



October 2013

Dear Friends & Supporters

It has been another busy year! The above map show just how much *Celebrating Families!™* has grown! So far this year

- Evaluations continue to confirm *Celebrating Families!™* makes a huge difference.
“The court group has a significantly higher reunification rate than the comparison group (45% compared to 19%) and is reunifying at greater than twice the rate of comparison children.” Tulsa County Family Drug Court, Child Welfare Outcomes Report; Brook & Yan. University of Kansas School of Social Welfare; 1/17/2013.
- The 2013 edition of the curriculum was released this summer by NACoA, making all the new, updated materials on bullying, nutrition, and dangers of binge drinking for children and adolescents available to sites. (Thank you again to the Lynch Family Foundation.) For sites that already have the curriculum, a New Activities Booklet is available.
- PPI teams have provided several trainings ranging from Nashville, TN to Santa Cruz, CA, to a large training for six sites (over 50 people) in Iowa in early September.



- PPI continues to work locally to establish a foundation of practice for professionals working with children and families ensuring an understanding of addiction and its impact on child development.

- Our newest and biggest effort this year is the creation of a component of *Celebrating Families!*[™] for families with children ages birth to three. This was not planned! Last March we received a call from Dr. Brook (see earlier research finding) saying several mid-West states are considering implementing *CF!* statewide based on her research. However they would only do so, if *CF!* included a component for families with children ages 0-3. After checking with several other sites, I learned that all our sites had an urgent need for materials for mothers who are pregnant or have very young children. (This is the age group now seeking treatment for addiction and in our Drug Courts.)

This is fabulous – mothers are seeking treatment and recovery early in children’s lives. Two major research initiatives show that helping parents with young children can have significant impact on children’s futures:

“Attachment may be the key to breaking the multi-generational cycle of addiction and abuse.”.

(Felitti, 2003: www.nacoa.org/pdfs/Anda%20NACoA%20Review_web.pdf).

“The ability of effective parenting to override genetic predispositions to risky behaviors demonstrates the capacity of family-centered prevention”(Brody, 2009:

www.niaaa.nih.gov/sites/default/files/disparityBrody.pdf).

We have started work on the curriculum and will pilot it Parisi House on the Hill and EMQ-Families First in Santa Clara County, Janus Perinatal Services in Santa Cruz County, as well as in Iowa.

I thank you for your continuing support.

Rosemary

Rosemary Tisch, Director

Program Developer *Celebrating Families!*

Celebrating Families![™] is a program of NACoA (National Association for Children of Alcoholics.) NACoA offers curriculum materials, technical assistance and training services in collaboration with *CF!* program developers. Contact NACoA at celebratingfamilies@nacoa.org or you can reach me at rstisch@preventionpartnership.us.

www.preventionpartnership.us and www.celebratingfamilies.net

Stories and Evaluation Outcomes – The Impact of *Celebrating Families!*[™]

From Parisi House on the Hill (PHOTH)

“CC” was a struggling Mom. Not willing to parent, having no bond with her child, she was willing to have her mom parent her child. During *CF!* “CC” began to understand that the lack of bonding with her son came from her substance abuse. **She could parent her child.** She began to build a strong bond with her son and learned the importance of protective factors. “CC” increasingly used affirmations with her son. **Through *CF!* she was able to become an interactive, loving parent with boundaries and structure.**

“MT” participated in *Celebrating Families!*[™] with her Dad, mother, grandmother, six-year-old daughter and two-year-old son. “MT” had been homeless and using drugs with her boyfriend. Her children lived with her father. Through attending *CF!*, “MT” came to realize that her relationship with her boyfriend was unhealthy. “MT” asked for help and began to make healthy choices. Although divorced, her parents recognized that communication between them was an important factor in mending a broken family. **This family learned how addiction had affected the family and that it is a family disease.**

Evaluation Studies from EMQ-Families First

As a result of attending *CF!* participants at EMQ-FF (66 parents/caregivers) stated:

- 92% they lose control less than once a week or never when they discipline their child
- 90% they talk to their child every day or several times a week
- 83% hold or cuddle their child every day or several times a week, 50% indicating this was more often since participating in *CF!*
- 79% play with their child several times a week or everyday, 48% indicating this was more often than before participating in *CF!*
- 53% they read to their child every day or several times a week, 50% reported this was more often than before *CF!*

Their comments included: “...it opened my eyes to how addiction can affect my children and ways to change those patterns”; “...respect yourself and your body, stay safe, sober, and clean”; “how to recognize healthy and unhealthy boundaries”; and “how to say affirmations to my children.” *CF!* teaches parents/caregivers to regularly give their children affirmations. Affirmations are short, positive statements which communicate to children they are valued and capable. Affirmations include

I love you! I delight in you! I want to protect you!

I’m glad you are a girl/boy! I delight in watching you grow!