



PREVENTION PARTNERSHIP UPDATE November 2012

"Just want to share how terrific the *Celebrating Families!* program is going! I think it's one of the BEST programs. We laugh a lot over dinner with good conversations. Then we had the groups, which were about the bio-chemical effects of alcohol/drugs and later the families joined up again. Each family was their own team and the teams acted out the emotion they picked. The kids really got into it!

One family acted out lonely. The mom and two little ones separated themselves from the dad and he sat there looking forlorn. And I thought - how great this is as a metaphor for the loneliness of addiction. The separation...as opposed to the joy and connection we were experiencing tonight. It's very interesting, alive, loving and fun. *CF!* changes the face of addiction treatment to be truly inclusive and rewarding. Families love it and so does the community who has been so generous.

IT IS A GREAT PROGRAM."

Annemarie Carangelo, MA, LMSW Director Phoenix House East

Dear Friends & Supporters

It has been another busy year! The highlight was receiving the Vernon Johnson award from Faces and Voices of Recovery in June in Washington D.C. The award was presented by Nora Volkow, MD, Director of the National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA) at the National Institutes of Health. It was an incredible honor having Dr. Volkow present the award as she has been one of the pioneers demonstrating that drug addiction is a disease of the human brain. Dr. Volkow pioneered the use of brain imaging to investigate the toxic effects of drugs and their addictive properties and documented changes in the dopamine system affecting the actions of frontal brain regions.

In addition on a project level,

- *iCelebrando Familias!* is completed and is now available for Spanish speaking families sites throughout the world by National Association for Children of Alcoholics(NACoA).
- A 2013 edition, with all the new materials and new research including information on bullying, more on nutrition, and the dangers of binge drinking for children and adolescents is completed and will be offered by NACoA starting in January. For sites that already have the curriculum a New Activities Booklet is available.



- Working with Rivka Greenberg, Ph.D., and Judith Cohen, Ph.D., PPI completed a new set of evaluation instruments for sites, which are now available through NACoA. Forms include: Fidelity Forms, quality assurance questions for each session, and new formal pre/post instruments.
- Community capacity in Santa Clara County, CA (PPI's home community) continues to expand with EMQ-Families First providing trainings. EMQ-FF, Parisi House on the Hill and Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County will be offering CF! groups this year.
- I continue to provide training from Denver to Santa Cruz this year and to focus on continuing to build national and international interest in family-based services through involvement on National Work Groups, presentations at International and National Conferences, and supporting international replications.

Plans for 2013 include:

- Collaborating with NACoA, continuing to provide training and support for *Celebrating Families!* sites both locally and nationally.
- Updating *Keys to Healthy Living*, a substance abuse prevention classroom curriculum originally developed for the Moscow schools. *Keys* served as the catalyst for *Celebrating Families!* but has not been updated since it was written in 2001. Its focus is children who are at high risk due to their genetics or environment, but where it is difficult or impossible to reach their parents (such as foster children or orphanages in Russia). There has been growing interest in a child-only program, similar to *CF!* to serve this population. However we don't feel comfortable recommending *Keys* until it is updated.
- Establishing a foundation of practice for professionals and organizations working with children and families to ensure that an understanding of addiction and its impact on child development and families is a standard, remaining at the forefront when professionals are implementing best practice models and administering screenings, assessments, interventions and treatment plans. This is an area of growing concern to us as we learn of sites using "evidence based programs" with "our" families – programs which have not been tested or adapted for children of alcoholics/addicts or those with learning disabilities.

***As always I remain thankful and humble for your continuing support.
Happy Thanksgiving!***

Rosemary

Rosemary Tisch, Director, Prevention Partnership International
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.

For more information please email me at rstisch@preventi9onpartnership.us OR see www.preventionpartnership.us and www.celebratingfamilies.net.



**Ladies and Gentlemen, Boys and Girls, Children of all Ages!
Welcome to the Greatest Show on Earth!**

One of tonight's unexpected themes of *CF!* was THE CIRCUS! Little Ruby, one of the wee ones, had apparently gone to the circus this week with her family. Great news, right? Better than drugs. And she was pumped! Accordingly, at the dinner table, Little Ruby spouted out Circus Sayings and with the great enthusiasm of a child, encouraged (ahem, perhaps, insisted) we all chant them with her!

Welcome to the Big Top!

What Ruby didn't know at that moment, was that, out of sheer synchronicity, her prize in the Surprise Box tonight was a Circus Clown nose! And later in the evening, she would have us be Ringmaster once again to her entrance as a clown into the family game room. What's so neat about Ruby's unabashed performance and her requests for attention is this: her audience was drug-free adults and she was in the forum of *Celebrating Families!* where getting your need met for attention (a healthy, normal need) could and would happen!

Celebrating Families! is all about teaching whole families that the alternative to the pathological relationships in addicted families are families where talking, trusting and feeling IS OKAY. Getting your needs met in a healthy way is OKAY too.

Well, funny man George Carlin said, "Just cause you got the monkey off your back doesn't mean the circus has left town". We could take this one of two ways. One interpretation: Just because you stopped using, doesn't mean the rest of the world has stopped. Second interpretation: Just because you stopped using, doesn't mean that life can't be a fun-filled circus in the wonder-filled sense.

In fact, that is how Ruby and the rest of our *CF!* group experienced it this evening once again.

Annemarie Carangelo

