



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

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NEWS FROM MINNESOTA COMMUNITIES CARING FOR CHILDREN (MCCC)

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month!

Raise awareness about child abuse and neglect in your community! Check out our [prevention materials](#) – or contact our office for ideas of what you can do to aid in the prevention of child abuse. Each year, Minnesota Communities Caring for Children (MCCC) spotlights statewide tribes and communities that have consistently worked to create safe and healthy environments for children and families. We have extended our deadline for **Pinwheel County/Tribe Nominations**. You can download the nomination form by clicking [here](#).



You're invited to attend our annual Gala!

Please join us to STAND FOR CHILDREN on Saturday, April 9, 2016 at 6:00 pm at the beautiful [Minikahda Club](#) in Minneapolis. Show your support for child abuse and neglect prevention programs benefitting children, families and communities in Minnesota! More information can be found [here](#).



Let's Play Ball!

MCCC is very excited to let you know that we are ending Child Abuse Prevention Month in a very big way – at Target Field with the Minnesota Twins on April 30th! Prevent Child Abuse America is encouraging all state chapters to plant pinwheel gardens in an iconic, recognizable location in April to raise awareness for child abuse prevention efforts. Since we cannot be too sure of the weather in April, we decided to gather a group to hold pinwheels for our photo – and Target Field is a great (iconic) place to do that. Here are some details:

The game starts at 1:10 pm and the MN Twins will play the Detroit Tigers. The day of the game, the first 10,000 fans will receive a Twins Fur Bomber Hat. Here is a link to purchase tickets: [Twins Tickets](#)

This is a great opportunity to involve our friends and families in a cause we are passionate about – and HAVE SOME FUN! Please help us get the word out! We would love a big crowd to make our standing pinwheel garden impressive.

Meet Parent Leadership for Child Safety & Permanency (PLCSP) Team Member – Shannon Geshick Bullen

What led you to join PLCSP?

The chairperson of LIFT to End Poverty, a friend and longtime community

advocate, told me about the Parent Leadership Team. She thought I would make an excellent addition to this group because of my experiences in the child protection system both in foster care and as young mother as well as having a unique perspective as a tribal person. I was looking for a way to re-engage in community. I didn't fully understand the depth of what I would be doing in the beginning, but am so blessed to have had this opportunity.



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

It would be easier to answer what areas of my life haven't been impacted. The Parent Leadership Team has given me many opportunities both personally and professionally. The first was the educational opportunities. We have had many opportunities through our monthly meetings and webcasts to learn about child brain development, early childhood trauma, the Protective Factors, Personal Power, Emotional Intelligence, Historical Trauma, etc. These trainings have helped me in my own parenting – I just wish I could have had them sooner, especially the Protective Factors. Through the PLCSP I have been able to build relationships, friendships, and support. Through the education piece I have been able to further look inside myself, identify traumas, and have had an outlet to share my experiences. This has been very beneficial in my healing process. I have been able to speak at various events and have gotten more comfortable with speaking publicly. Through the PLCSP I have been able to sit on two DHS work groups (Human Services Intake, Screening and Pathway Response Guidelines and the Implementation Steering Committee) to provide personal and cultural perspectives and make sure that the parent voice is at the table.

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

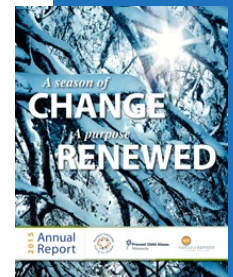
I have been so fortunate to be a part of parent leadership. I have made wonderful friends and have learned a tremendous amount. My greatest learning has to be that no matter how old we get, or how much we have been through, or how much we THINK we know, we are still learning and will continue to learn. I have learned so much from my colleagues. Part of learning is listening, so even though I have been fortunate to be able to share my story and viewpoints, it is the listening piece that has shown me the value of another's perspective as well as to see how we are all connected in one form or another.

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

I would like to continue work around the Strategic Sharing initiative to foster healing through storytelling to the Sovereign Nations in Minnesota – Ojibwe and Dakota. The telling of my story has been so instrumental in acknowledging, forgiving, and loving that my hope is that it could assist another on their journey as well.

Check it Out!

Our 2015 Annual Report is available online [here!](#) Learn about our organization's progress in 2015, and our plans for the future. We are making changes and creating opportunities in communities all over Minnesota, thanks to our donors and people like you!



Wine and Cheese Event

We gathered at the historic Macalester Alumni house on February 18th and had a great turn out for our happy hour event hosted by board members Elizabeth Melton and Lorrie Sandelin. While guests sampled

Members Elizabeth Meron and Lorie Sandstrom while guests sampled wine and cheese, MCCC staff was on hand to meet, greet and share stories with our guests about the work that they do to **stop child abuse and neglect before it starts.**



Updates from the Metro Area

Community Fair by Insightformation, Inc.

Our regional Director, Lisa Deputie, was invited to attend a Community Fair by Insightformation, Inc. an organization that advocates for residents to help create better conditions and services for communities. The exhibit was for the Fridley Mobile Home Community. Residents came out for information on how to strengthen their community. They may be interested in developing a Community Circle of Parents group. Vendors also helped the children with craftwork, and developing a welcome sign with the mobile home's name on it for the residents' entrance.



Metro Area is looking forward to a public Circle of Parents and Child Programming group in Saint Paul at Mt. Olivet MB Church. We're looking for Volunteer to facilitate the groups. Contact Lisa Deputie at ldeputie@pcamn.org.

Upcoming Circle Parents Facilitator Trainings

Tuesday, March 22, 2016
Training from 9:00am – 4:00pm
LifeTrack Building
709 University Avenue West, St. Paul MN 55104



Register [here](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Join us for Happy Hour in May!

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



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 on Tuesday, May 10

5:00 – 7:30 pm

910 Montreal Circle, Saint 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.

Please contact Chris Pommerenke at cpommerenke@pcamn.org to RSVP!

March 30th is Action Day: Together, To Live Violence Free!

Minnesota Communities Caring for Children is proud to support the Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault's Action Day event on March 30th in St. Paul. This is a day to show the people elected to represent us that we are ready to stand strong, together, to live and thrive free out of violence. The event will begin at the St. Paul College at 9:30am and will culminate with a march to the Capitol and a rally on the Capitol lawn. We will show Minnesota that TOGETHER we can live violence free! Go [here](#) for more information.

Community Healing: "standing up for the children" 2016 Conference

They are seeking submissions that will provide conference attendees with the best culturally competent and/or community based strategies on different topics.

The overall goal of this year's conference collaboration is to build on evolving and to reach more community stakeholders. They realize that a stronger, thriving African American community improves the



health of the community and the society as a whole. Register and learn more [here](#).

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Birth Parent National Network: Learn more [here](#).

"Schools Should Recognize Trauma as a Disability," Compton Lawsuit Says

A group of middle and high school students in Compton have filed a first-of-its kind federal lawsuit saying violence at home and in their neighborhoods has impaired their ability to learn at school. The students, along with three teachers who are also plaintiffs, allege the Compton Unified School District has failed to recognize and address their trauma-induced disabilities, and therefore has denied their legal right to an equal education. Read more [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
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