



Happy New Year!

Incredible changes continue to take place in families attending *Celebrating Families!*™ (*CF!*). Evaluation outcomes from multiple sites show significant positive results, with very large effect sizes in parenting skills, family dynamics, and children's mental health (www.celebratingfamilies.net/evaluation_reports.htm). The unique emphasis on developing empathy and giving to others in *CF!* leaves group facilitators touched by participants' abilities to help others. It is a HUGE growth step to move from being hurt and wounded, to being able to give to others! Some Acts of Kindness reported are simple: giving flowers to a teacher, washing dishes for Mom, helping a brother with homework. Others are significant such as comforting a grieving stranger or purchasing groceries for a needy neighbor followed by discussion by the family of how good it felt to be helpful.

In Santa Clara County, CA, PPI continues to partner with local agencies to complete the evaluation study (funded by Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health and Child Abuse Council) working with EMQ Children & Family Services -Addiction Prevention Services, ARH-Parisi House on the Hill, YWCA and Friends Outside in Santa Clara County. In Santa Clara County, Friends Outside will become the lead agency starting July 2008 – providing coordination, technical assistance and training.

One last major project remains for PPI - the adaptation/translation of the curriculum into Spanish. You'll hear more about this in the months ahead as components of the curriculum become available. With support from First 5 and Santa Clara County Child Abuse Council, bi-lingual/bi-cultural staff at Mexican American Community Services Agency (MACSA), Sacred Heart Community Services and Community Solutions are already trained.

Nationally, *Celebrating Families!*™ (*CF!*) is successfully transferred to the National Association for Children of Alcoholics (NACoA) for distribution with a goal that 100 new organizations will implement *CF!* by July 2008 - that's 5,000 children! (Our calculations translate that to 7,500 children's lives touched!) Already organizations in Illinois, Wyoming, Texas, Minnesota, Florida, Oregon, Washington and Alberta (Canada) have added *CF!* to their services. Staff have been trained at Kentucky's Drug Endangered Child Training Network (31 Family Drug Courts); the Harford County Circuit Court, Maryland; and four new drug courts in Georgia. AND *CF!* is being reviewed for inclusion on the UN Parenting and Family Skill Building Programs!

It is almost unbelievable what a group of dedicated, compassionate, professionals can achieve together! As always I thank you for your support - together we have created an evidence-based, successful program for children and families affected by addiction!

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