



Parents & Practitioners

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Volume 1, Issue 7

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A Parent's Journey with CBCAP by Jill Gentry

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I was asked to become a member of the Oregon CBCAP statewide steering committee in 1998 by the Parents Anonymous® of Oregon Executive Director who moved into the lead position for the Community Safety Net of Oregon, the CBCAP organization at that time. I had been involved with Parents Anonymous® for six years and served on the Board of Directors for Parents Anonymous® of Oregon for four years where I was able to develop and demonstrate leadership skills that have been valuable in my CBCAP role. During my second year, I created and coordinated a workshop called "Parents as Star Players" that I co-presented with other parents at the baseball themed statewide CBCAP conference.

Within the next couple of years I worked with Teresa Rafael, Ruth Taylor and two other parent leaders to pilot Parent's Anonymous' Shared Leadership in Action Training to four regions in Oregon. This train-

ing was open to all the CBCAP networks and parent leaders as well as Child Welfare workers.

My roles have included helping to review grant applications from each county, evaluating reports and actively participating in site visits and peer reviews. I have brought the parent perspective to the table, influencing decision making and improved program evaluation surveys, tools, and other printed materials.

I learned many of the different challenges and the strengths of the individual counties from the cities to rural areas where particular needs are different. For example: transportation needs vary; in the city, there may be busing available, but in rural areas even taxi service may not be an option. Oregon's CBCAP has since been restructured so that neighboring counties are grouped by regions connecting them for

more effective collaboration and pooling of staff and resources.

I was able to take the information and experiences that I learned through my experiences in Oregon and apply them in my role working with Texas CBCAP coalitions as a technical assistance provider with Parents Anonymous® Inc. staff to support parent leadership in all aspects of their community-based efforts. (continued page 3)



Jill with Oregon State Senator Gordon Smith on Capitol Hill advocating for Child Abuse Prevention legislation

FRIENDS Partners:

- * Chapel Hill Training Outreach Project, Lead Agency
- * Child Welfare League of America.
www.CWLA.org
- * Circle Of Parents
www.circleofparents.org
- * Human Systems Dynamics
www.hsdinstitute.org
- * Independent Living Resources Inc
www.independentlivingresources.com
- * National Implementation Research Network
www.fpg.unc.edu/~nirn

Network for Action Meet & Greet

The parent leadership teams from the FRIENDS National Resource Center for Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention Programs, the National Alliance for Children's Trust and Prevention Funds and Parents Anonymous® Inc. are hosting an informal "get acquainted" meeting for parent leaders attending the Net-

work for Action Meeting. The "get acquainted" meeting will be held on **June 20, 2011 from 5:30-6:30 PM**. When a Network for Action meeting participant registers as a parent, information will "pop up" inviting that individual to attend the evening event for parent leaders. **All parent registrants** are encouraged to consider joining

and meeting their peers for this opportunity. Come and get to know other parents that will be at the Network for Action meeting!

*Submitted by MaryJo Ali-
mena Caruso, M.Ed., T/TA
FRIENDS NRC for CBCAP*

How the Blue Bow Became the Symbol for Child Abuse Prevention

Bonnie Finney's Story

Bonnie Finney, a grandmother from Virginia, connected the Blue Bow to child abuse prevention awareness in the aftermath of her grandson Michael Wayne "Bubba" Dickenson's death as a result of child abuse in Chesapeake, VA in 1988. Her daughter, herself a victim of domestic violence, was sentenced to five years imprisonment for failing to do more to protect her son. Luther Ray Phillips, Jr., who committed the crime, was sentenced to 55 years imprisonment. The following story was written by Bonnie Finney in conjunction with Prevent Child Abuse Virginia. It is used by permission of Prevent Child Abuse Virginia.

I only had one child. She was a beautiful little girl—the light of our eyes. We knew she had entered into a stormy marriage, for we brought her home several times in the five years it lasted. We suspected heavy use of drugs, but in those five years, three beautiful healthy children had been born. I loved them dearly, and they loved me. The children were 16 months, three years and four years.

My grandson was hospitalized for abuse. He had bruises on his body and cigarette burns on his hands. His doctor did not believe my daughter's story, "He fell in slippery water in the bathtub." After the ordeal at the hospital, my grandson was placed in foster care for three weeks. He cried when they came to return him to his mother. He told his foster mother, "My mamma don't love me" and begged to stay. I ached for his dilemma, but I wasn't physically able to care for him. The courts believed that home was the best place for him, but I knew better and I told, no I begged them, not to return him to his mother. But I was overruled—my grandmother's instinct didn't count.

I never saw Bubba again.

My 16 month old granddaughter was hospitalized after being beaten severely, her leg broken in four places, and her hand burned from the tips of her fingers to her wrist. It was only then that the "search was on" for Bubba. We learned he had been killed, wrapped in a sheet, stuffed into a toolbox, and dumped into the Dismal

Swamp Canal three months earlier.

My efforts to understand became a plea to stop abusing children. I tied a blue ribbon on my van antenna to make people wonder. It caught on locally with restaurants, businesses, police, and TV and radio stations supporting me in my efforts to make it a real awareness campaign.

Please wear a blue ribbon. Put one on your car. Give one to your friend. Tell them what it means. You may save a child's life! If you suspect anything is happening to your children, your grandchildren, the child next door, please act! If you get no response, try again! You may not hear their screams. You may not see their bruises, so check for the hidden pain and watch for the silent screams in their eyes.

~taken from Children's Home and Aid Society of Illinois, submitted by Dawn

Why blue? I intend never to forget the battered, bruised bodies of my grandchildren. Blue serves as a constant reminder to me to fight for our children

Maryland Pinwheel Gardens for Child Abuse Prevention Month

Every year, The Family Tree of Maryland has a goal to raise awareness and dialogue about child abuse prevention in Maryland. Too many children are exposed to intensive stress like child abuse and neglect. Child abuse and neglect can be devastating to child development; prevention is so critical.

During April and throughout the year, communities across our state are recognizing that healthy childhood experiences are not just good for children, but good for neighborhoods as well. Several communities put up pinwheel gardens to show their support – the pinwheel being the national symbol for Child Abuse Prevention.

The Family Tree invited everyone

statewide to put up a pinwheel garden in their neighborhood to show their support of their children. Here are just two of many examples.

Submitted by Kelly Sheridan, The Family Tree of Maryland



Pinwheels in Tennessee by Melissa Perry

During the month of April, Tennessee had multiple activities highlighting and celebrating the awareness of Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Tennessee kicked off Child Abuse Prevention month on April 1st by wearing blue to honor and celebrate children in Tennessee and, the State Capital looked quite festive as the lights surrounding the building were projecting blue. Perhaps the most exciting event occurred on April 5th, when First Lady of Tennessee Crissy Haslam joined Prevent Child Abuse Tennessee in launching the Pinwheels for Prevention campaign by planting a pinwheel garden on the Capital lawn.

As a member of the Parent Leadership Advisory Council and on behalf of parents and children across the state, I felt so proud to be there with the First Lady and all of those supporting the importance of honoring

and recognizing children and children who had been abused. The pinwheels serve as a reminder that all children deserve a happy and healthy life and, it is our responsibility as a community to do whatever we can to prevent child abuse and neglect before it ever occurs. Unlike so many other visual reminders that bring devastating statistics to mind, the pinwheels are meant to reflect the happy and innocent spirit of a child and the belief that all children deserve that same carefree life, free from abuse and neglect. Some of the ways we can do this include promoting healthy child development, equipping parents with the tools they need for raising healthy and happy children, offering parent support, and making sure that all children have equal opportunities.

One of the most important goals in April was to educate and raise awareness in the public about the goals and purpose of Child Abuse Prevention. As a result of

the various activities carried out in Tennessee and across the country, like the launching of the Pinwheels for Prevention campaign, our community will gain the knowledge they need to prevent child abuse and neglect from ever occurring.

-submitted by Carla Snodgrass, Prevent Child Abuse Tennessee Executive Director



The person with Pinwheels in their hand is Abbey Chamness, Parent Pathway Coordinator, beside her is First Lady Crissy Haslam, then Kristen Rector, Director of Programs and on the end is Melissa Perry, Parent Leader (Melissa is a member of the national PLAT training team as a parent leader).

A Parent's Journey (Continued from Page 1)

I have helped to bring the parent voice into the organization. There were 36 counties that functioned the Community Safety Net, which is now called Family Support and Connections and is divided into 16 districts.

One of the most important roles that I played was being able to identify strategies for the CBCAP county programs to recruit parents to serve on local county committees and see that they receive the resources and support needed to participate. Being involved with CBCAP has also enabled me to network with others and gain a good knowledge base of resources and share that information with parents and community members.

Personal growth through my experiences and being able to serve as a role model to other parents in a leadership role have been some of the best things

to happen to me. I am currently serving on the FRIENDS NRC Parent Advisory Council. For those attending the CBCAP Grantees meeting, I look forward to seeing you there!



Jill at a Parents Anonymous® conference pictured with Olympic Medal winner Kerri Strug

It Only Takes A Minute

It Only Takes a Minute

- ...to advocate for a child
- ...to believe in a child
- ...to fasten a child's car seat
- ...to get involved
- ...to hug a child

...to imagine a world without child abuse

- ...to learn a child's name
- ...to listen to a child
- ...to listen to your heart
- ...to make a call for help

- ...to protect a child
- ...to realize words hurt
- ...to remove a threat
- ...to seek assistance
- ...to stop a child from being hurt

- ...to stop and take a breath
- ...to talk to a child, and not yell
- ...to write a child a kind note
- ...to write your local Legislator
- ...to prevent child abuse
- ...to prevent neglect

To make a difference in the life of a child...

It Only Takes A Minute

By Anonymous

Parents & Practitioners

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Family Resource Information, Education, and Network Development Service (FRIENDS)
National Resource for Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention

FRIENDS National Resource Center for Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) is a service of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Children's Bureau. We are a federally mandated Training and Technical Assistance Provider for CBCAP lead agencies. The Parent Advisory Council is a way that this agency leads by example; creating avenues for Parent Engagement and Involvement is one way we do so. This Newsletter is a result of parents being supported in their efforts to bridge the way between parents and practitioners working together in effective partnerships.

Next Issue: **CBCAP Conference Experiences of Practitioners and Parents!**

We'd love to share your stories!

We're on the web

www.friendsnrc.org

FRIENDS NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER INFO

Strengthening Families and Communities: 2011 Resource Guide is now available! This free guide was created to support service providers in their work with parents, caregivers, and their children to strengthen families and prevent child abuse and neglect.

The Resource Guide was developed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Children's Bureau, Office on Child Abuse and Neglect, Child Welfare Information Gateway, FRIENDS National Resource Center for Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention, and Center for the Study of Social Policy – Strengthening Families, with input from numerous national organizations, Federal partners, and parents. It highlights strategies that can strengthen families by

promoting key protective factors that have been shown to prevent child abuse and neglect. The guide also includes strategies to promote community awareness of these key protective factors, as well as tip sheets in English and Spanish to share with parents.

To view or order the guide, go to the Child Welfare Information Gateway website at: <http://www.childwelfare.gov/preventing/preventionmonth/guide2011/index.cfm>
Or contact Information Gateway at 1.800.394.3366 or info@childwelfare.gov

Parent Leadership Ambassador Training for Trainers

This is an intensive 2 day training designed for states that have participated in the Parent Leadership Ambassador Training and/or received an individual-

ized TA site visit surrounding parent leadership (i.e., The ABC's of Parent Leadership). Developed and coordinated by The Circle of Parents® this training is designed to instruct participants to deliver the Parent Leadership Ambassador Training, and is formatted in a Training for Trainers (T3) format. There is no charge.

To register, request a registration form from Kristen Rector at Kristen.rector@pcat.org by June 17.

Call for more information:

Carla Snodgrass or Kristen Rector,
Coordinators for the Parent Leadership Ambassador Training

615-383-0994

Carla.Snodgrass@pcat.org
Kristen.rector@pcat.org