Fall is almost here, and MCCC has lots of news to share with you. Updates in our programs, new events and exciting news that we hope you enjoy.

**NEWS FROM MCCC**

**Parent Mentor Network Training**

The very first Parent Mentor Training took place in Hinckley, MN in July. There were five mentors trained and three hired on as staff at MCCC- two of the mentors are from St. Louis County and one is from Ramsey County. The two day training was comprised of an evidence based learning curriculum.

Parent Mentors are individuals that have been personally impacted by systems and are able to help parents navigate through systems and also provide direct representation for parents in child protection cases. A primary goal of the program is to help parents reunify with their children as soon as is safely possible.

**Circle of Parents Increases Positive Parenting**

A recent survey of more than 80 Circle of Parents participants across Minnesota showed that Circle of Parents improves positive parenting skills. In addition to improved parenting skills and increased confidence in their parenting, more than 95% of the respondents said that they felt more supported by their peers and gained additional supportive contacts as a result of attending Circle of Parents. Research shows that parents are more likely to have positive relationships with their child(ren) and child abuse is less likely to occur when parents have strong, supportive social connections through programs like Circle of Parents.

For more information about Circle of Parents in Minnesota, please visit [www.pcamn.org](http://www.pcamn.org) or call 651.523.0099

**Gala- Save the Date**

Mark your calendar to attend our annual fundraising gala on
We are pleased to welcome Sara Parcero-Leites to MCCC!

Sara is our new Program and Administrative Assistant and if you call our office you are likely to speak to her first! She graduated last May from Macalester College with a double major in International Studies and Political Science with a concentration in Human Rights and Humanitarianism.

Sara is originally from Spain, where she got a scholarship in 2009 to finish her High School studies at the United World College in New Mexico. In 2011 she moved to Minnesota to pursue her undergraduate degree at Macalester. During her time there, Sara worked with the UN Association of MN and interned with the American red Cross as a Restoring Family Links caseworker, and Spanish Outreach volunteer. She comes to us with experience with nonprofit organizations and hopes to contribute to our mission during her time here.

Cafe Model Apprenticeship Program

The Parent Leadership for Child Safety and Permanency Team (PLCSP) is a group of parent consultants from across the state that are working to create better outcomes within the child welfare system by sharing their experiences and expertise around a system they themselves have experienced.

Parent Leaders Jenny Shopp and Shannan Bleed, both members of the MCCC/DHS Parent Leadership for Child Safety and Permanency Team, provided a parenting cafe style event for approximately 20 members of the Wabasha County Foster Parents Association and county social workers on August 24, 2015. Topics discussed included protective factors, the art of conversations, following the main topic of taking care of myself when a child pushes my buttons. Shared discussions and ideas incorporated when you're feeling successful as a parent, knowing when you need a break, and safe/healthy ways to take a break from your child.

Music in Lincoln Park hosted by Families Collaborative Circle of Parents in Duluth, MN

In June our parents hosted a Music Lincoln Park event in collaboration with northern Expressions Arts Collective. The event was held on June 22nd
and nearly 500 people attended. Attendees enjoyed music by the World Beat Drummers, Robi Meyerson and DJ Path Anny, as well as Indian tacos, face-painting, games and activities for children of all ages.

ACEs Training in WADENA

Laura Porter, co-creator of the ACE Interface curriculum, spoke to public health professionals, educators and mental health workers, among others, in Wadena, MN on August 20th. She shared information on neuroscience, epigenetics, adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and resilience with the group, and also facilitated conversation to help attendees create action steps for creating trauma-sensitive initiatives in their communities. MCCC staff person Kate Bailey attended the event, along with ACE Interface Presenters Susan Beaulieu and Jackie Crawford. Click here for more information about MCCC's ACE Initiative.

Pinwheel orders for 2016

Child Abuse Prevention Month is scheduled to take place in April, 2016! One of the many ways you can show your support for child abuse prevention efforts is by planting a Pinwheel Garden in your community or place of business during the month of April. We will be placing a pre-order of pinwheels in October. Please let us know here how many pinwheels you need to plant your garden by placing a pre-order by Friday, October 9, 2015! The cost per pinwheel is $1.00 with half of the cost of each pinwheel going to support child abuse prevention programs offered throughout the state by Prevent Child Abuse Minnesota.

Amazon Smile- Support us every time you shop!

When you shop at Amazon Smile, Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price to Prevent Child Abuse Minnesota. On your first visit to AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), you are prompted to select a charitable organization from the list of eligible organizations. Then bookmark this link and support us every time you shop.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Minnesota Fathers Families Network Fall 2015 Seminar Series: Healthy Births, Healthy Babies, Fathers as Partners and Protectors
Workshop Dates and Locations: 9:00am - 3:30pm

St. Cloud: September 21st
Minneapolis: September 28th
Park Rapids: October 2nd
Rochester: October 5th
St. Paul: October 19th
Duluth: October 26th

Click [here](#) to RSVP

REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

**Adverse Childhood Experiences Study**

Presentations and discussions offered to any Circle of Parents group or other parenting groups. [Contact the Regional Director in your area for more information.](#)

**Strategic Sharing Training**

This four hour session is for people who want to influence the child welfare system & learn to tell their stories in meaningful, powerful and focused way. [Contact the Regional Director in your area for more information.](#)

**St. Cloud Circle of Parent-Partner Sessions**

This parent education session is open to everyone and they have to [pre-register](#). Parenting in partnership with another person. Eight sessions starting on September 28th Monday evenings from 6:00-7:30 at the Great River Regional Library in St. Cloud,

Call Roxy Foster to RSVP-651.442.8914  
*Childcare available.*

**Sponsor the Timber Dash Committee**

Your support is needed in Wright County! The Timber Dash is being held on Saturday Oct 3rd at Lake Maria State Park, Monticello. Three to five hundred participants are expected in this year's fun run/walk and organizers are hoping to raise over $15,000 for the [Crisis Nursery Serving Wright County](#).

Please e-mail [csilbernagel@nexus-kff.org](mailto:csilbernagel@nexus-kff.org) or call 763.271.1680 to receive the complete form.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

The Science of Stress and How Our Emotions Affect Our Susceptibility to Burnout and Disease.  
[Read more here](#)

Mental Health America’s 2015 Back to School toolkit.  
[Read more here](#)

Common Expressions of White Privilege and How to Counter Them.
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.

Sincerely,

Shelley Jacobson.