



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)



Minnesota Department of **Human Services**



We Invite You to Join or Recruit Members for the Parent Leadership for Child Safety and Permanency Team!

The Minnesota Department of Human Services teamed up with Prevent Child Abuse Minnesota in 2009 to create the Parent Leadership for Child Safety and Permanency Team (PLCSP) to integrate the voices of parents into Minnesota's child welfare system.

The program is now accepting applications from interested parents to join the PLCSP Team. Applications will be accepted starting September 1st and ending September 30th. To learn more about the program, the benefits of joining, and the goals of the program click [here](#).

Prospective team members must complete a Parent Application form, which you can access [here](#). Please email the completed application to Rena Moran, Director of Parent Leadership, at rmoran@pcamn.org and the Program Assistant, Jeannette Lewis, at jlewis@pcamn.org.



Parent Leaders and MCCC staff celebrating Theresa Davis' retirement from DHS. She was the contract manager for PLCSP funding from the State of Minnesota. The PLCSP Team was her brainchild.

The Power of Self-Knowledge

Becky Dale and Susan Beaulieu, MCCC Staff, were featured in *The New York Times* for MCCC's state-wide work on the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)! We are so grateful for the many individuals who have moved this work forward in the state of MN! Spreading the word about ACEs is vital in prevention work in order to ensure healthy and happy childhoods. Thank you, David Bornstein, for focusing on positive solutions for families and communities.

The article is the final piece in a series that looks at the efforts of the past two decades to put the capacity for self-knowledge into effect on community and professional levels. Specifically how community-based efforts shared and incorporated information about how adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) increase negative life experiences such as dropping out of school, committing suicide, etc.

To read the other two articles in the series click [here](#) and [here](#).



From Left to Right: Roxy Foster, Becky Dale, Chris Pommerenke, Shelley Jacobson, and Connie Skillingstad

MCCC is Honored to have Received the Community Collaboration Award!

MCCC was presented with the Community Collaboration Award at the Minnesota Social Service Association Conference. This award is presented annually to an organization demonstrating a high degree of collaboration with community partners to create or sustain a health and human service program or service.

In addition, the service must demonstrate a long-term solution to a health and

human service problem or issue and has shown innovation in how it has worked together to create a solution and that resources were utilized and distributed efficiently and effectively. We thank MSSA for this honor and Connie Skillingstad, former MCCC executive director for nominating us!

THE FACES BEHIND THE WORK

Introducing Beth Nagovsky, MCCC's Finance Manager

My name is Beth Nagovsky, I am a graduate from St Catherine University, with a BS in Accounting, and minors in Business Administration and Economics. I am currently completing a MS in Accountancy at Saint Mary's University and graduate in the spring of 2017.

I come to MCCC with over 20 years of finance and accounting background, in which I have a variety of both for and non-profit accounting. I have a passion for accounting, and enjoy finding ways to help others understand the functions and complexity of business.

MCCC is the perfect fit for me, as I have an opportunity to help others learn and grow by assisting our business end through functionality, and efficiencies.

I look forward to working with MCCC, and aiding the organization to achieve their goals and growth

If you have any questions or would like to connect, feel free to email me at bnagovsky@pcam.org.



Meet Board of Director Member– Nacole Kaai

Nacole Kaai is a passionate advocate for causes that fundamentally change people's lives and currently serves on the board of Minnesota Communities Caring for Children. She also volunteers with organizations that focus on advocacy, education, and leadership development. When Nacole is not volunteering she works to improve healthcare as an Associate Director at Optum – UnitedHealth Group. She holds a Masters of Public Affairs with a specialization in Public / Non-Profit Leadership and Management from the Humphrey School of Public Affairs.

for you?

What makes our organization's mission powerful

MCCC's vision and mission are inspiring to me. I am passionate about causes around children and families. It is powerful for me to be part of an organization that focuses on prevention of neglect and empowering communities. MCCC's mission aligns nicely with my principles and values.

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

In addition to fulfilling my fiduciary obligation, I contribute my professional skills, experiences, and connections along with my education from the Humphrey School of Public Affairs to serve MCCC's mission. It is important to me that I also contribute positively to the board culture with warmth, laughter, respect and sincere appreciation for each other's differences and opinions.

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

In the past, I have always done direct volunteering for numerous organizations. I was ready to volunteer in a different capacity with an organization. I wanted to have an opportunity to play a direct role in determining an organization's overall direction and impact. As a board member, I'm able to have a behind-the-scenes look at internal organizational systems such as nonprofit management, human resources, and fundraising and resource development.

This is my 6th year as a board member. Over my tenure, I have served on almost every committee and have served as numerous Executive positions including Board Chair. My commitment to MCCC only strengthened over time and is reflected in my desire to serve in leadership positions.

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

I have a strong desire to jump in and do the work. As a governing board, the greatest learning was understanding my role as a governance board. As a board member, my job is to work on the organization not in the organization. My goal is to guide the organization to a higher strategic level by looking at the bigger picture and the guiding practices and philosophies that will shape the work of the staff. I also learned that it is important to ask questions and put myself out there in order to broaden everyone else's perspective.

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

I learned that passion alone is not enough to sustain an organization. It takes energy, hard work, and commitment. I learned the importance of governance, stewardship of MCCC's mission, and ensuring there are sufficient resources to support delivery on the mission. I also learned that my passion doesn't mean everyone else shares it at the same level or has the same capacity to give (time, money, connections, etc). In the future, listening and understanding each person's unique motivation and value an individual is important so it can be maximized.

Is there anything else you would like us to know?

One of the benefits of volunteering as a board member with MCCC is the experience that has enriched my life through the understanding of how MCCC serves its mission and the families they help. I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve for such a great organization.

Team Member – Damone Presley.

Damone is passionate about his involvement and work within his community. Some of his work includes being the Community Founder and Director of Vision In Living Life (VILL) "Change is Possible", a Building Healthy Lifestyle Leadership program. In the VILL "Change is Possible" Building Healthy Lifestyle Leadership program, the Youth Leadership group, directed by Damone, created policy work that resulted in passing a resolution for decreasing tobacco advertising window signage in Saint Paul. Damone is a Public Speaker, Mentor, and Advocate for community issues that bring residents to the table to use their voices to better their community. He has worked with MPLS Urban League, Amicus , African American AIDS Task force, and Breaking Free.



What led you to join PLCSP?

Being a single father and getting full custody of my daughter. Being involved in child protection and that whole process, which was not supportive for fathers and learning what disparities many families of color are facing of out of home placement by the county.

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

Leadership and social connections through being involved in the MN cafes, six protective factors, ACE's, and understanding my own trauma culturally and internally. Building relationships across the state of MN. Advocating my concerns on how systems are and have affected my community. Able to assist others in my community on home displacement of child abuse and being able to bring resources that have been limited and scarce in my community.

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

Being educated on the many state and local level policies that have been biased towards families of color in the child welfare systems and home displacements. Being placed on committees where I have been able to address those concerns of the community that I live in. Understanding how policies and procedures can affect better outcomes with the knowledge and trainings I have been apart of have impacted me to participate and educate the community I live in.

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

Continue to partner and educate with new PLCSP members that join. Help in any way I can as far as continuing to do MN Cafes and host forums that raise these issues around helping the community with training that helps families be equipped with the resources and tools that address community awareness. I am able to facilitate protective factors and be a host in community events as a member of the PLCSP team. I will continue to build that leadership. Continue to be a part of the committees that are making decision for families and children safety and well being when comes to home displacement.

Is there anything else you would like us to know?

This is a one of a kind program that creates leaders. The PLCSP team is a program that not only educates and assists communities, families, and individuals to become a part of the answer, but also to become leaders in their own right, to be knowledgeable about solutions that systems have not addressed, and to build relationships with the communities they serve and the families that have been affected by trauma and many other life situations that many families are faced with. This has been an opportunity to strengthen not only me, but I had seen it change many others across different backgrounds and all walks of life where we are same or similar and equity and equal opportunities make fair practices for all families and there is no certain groups that should get better opportunities when we have what matters most. Families should be given a fair chance at being the best parents they can be given what they have.

PREVENTION INITIATIVES



Tasha Moulton

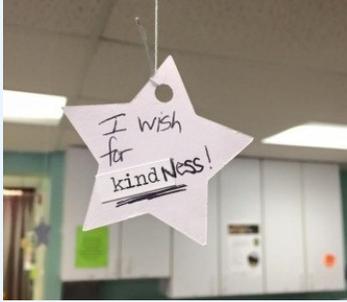
The REACH Drop-in Center – Mankato MN (Blue Earth County)

Minnesota Communities Caring for Children is proud to partner with Blue Earth County's *The REACH Drop-in Center* in Mankato. We're collaborating with their *Building on Opportunities to Strengthen Teens* (BOOST) young parents program.

Tasha Moulton is one of the Youth Services Workers at *The REACH Drop-in Center*. She has led child abuse/neglect prevention awareness/outreach activities locally and statewide for over 10 years. Tasha is a past member of the statewide Parent Leadership for Child Safety and Permanency team, served on the MCCC Board of Directors, and was the 2012 recipient of MN Circle of Parents Outstanding Volunteer award.

The REACH Drop-in Center, serving a nine-county region, opened February 2011 and has since served over 3,500 individuals. The drop-in center is a place for young people (up to age 25) who are either at risk or experiencing homelessness. The drop-in center provides a safe environment for youth where they can receive non-judgmental assistance from caring and trustworthy adults who are knowledgeable in helping them overcome the barriers of homelessness. Area youth receive a variety of services centered around each individual need, such as: family reunification; assistance in obtaining emergency shelter; basic immediate needs which include food, clothing, access to a shower, medical care and mental health counseling with professional counselors and therapists. Ongoing services also include opportunities to learn independent living skills, job search, employment assistance, college preparation (i.e. applying for educational training vouchers, FAFSA, and GED preparation), referrals to other community services, homelessness prevention, and after-care services.





When was the last time you wished on a star? Our youth made wishes and they have them hanging above the table. This one is our favorite. What would your wish be?

The mission of The REACH is to "Create a safe non-judgmental place for young people that will empower and enhance their sense of self-reliance and feelings of being connected. A place where youth can acquire the knowledge they need to be healthy, independent and successful adults. The REACH is a place young people can look beyond their past and begin to plan for their future."

Individuals entering the drop-in center are usually greeted by Miss Nala, Tasha's Maltese/ Morkie mix and considered an honorary youth outreach worker. Nala offers a special and unique style of therapy, comfort, and emotional support with young people who have experienced trauma and/or homelessness. They love her as much as staff does.



The one and only Miss Nala



2016 trip to Valleyfair!

The disturbing reality is that we have young people sleeping under bridges or decks, or on the ground, or walking around all night with no place to call home. "Donations to *The REACH* go directly to the emerging adults in our community who are experiencing homelessness. Donations can include food, personal hygiene items, backpacks, water bottles, grocery gift cards, etc.

For more information you can contact Tasha at tasha.moulton@lssm.org or call 507.720.0331. Also visit the REACH Drop-in Center's website [here](#).



UPCOMING EVENTS



Give from the Heart with ART

Date/Time: Tuesday, 9/27/2016, 6:30 – 9:30 PM
Location: Wine and Canvas Studio & Cafe (St. Anthony) – 2900 Pentagon Drive, St. Anthony, MN 55418
Price Per Seat: \$35.00

Register today and learn to paint *Leaning Orchid!* Wine and Canvas will donate a portion of each registration fee to MN Communities Caring for Children–Home of Prevent Child Abuse Minnesota. Gather a group of friends and join us for an artsy night and support this wonderful cause!

Give to the Max Day is November 17th!

Each year, generous supporters like you celebrate Give to the Max Day by making your online donation on GiveMN.org. Your generosity on this day makes a difference far beyond the 24-hour giving event. Please join us on November 17th for Give to the Max Day and help us continue to change lives by making a donation to Minnesota Communities Caring for Children.



Check out our organizational page to donate [here](#).



SAVE THE DATE! For Radiothon to End Child Abuse

The Radiothon to End Child Abuse is a twenty-four hour education and action event broadcast. Radiothon to End Child Abuse started in 1987 and has grown to include Hubbard Broadcasting stations located in Alexandria, Bemidji, Brainerd, and Wadena. Listeners learn what key conditions lead to child abuse and neglect and how it can be prevented. The 2016 Radiothon on *December 1st and 2nd* marks the 29th year of promoting healthy, safe, nurturing families.

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

Join us for Happy Hour in December!

Where: Surly Brewing Company
520 Malcolm Ave SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414
When: Monday, *December 5th* from 6pm-8pm



We all know that Minnesota winters usher in sweater weather and snowfall. Come warm up at a lively-but-low-key-after-work gathering 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.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Childhood Trauma Leads To Lifelong Chronic Illness – So Why Isn't The Medical Community Helping Patients?

Trauma takes on many forms for children. Things ranging from the obvious such as psychical and sexual abuse to normal experiences such as having divorced parents have the capacity to alter a child's health and adult life. The link between trauma and disease was first highlighted in 1996 with the [ACE Study](#). " Yet, despite twenty years of research linking childhood stress to adult disease, the majority of the

medical community acts as if these findings don't exist."

Two-thirds of Americans experience at least one adverse childhood experience, but when doctors validate their patients trauma, then it allows them the opportunity to heal from it. As one [study](#) showed patients experienced a thirty-five percent reduction in doctor visits when the patients felt that their pain was acknowledged and were able to discuss it with their physicians.

[To Read the Full Article Click 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
Home of Prevent Child Abuse Minnesota and Circle of Parents Minnesota
(651) 523-0099 | pcamn@pcamn.org | www.pcamn.org



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OUR EMAILS**



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EMAIL**

