Register for the GALA

Create some sparkle with "diamonds" or dress up with a blue tie in honor of Child Abuse Prevention Month.

We hope to see new and old friends there! Plan for a fun evening of dinner, silent and live auctions, and an award ceremony honoring our 2017 Champions for Children and Buron–Campbell Innovation Award recipients.

Our 2017 Champions for Children recipients: Nacole Kaai, Elizabeth Melton, Harold Richey, Dave Vagle, Mike Boen, Kristi Jacobson, and Sam Simmons

Buron–Campbell Innovation Award: Patty and Jerry Wetterling and the Jacob Wetterling Resource Center

Give back by investing in the promise of prevention through programs benefiting children, families, and communities throughout Minnesota.

Sponsorship and volunteer opportunities are available! Please contact pcamn@pcamn.org for more information.
15th Annual *Pinwheels for Prevention* Awards

Each year, Minnesota Communities Caring for Children shines a spotlight on tribes and communities statewide that have worked to create safe and healthy environments for children. The *Pinwheels for Prevention* Award recognizes communities that exemplify a strong commitment to the prevention of child maltreatment through collaborative efforts.

Do you know of a tribe or community that is working locally to create environments where children and families thrive? Nominate them today! Submit nominations by Friday, **March 31, 2017** to mweaver@pcamn.org

**DOWNLOAD THE NOMINATION FORM HERE**

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April is Child Abuse Prevention Month: Ready Your Pinwheels!

According to research conducted by the Montana Institute in partnership with Prevent Child Abuse America, people are most likely to engage in prevention efforts if they have done one of three things: mentored a child or parent, advocated for public policy, and donated time or money to non-profit organizations.

At Minnesota Communities Caring for Children we are focused on encouraging these behaviors. We believe that by emphasizing the simple actions that people can take on behalf of children and families, we can inspire more people to learn about and take action for our cause. To promote this, we will be encouraging everyone who takes part in CAP month to "post their pinwheel" by sharing their stories and pictures on social media using the hashtag #GreatChildhoods.

For more CAP month information and resources, be sure to look out for our Child Abuse Prevention Media Toolkit at the end of March!

Order your pinwheels for CAP month today by going [here](#).

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National Parent Leadership Month

February is National Parent Leadership Month. Last month, Minnesota Communities Caring for Children (MCCC) teamed up with the Minnesota Department of Human Services and our community partners to recognize, honor, and celebrate parents as
leaders in their homes and communities. The Unsung Hero Awards were presented on Thursday, February 23 at the MN State Capitol building. Lt. Gov. Tina Smith spoke and several legislators were in attendance to show their support for parent leadership.

Check out some of the photos from the event.

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**Resilience Screening**

On March 2nd, more than 75 people came together to view the documentary film *Resilience* at Metropolitan State University in St. Paul. The film explains how Adverse Childhood Experiences can lead to negative social outcomes in children and adults. It also highlights how communities across the country are using trauma-informed practices to improve the lives of children and families. Attendees had the opportunity to participate in a panel discussion about efforts to bring trauma-informed practices to systems in Minnesota. We hope that hearing from panelists about local efforts already underway inspired attendees to initiate new practices in their own communities!

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**THE FACES BEHIND THE WORK**

**Saying Goodbye to Roxy Foster,**
**Director of Prevention Initiatives in Central and Northeastern MN**

This month we bid a fond farewell to Roxy Foster – at least in the role of MCCC staff member – and celebrate her terrific work as she steps into retirement. However, knowing Roxy’s passion and energy for this work, we expect she will continue to find ways to be involved and to advocate – we bet we’ll be in
Roxy joined our staff 10 years ago, when she brought the work of the Council for Civic Parent Leadership (which she founded and directed) into partnership with Circle of Parents and Prevent Child Abuse Minnesota. Roxy lives and breathes and generously shares with others the values of our organization. As a parent participant in Early Childhood Family Education she became a parent leader and spent the rest of her career modeling and promoting parent leadership and shared leadership for many others. She became a nationally known voice and champion for parent leadership, serving on the National Parenting Association board from 1994–2001, in partnership with the National Alliance for Children’s Trust Funds for over a decade, and providing Parent Leadership guidance to National Circle of Parents®. She was instrumental in expanding the parent leadership practices here at Minnesota Communities Caring for Children, working with the Department of Human Services Children's Trust Fund to design and implement the Parent Leadership for Child Safety and Permanency (PLCSP) team.

Lucky for us, once the PLCSP was up and going, Roxy started broadening her role here. Roxy is a tireless advocate and connector. She found and championed several new tools for engaging parent voices in our work and in influencing parent services statewide: Parent Café’s, COFI (Community Organizing for Family Initiatives), and Strategic Sharing to name a few. She saw the possibility for connecting these tools as both resources for developing and reinvigorating Circle of Parents® support groups. She used her own story to interpret and promote understanding of protective factors, brain development, the Adverse Childhood Experiences study and resilience. She was diligent about always keeping issues of equity in front of us, facing the realities of racial disparities and disproportionality facing Minnesota. Her passion for public policy advocacy kept parents and staff thinking about how to connect our personal experiences and knowledge to broader systems change.

We will miss you Roxy! And we look forward to seeing what wonderful things you accomplish in this next phase of life.

The above and below photos are from her retirement party.
Welcomes and Farewells: Staffing Changes at MCCC

Springtime is a time of change, growth and new beginnings and this is also true at MCCC. Chris Pommerenke, our Chief Advancement Officer submitted her resignation to take a position as the Executive Director with Rivers of Hope, a nonprofit organization providing advocacy, support and referral services for victims of family violence in Wright and Sherburne Counties. We wish her well and thank her for the contributions she has made in her four years with MCCC.

We are very pleased to announce that Kate Bailey accepted the role of Director of Development and has assumed Chris' duties effective March 1st. Kate has been with MCCC for three years and has held the position of Evaluation and Community Education Manager. Kate has also coordinated numerous organizational events – including the Midwest ACEs Summit last fall – and has written a number of grants. Kate has a Master’s degree in Public Policy and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Justice and Philosophy. We are thrilled to have her contributing her skills and expertise in this new role with MCCC!

The vacancy left by Kate's promotion has been filled by Corelle Nakamura, who has been with MCCC since last May. Her first role was as a Master's level intern from the School of Public Health at the University of Minnesota and then as a temporary employee helping with administrative work. Corelle has a Master's degree in Public Health with a concentration in community health promotion and a Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry. In addition to her other duties, we are excited for Corelle to continue the critical work that she did as an intern working on the evaluation of MCCC programs.

Meet MCCC Board Member, Donna LaDuke

Donna LaDuke is the Executive Director of the Warroad Area Chamber of Commerce & Convention & Visitors Bureau. Donna is the parent to 5 children, including her youngest who is adopted and has been diagnosed with PTSD and RAD. She serves on numerous boards dedicated to eradicating child abuse and domestic violence. Donna became a Parent Leader of MCCC in 2009 and has served on the MCCC board since 2013.

Donna is most proud to have been part of a changing movement to include parents at the discussion table when decisions regarding families are made at the local, state and national levels. She has been an advocate in her rural Minnesota community of Warroad since 2005, serving on several committees and dedicating much of her time to education and awareness to the child abuse topic.
What makes our organization's mission powerful for you?

The mission of protecting children from abuse and strengthening families is very impactful not only to myself, but all communities and families in Minnesota.

As a Board Member, what do you want to contribute to the organization?

As a board member I want to contribute a parent's perspective. All too often it seems that the families and children become lost or excluded when it comes to important topics such as funding and laws. I hope to bring the parent and family perspective, so that it can included in decisions.

Why did you become involved in the Board, and what has your involvement looked like over time?

I became involved with the board and the Parent Leader program because my family suddenly found ourselves in the legal and social service systems in Minnesota and Hawaii. Our daughter was taken from us in a terrible act of domestic violence, which left behind her 19 month old son. We worked with lawyers, social services, courts, and spent many years and dollars to finally succeed in adopting her son. Over time my involvement has changed from being a Parent Leader to sitting on the board as an equal board member.

What has been your greatest learning as part of your journey as a Board member?

My greatest learning has been on budgeting and fundraising, which are very crucial elements to any organization.

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

When I am done with MCCC, I plan to continue to be a voice for families and children. I live in a rural area and find we don't have many programs to assist with challenges that families and children face.

Is there anything else you would like us to know?

I have appreciated my connection with MCCC since it began. Prior to being asked to become a Parent Leader, I was feeling terribly alone and trying to swim in a sea of complicated processes and legal terms that I struggled to understand. When I became part of the Parent Leadership team it was a Godsend, I no longer was alone and I was with people that understood many of the challenges I had. It was literally like walking into the sunshine following a rainstorm. Thank you to all who have given me this opportunity, I truly appreciate it.
What led you to want to become a certified ACE Interface presenter?
I teach at Winona State in the social work department and coordinate the IV-E Child Welfare Scholar program which integrates social work students into the public foster care system. I am always looking for new information to bring to my classes. When I learned about the ACE research, it made perfect sense! The evidence based research confirmed much of what I had seen and experienced in the community. The more I learned about the ACES research, the more I had to keep learning! It is fascinating work and applies to so much of both my personal and work life.

How has learning about ACEs impacted you (i.e. in your life and/or in your work)?
Learning about ACEs has kept me busy, because as soon as I gain new information I need to share it. Luckily my work in teaching allows me to do this. Also, living in a relatively small community I have been able to reach out to others and share this information.

I really identify with the research on resilience. I had a traumatic medical experience that impacted my brain. I had a stroke 15 years ago and I could not talk. If you heard me present, you would know– I can talk. It was not easy but I was able to retrain my brain so that I can talk. This is critical when talking to people who know of themselves or others who would have a high ACE score. They can see the hope of healing standing in front of them! It was not easy but it can be done.

Could you give a brief summary of the work you’re doing around ACEs in your community and/or workplace?
I was trained as an ACE Interface Trainer in September 2014. Since then, I have presented over 50 times in my local community to whoever will want to hear it. This has included service organizations like Rotary, Kiwanas or the Lions, as well as the local school district, parochial, charter and education districts. I have also presented to numerous human service and mental health agencies, as well as foster care parents and home child care providers. Members from the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council and our County Attorney's office have participated and helped us move forward. I also presented to Winona, Wabasha and Houston counties to engage their staff. Presentations have ranged from 20 minutes to 3 hours. I will talk to whoever will listen, in whatever time they can give me.

I was also able to purchase the movie "Paper Tigers" and this has been shown 10 times in the community. I preface the movie with a short discussion on ACES to help explain the research behind the actions in the movie. "Paper Tigers" as well as the movie "Resilience" were both chosen and shown at the Frozen River Film Festival in Winona to large groups. "Resilience" will now be available to our community to help in our education process.

When the Midwest ACEs Summit was to be held in Eagan in November 2016, I sent out an email to people who had contacted me about presentations to see if there was an interest in attending this as a team. We had 15 people from the Winona community attend. While there we met and discussed how we could make this move forward. When we returned, we arranged for an ACEs Initiative group to convene and discuss how we can make this happen in our community. These are open meetings where anyone can attend and at each meeting there is someone new. Our email list has around 40 names and we are discussing what we can do
How have your audiences responded to your presentations? How has your audience been impacted by the curriculum?

People have been excited and have found the information fascinating. They have identified with the research and want more.

Is there anything else you would like us to know?

I love this research and how it can change people's lives. I saw a gentleman the other day who had a rough life. Someone sent him to me and we talked. I introduced him to the ACE research which seemed to cut to the chase of what had happened in his life. He could see that he was not a bad person, but bad things had happened to him. I saw him again recently and he is now able to move forward, letting go of the past and in the process of healing. There is no manual. There are no lists of things to do. Yet person by person through education and reflection we can all have a better understanding of our lives.

Check out the Minnesota group on ACEs Connection to learn more about trauma-informed work happening in Minnesota.

PREVENTION INITIATIVES: SOUTHERN MN

Parent Leadership, Education, and Collaboration

Barb Sorum, Director of Prevention Initiatives–Southern MN

Locations across Minnesota's southern region are diligent and focused on strengthening their communities. Olmsted County is determined to make significant changes to further support area families and children, improve and strengthen resilience, and create a community of healing.

On Monday, February 6, the Olmsted County BRIDGE Collaborative hosted an Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) community summit, Understanding ACEs: Building Self-Healing Communities, at the Woodlake Meeting Center. Attendance was inspiring with the 140 participants representing a wide variety of families, agencies, services, schools, and community members.

ACE Interface Trainers Becky Dale, MCCC's Chief Operating Officer, and Dave Ellis, President/CEO of Dave Ellis Consulting, LLC, provided information and facilitated a conversation about the ACE study, along with neurobiology that explains why ACEs impact people's lives, and what we all can do to dramatically improve health and resilience for this and future generations.

The ACE study findings represent a paradigm shift in human understanding of the origins of physical, social, mental, and societal health and well-being. We now know that the leading causes of disease and disability, learning and productivity problems, and even early death have their roots in the cumulative neurodevelopmental impacts of ACEs.

Next steps for the Olmsted County BRIDGE Collaborative include compiling summit results, comments and recommendations, ongoing community-based planning, shared learning, and developing community action plans to promote significant positive change and protective factors for area families.
MN Dept. of Health Services and MN Communities Caring for Children have collaborated efforts to provide these trainings and coaching to Children's Mental Health and Family Services Collaboratives across the state. The next Understanding ACEs training in the southern region will be hosted by Faribault/Martin Communities Partnering to Provide Services to Children and Their Families collaborative in Blue Earth on Wednesday, March 29.

For additional information regarding these trainings, please contact Corelle Nakamura 651.523.0099 or cnakamura@pcamn.org.

SAVE THE DATE!

2017 Spring Webinar Series

April 12, noon–1:30: Trauma-Informed Approaches in Minnesota Schools

Dr. Mark Sander, Hennepin County; Stacy Bender-Fayette and Sharleen Zeman-Sperle, Peacemaker Resources

Many Minnesota schools are trying innovative approaches to promote social emotional learning and to make the classroom a safe learning environment for children who have experienced trauma. This webinar is a chance to hear from three such innovators: Dr. Mark Sander, a psychologist working in the Minneapolis Public Schools who also consults with schools across Minnesota and in other states; and Sharleen Zeman-Sperle and Stacy Bender-Fayette, who through their work with Peacemaker Resources have introduced social-emotional learning in all the Bemidji area elementary schools and some surrounding area schools as well. It will also be a chance for YOU to share what you may be doing in your school, and to engage in conversation with others across the state who are exploring the NEAR science (Neurobiology, Epigenetics, the Adverse Childhood Experiences Study, and Resilience) and its implications for the classroom.

Register Today!

Upcoming Spring Webinars
April 26, noon – 1:30: Increasing Your Child’s Success by Modeling Emotional Intelligence
        Becky Dale, Learn More

May 11, noon – 1:30: World View
        Dave Ellis, Learn More

May 23, noon – 1:30: The Practice and Power of Engaging Parent Leaders
        Lisa Deputie and Roxy Foster, Learn More

Take Me Out to the Ball Game!

Join us for a Twins game! Sunday, May 21st at 1 pm
Tickets are $20!

Tickets must be purchased by April 27, 2016.

Tickets can be ordered here.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Latino Children Start Kindergarten Behind in Math: New Report Measures the Gap, Explores Causes, Proposes Remedies

Bethesda, Md. – Making Math Count More for Young Latino Children, an original analysis of data from a large, nationally representative sample of kindergartners, finds that Latino kindergartners trail their white peers by the equivalent of three months in math skills. According to research from Child Trends' Hispanic Institute, young children who start school behind in math also tend to have lower rates of participation in center-based child care, fewer books in the home, and high poverty rates.

"One in four U.S. kindergartners is Latino. Given the importance of math and science to the jobs of the future, failing to address the math achievement gap will threaten our nation's position as a global economic leader," says Lina Guzman, director of Child Trends' Hispanic Institute and co-author of the report.

The report includes a review of existing research on the early development of math skills in Hispanic children, and provides research-informed recommendations to help improve early math outcomes for Latino children.

1. Encourage parental involvement.
2. Empower teachers with the best training and methods.
3. Broaden access to early care and education programs.
4. Move to full-day kindergarten.
5. Reduce income inequality.

To Read the Full Article Click Here

The Prevent Child Abuse America National Board Meetings invite board members or guest speakers to present on
topics related to our work in the prevention field. Click on the blue hyperlinks to hear Rev. Darrell Armstrong of Shiloh Baptist Church from Trenton, New Jersey talk about Fatherhood and Dr. David Willis, Director of the Division of Home Visiting and Early Childhood Services at the Department of Health and Human Services, HRSA, about the future of home visiting.

DONATE NOW!

REMEMBER CHILD ABUSE IS 100% PREVENTABLE
With the support of individuals like you, we can eliminate child abuse in our state. Thanks for joining MCCCC in providing better outcomes for our children and protecting our future.

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