

Community Champions Network to Enter Year Three!

With the arrival of the new year, it is an excellent time to offer NACAC's gratitude to those who are making this project possible. Debra Waller and the Jockey, International Corporation are top on the list for their vision and funding of this amazing work.

Go to www.jockeybeingfamily.com to read her message and learn more about what Jockey Being Family™ is doing to help adoptive families across North America.

We also want to extend a huge thank you to the many CCN coalition members across our sites who have already made a difference for the children and families in their communities. Your vision, commitment, dedication and energy are both inspirational and very effective. Keep up the great work - it matters!



Orlando Site Expanding in Advocacy Work

January was a “turning point” month in Florida, as Heritage Family Preservation and CCN/NACAC partnered with Tampa’s Sylvia Thomas Center to host a full day seminar on advocacy for adoptive families and professionals from surrounding counties. Participants shared their hopes and concerns for the children they are raising; forming into five ongoing work groups. A decision was made to expand Community Champions Network to a state-wide project with an eye to legislative communication and advocacy work.

Sylvia Thomas Center has the ear of Florida’s

Chief Child Advocate and has recently been awarded monies and approval to pilot an adoption competent training for mental health providers in Hillsborough County.



Los Angeles County and Northern California

The California Association of Adoption Agencies (CAAA) hosted their first conference on October 25 and 26 in Santa Clara and Glendale, reaching close to 200 practitioners from all over California. With a theme of “Adoption & Other Permanency Options for Older Youth and Siblings,” the conference highlighted the connections between pre- and post- adoption work. NACAC staff presented a general session on post-adoption supports through the eyes of a child. The county is continuing work towards establishing a liaison program and is also considering the launch of Kids & Judges Day(s).

Perhaps most exciting and promising of all, however, is the interest that the Sacramento area has shown in the CCN program. As of January 2008, Jockey granted approval for northern California to become a sister site to Los Angeles County.



Ontario Moving Ahead with Post Adopt Services

Last year the Ontario Ministry passed legislation that awarded post-adoption monies to each of their nine regions. Unfortunately, as many of us are aware, the money is not always allocated. Such was the case in Ontario. In a major victory for adopted children and their families, funds were recently distributed

to each of the regions for spending in 2008. Although the window is narrow - January to March - the regions are intent on providing the very most that they can in this three month period.

Three of the regions have contacted Community Champions Network to provide one day training sessions on adoption competent practice and supports for staff, providers and parents. Several are looking at the parent liaison model and considering implementing pilot projects. The Ontario coalition members are embracing a truly collaborative approach to creating competent, equitable post adoption services for all.



Missouri Expands - Welcome 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.



On Line Training Available

Across North America, funders and providers are looking to evidence-based models of men-

tal health treatment and families are seeing healing for their children in the techniques used. There is a *free*, on-line resource for a ten-module training on Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavior Therapy (TF-CBT), hosted at the Medical University of South Carolina site, in partnership with the National Child Traumatic Stress Network, among others. For more information and to register, go to <http://tfcbt.musc.edu>



Mark Your Calendars!

**34th Annual Conference
Ottawa, Ontario
July 31 – August 2, 2008**

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



Resources

We will continue to share resources across our sites in this corner. Please email contact information for effective models to kimstevens@nacac.org.

A Path to Healing (Ontario)

www.clc-apathtohealing.ca

Christine M. Lachaine-Gatzke

Pre / post adoption counseling, coaching, etc.

Telephone/fax: 306-352-4069

christine.lachaine@clc-apathtohealing.ca

Adoption Reunion Coaching Course (Ontario)

<http://www.carliniinstitute.net/index.ivnu>

Beyond Consequences Institute (Ontario)

<http://www.beyondconsequences.com/>