it starts* through **AWARENESS, EDUCATION, SUPPORT** and **LEADERSHIP** for **ACTION**

[Website](#)

[About MCCC](#)

[Parent Support & Leadership](#)

[Engaging Communities](#)

## NEWS FROM MINNESOTA COMMUNITIES CARING FOR CHILDREN (MCCC)

National Parent Leadership Month in Minnesota: [Nominate a Parent as an Unsung Hero!](#)

National Parent Leadership Month is dedicated to recognizing the important role of parents in raising healthy families in their homes and communities.

How to Get Involved:

- [Nominate a parent](#), grandparent, kinship care provider, or foster parent who demonstrates leadership in their parenting in a way that strengthens their families and communities. Deadline to nominate is **January 31, 2016**.
- On Friday, February 26, 2016, MCCC will publicly recognize and thank caregivers who have "stepped up" and made a difference for all families by example or civic action. The event will take place from 11:30am to 3:00pm at Lake Harriet United Methodist Church- 4901 Chowen Ave South Minneapolis, MN 55410. [View invitation here](#)
- Join us as an official co-host and attendee of the event. Take part in this day and join others in publicly recognizing, celebrating and honoring parents for the leadership roles they take in their homes and communities every day.



## Incredible turnout for Minneapolis Screening of Paper Tigers

On November 19th MCCC hosted a screening of the documentary *Paper Tigers* at the Riverview Theater in Minneapolis. The film follows a year in the life of an alternative high school that has radically changed its approach to disciplining students, becoming a promising model for how to break the cycles of poverty, violence and disease that affects families. We are excited to share that more than 300

people pre-registered to attend the film and an estimated 400+ people attended! Such a large turnout is a testament to the interest in Minnesota to better address the role that trauma plays in student behavior and to explore the promise of trauma-informed practices in improving student outcomes.



Following the screening, nearly 100 attendees stayed for an hour-long panel discussion featuring Dr. Anne Gearity, Mark Sander, Sam Simmons, Christine Smith and Becky Dale. **Thanks to our wonderful panelists for sharing your wisdom and to everyone who attended the screening!** MCCC will be hosting additional screenings of the film in April as part of Child Abuse Prevention Month, so stay tuned for announcements of future screening locations.

To learn more about the film *Paper Tigers* visit: [www.papertigersmovie.com](http://www.papertigersmovie.com)

## Coats for Children

This year we received over 200 coats for 4 partnered agencies. The law firm that helps with this resource is Lindquist & Vennum LLP. Coats were distributed to boys and girls from infant to 17 years old.



## Kate Bailey Selected for Prevention Advocacy Peer Leadership Team

Kate Bailey, MCCC Program and Administrative Manager, was recently selected as one of seventeen leaders statewide to participate in the Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault's (MNCASA) Prevention Advocacy Peer Leadership team.



"The focus of the Peer Leader program is to mobilize people throughout the state to advocate for the primary prevention of sexual violence as an urgent community priority" said Yvonne Cournoyer, Prevention Program Manager at MNCASA. "Kate will be sharing what she learns with her personal and professional networks

throughout the year as well as meeting with legislators to talk about why prevention is so needed in the Twin Cities and across the state."

"I am grateful for the opportunity to be part of this team and to serve as an advocate for sexual violence prevention," says Kate. "Through my work at MCCC I have learned that trauma is prevalent, that it can impact lifelong health and well-being, and that the effects of trauma are sometimes felt for generations. This is why prevention is so critical."

To learn more about MNCASA's prevention initiatives, visit <http://www.mncasa.org/prevent/>.

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## **Southern-Minnesota Region Update**

Wabasha County has started offering a new Circle of Parents support and education group in southeast Minnesota. Shannan Bleed, a Daycare Licensor/PSOP worker with Wabasha County Social Services, has been a member of our statewide Parent Leadership for Child Safety & Permanency Team for the past two years and has been working hard to help strengthen communities, families and children. Shannan recently hosted Parent Cafes in partnership with social services employees and members of the foster parent's association to better understand the needs of families throughout Wabasha county. As a result from those meetings and with the help and support of colleagues, she was able to gather information, volunteers, and materials to begin offering weekly support groups in the Lake City area for anyone in a parenting position.

Additional southern areas currently developing Circle of Parents support groups for families include the counties of Mower, Blue Earth, Olmsted, Redwood, Rice, Yellow Medicine, and the Lower Sioux Indian Community near Morton.

In December, Mankato (Blue Earth County) hosted Emotional Intelligence and Understanding ACEs workshops for 26 participants. Topics included promoting well-being, cultivating emotional intelligence, neuroscience, understanding Adverse Childhood Experiences, and resilience to help build/promote self-healing communities.

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## **Christmas Party Wright County**

The Crisis Nursery serving Wright County held their annual Breakfast with Santa on December 5th at Huikko's in Buffalo, MN. The morning was filled with breakfast, raffles, silent auction items, a bake sale and of course, free pictures with the big guy himself! This year the event had over 160 people in attendance and raised approximately \$1300. The money raised from the event is used towards services provided by the Crisis Nursery serving Wright County

including Circle of Parents in Buffalo. The Crisis Nursery is a voluntary abuse and neglect prevention program that provides emergency services to families that are experiencing varying levels of crisis within the home.



The mission of the Crisis Nursery is to provide services to families that will help alleviate stress and omit the chance of parents turning their stress on their children.

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## Coming Soon: 2016 Pinwheels for Prevention Tribe/Community Awards

Minnesota Communities Caring for Children spotlights statewide tribes and communities that have consistently worked to create safe and healthy environments for children. The *Pinwheels for Prevention Award* is presented annually to recognize communities that exemplify a strong commitment to prevent child maltreatment through collaborative efforts of public, private, non-profit, and local services and activities. Work at the community level is crucial to creating healthy environments where families and children thrive. In 2016, we will recognize activities and prevention initiatives at the community level. Specific initiatives we are looking for include:

- Integration of the *Protective Factors, Adverse Childhood Experiences study (ACEs)*, and/or *brain science of early development*
- Creative exhibition of *new prevention initiatives* for 2016
- Demonstrated *culturally and linguistically* appropriate initiatives
- *Strong sustainable, evidence/outcome-based practices* in prevention with long-term impact likely
- *Innovative activities* (especially for children ages 0 to 3) that can be replicated by others

Additional information will be available soon!

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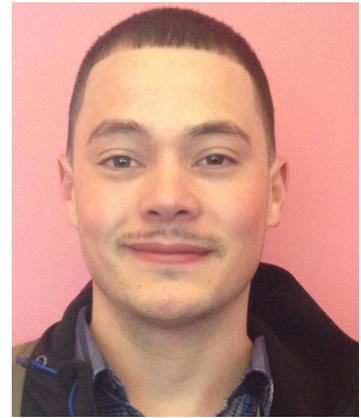
## Parent Mentor Expansion!

The Parent Mentor Network is happy to announce that it will be working with Grant, Pope, Stevens, Traverse and Douglas Counties to provide Parent Mentors to parents who have active cases in the child protection system. As a result, training for new Parent Mentors will take place in February 2016. The Parent Mentor Network is designed to empower parents to provide safety and stability for their children and to improve outcomes for parents and families in the child protection system in Minnesota. A primary goal of the program is to help parents reunify with their children as soon as is safely possible.

## **Meet Parent Leadership for Child Safety & Permanency (PLCSP) Team Member – Christopher Melendez**

### **What led you to join PLCSP?**

The built trust, and relationship I have with Larene Randle, former PLCSP Team member and MCCC Director of the Parent Mentor Network. After hearing about her experience, it was an easy decision.



### **What areas of your life have been impacted by PLCSP and how?**

Through this process I have been able to identify certain childhood trauma. And as I reflect back, I am able to visualize where certain childhood experiences are a link to the cause of my actions. The key for me is being able to identify the issues, then I know the practice of meaningful change, and healing can begin.

### **What has been your greatest learning in the past two years as part of your PLCSP journey?**

One of the greatest tools I feel I have gained has been an understanding of the ACE's (Adverse Childhood Experiences) study. Because of this very helpful information, I was able to advocate for my own child on several occasions. It has also changed for the better the way I parent my children. It's simple, "when you know better you do better".

### **When you are done with your time with PLCSP, how will you use what you have learned in the future?**

I couldn't see how I wouldn't be able to use what I have learned with such a wonderful group of people throughout my life. It has truly been an exciting experience for me, and I'm always willing to share any information I feel will benefit families in my community.

### **What excites you about serving on the MCCC Board of Directors?**

I'm excited to be a part of the MCCC board of directors. I feel this is a step in the right direction for me. I personally look forward to getting to know all the board members. I believe through shared stories, and best practices, we will collectively come up with productive, healthy outcomes, for the betterment of our children and their families.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Join us for Happy Hour!**

**The Minnesota Communities Caring for Children Board of Directors cordially invites you to attend one of our upcoming February Happy Hour meet-and-greet events.**

We all know that Minnesota mid-winter can get a bit drab. Come warm up at a lively-but-low-key-after-work gathering, to sip on beer or wine, share in some appetizers and conversation, and learn more about Minnesota Communities Caring

for Children, home of Prevent Child Abuse Minnesota, and how you might join in our important work with parents and children throughout Minnesota.

### Summit Brewery

Tuesday, February 2

5:00 – 7:30 p.m.

910 Montreal Circle, St. Paul, MN  
55102

Join us for a tour of a local brewing legend, and sample the array of Summit beers. Pints are just \$2, and we will have complimentary delicacies from a local food vendor.



### Macalester Alumni House

Thursday, February 18

5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

1644 Summit Avenue, St. Paul, MN  
55105

Please be our guest for a wine and cheese gathering in the lovely, historic Alumni House at Macalester College, and learn more about MCCC programs.

Please contact Chris Pommerenke at [cpommerenke@pcamn.org](mailto:cpommerenke@pcamn.org) to RSVP!

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## Coaching for Individual and Community Resilience and Healing – an introductory series

The work of Minnesota Communities Caring for Children has always been about connecting with and igniting the wisdom, passion, and leadership of Minnesota individuals and communities to stop child abuse and neglect before it starts. Transforming trauma into healing will take all of us. Skills from the field of coaching are particularly useful in both empowering individual and community leadership AND creating transformation and healing. **That's why we've decided to offer a 10-session webinar series this spring sharing many coaching tools with you, our network of parents, caregivers, partners and collaborators across the state.**

Topics will include: **empowering questions, listening, accountability, interrupting and holding silence and exploring and clarifying values.** Webinars will take place twice a month from March to July.

More information coming soon!

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**Save the Date: Join us to STAND FOR CHILDREN at our annual Gala on Saturday, April 09, 2016!**

Mark your calendar to attend our annual fundraising gala in 2016 at the Minikahda Club in Minneapolis! For more information on table purchases or sponsorships please call 651-523-0099 or e-mail Chris Pommerenke at [cpommerenke@pcamn.org](mailto:cpommerenke@pcamn.org)



## NEWS YOU CAN USE

### Saint Paul Community Groups Come Together to Pass Restrictions on the Sale of Flavored Tobacco

The Saint Paul city Council showed strong leadership in protecting the health and well-being of its youth on Wednesday, January 6, 2016. The City Council voted unanimously to restrict the sale of flavored tobacco products to adult-only tobacco stores and increase the minimum price for single cigars to \$2.60 each. Mayor Chris Coleman signed the ordinance into law on January 11, 2016. The ordinance will go into effect in April. Minnesota Communities Caring for Children is a member of this coalition. Read more [\*here\*](#)

### Have you ever wondered how to start a conversation about the important topic of what we as a society can and should do to ensure children grow up to achieve the full potential, free from abuse and neglect?

The newly released film *Building Community, Building Hope* can help. *Building Community, Building Hope* shows real-world collaborative solutions in action. The film highlights three innovative programs working to prevent and respond to child maltreatment by engaging parents and communities and forming the partnerships needed to ensure the safety and well-being of all children and families. *Building Community, Building Hope* is now available for viewing or downloading [\*here\*](#)

**DONATE NOW!**

*With the support of individuals like you, we can eliminate child abuse in our state. Thanks for joining MCCC in providing better outcomes for our children and protecting our future.*

Minnesota Communities Caring for Children  
651-523-0099 | [pcamn@pcamn.org](mailto:pcamn@pcamn.org) | <http://www.pcamn.org>

KEEP UP ON THE LATEST  
SPREAD THE WORD  
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