

Community Champions Network by the numbers...

More and more, child welfare organizations and programs are being asked to account for their work through the use of data, documenting and measuring outcomes. In keeping with this shift, CCN is proud to report the following data since the project's inception in 2006:

- Sites engaged 11
- Active sites 8
- Start-up sites for 2008 4
- CCN coalition members 662
- Parent Liaison start-ups 4*
- Community forums 33
- Adoption Competency Curriculum/Training 1*
- Training events 13
- Support groups launched 4
- Youth advocacy group launched 1
- Symposia 1
- Kids & Judges Days 1

In addition, we have two Kids & Judges Days anticipated for 2008, as well as two more training events.

[* in process]

As project manager, I can only begin to express the depth of my pride in knowing and working with all of the dedicated parents, professionals and community members who have made this project such a success. Many thanks also for the assistance of other NACAC staff and the Jockey Being Family™ commitment that have allowed us to move forward so quickly. As Margaret Mead so eloquently put it: "A small group of thought-

ful people could change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

Kim Stevens



Wisconsin

The folks in Eau Claire have found an advocacy "angel" in Reggie Bicha, Secretary of the Department of Children and Families. Mr. Bicha has met with the Western Wisconsin Adoption Association (an existing coalition that is also connected to CCN) and pledged his support for post adoption services expansion. NACAC staff attended the May meeting and spoke with Mr. Bicha and WWAA members and about both the Parent Liaison program and the Adoption Competency curriculum, projected for University of Minnesota's offerings by 2009. He has since asked the group to submit a proposal to his department for support of these two important components of a model post adoption program. CCN and other NACAC staff will continue to work with the WI coalition members to advocate on behalf of their adoptive families and the providers who serve them.



Sacramento

The month of May marked the onset of the CCN project in Sacramento. Over the course of two days, three community forums took place; attendees included youth, parents, public and private child welfare practitioners, mental health professionals and community members. The 34 participants did an amazing job of framing the issues and their projected goals in this short

time. As with many of the sites, Sacramento coalition members are looking to make positive system change in the areas of mental health services, information sharing and public awareness. We look forward to seeing what the combined efforts of L.A. County and Sacramento - the legislative seat - might generate for both the adoptive families and the waiting youth in California.



Washington, D.C.

The District of Columbia has been very pleased with the success of the Post Permanency Family Center, housed at Adoptions Together. Having won the bid for service provision last year, the Center has been providing a number of services, including support groups, training, crisis intervention, advocacy, counseling, and case management. This fall, NACAC staff will travel to D.C. to facilitate a parent liaison training as the Center expands their services to include this highly effective parent-to-parent model of support.



Florida

During September and October, NACAC staff along with national experts Gregory Keck, Deena McMahon, and Trudie Poole will be providing an Adoption Competency Train the Trainers series for Hillsborough County (Tampa) adult educators. This curriculum will then be delivered to the mental health providers in the region, providing a much needed support to the families and children who turn to these providers for support and guidance. Kudos to the folks in Tampa who had the vi-

sion and financial commitment to make this happen!



St. Louis

The final addition we want to welcome to the Community Champions Network family is St. Louis, Missouri. Over the past several years parent groups on opposite sides of the state have worked together to advocate on behalf of adoptive families and children throughout Missouri. Co-recipients of the 2006 Adoption Activist award at the annual NACAC conference, Lori Ross and Melanie Scheetz will continue their effective collaboration as Kansas City helps to mentor their sister site. Among the priorities put forward by St. Louis advocates is development of an adoption certificate program for providers.



Workshop Proposals 2009

**35th Annual Conference
Columbus, Ohio
Proposals will be due
in November.**

Please check www.nacac.org and follow link to "Conference" for more information.



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