

Dear Friends & Supporters,

What a difference our models make in the lives of children and families!

“I now call my son twice a day. I used to think of calling him once a week.
Now whenever I start to call a friend I call him instead.”¹

We have touched many lives this year and the future of countless children and families both here at home and in Russia - our work with high risk populations was recognized by the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors in August of this year. Why? Because our programs:

- **Save money** – *Celebrating Families!* reduces the time to reunification resulting in significant systems savings.
- **Change lives** -
 - Family Treatment Drug Court staff report that *Celebrating Families!* reduces relapse by parents and eventual chemical dependency of their children, positively impacts and strengthens parent/child relationships and raises parents’ awareness of the effects of substance abuse.
 - Families reunify faster.
 - Children and parents learn healthy living skills.
 - Children and parents learn about chemical dependency and how it has impacted their lives.
 - Children’s ability to connect with safe people, to identify and appropriately express feelings, to use coping skills in stressful situations, to control their anger and to make decision and solve problems – all increase.
- **Help families heal**

**“This group is different – this is not another parenting class.
This is a class on being a family!”¹**

As always I’m happy to meet with you, just call or email. There is much to be done and we need your financial support! All donations are always appreciated and help!

Thank you!

Rosemary Tisch, Director

Donations made to Prevention Partnership International are tax-deductible through the parent nonprofit, Family Resources International.

¹ From Parent Focus Group.

Fall 2004 Update

Keys for Healthy Living (Russia)

The Moscow's Mayor's Social Services Delegation on their return to Moscow immediately signed a contract with OPORA making *Keys to Healthy Living* the official prevention curriculum for all Moscow Children's Shelters and agreed to send staff for 3 years of training. (At least 80% of the children served by the shelters have parents who cannot care for them due to alcohol or drug abuse.) OPORA has also trained 29 people from cities across Russia, who are implementing *Keys* in schools and orphanages. What's next for PPI?

- Completion of Phase Two of *Keys* adding materials on HIV/AIDS.
- Training of trainers on *Celebrating Families!* and the new *Keys* materials for OPORA staff

*"Shelters and orphanages are open doors for Keys and Celebrating Families!
These people (social services) know and trust our California partners."*

Irina Yakubova

We have already received full funding for this work from Bernard A. Newcomb Foundation at Peninsula Community Foundation with additional support to help us develop Family Resources International's' Organizational Capacity.

Celebrating Families! (US)

We are working on replication with four local sites: Friends Outside, House on the Hill, EMQ, and Family Treatment Drug Court. Next year we will apply for a large grant to qualify *Celebrating Families!* as a Promising Program. This is an urgently needed step as there are no programs for children of alcoholics/addicts presently listed! Several sites outside of California have expressed interest and Children of Alcoholics Foundation in New York has endorsed our work. And, there is growing interest in *Celebrating Families!* -- both nationally and internationally:

- I presented at *Putting the Pieces Together*, the first US national conference on the relationship of child welfare and substance abuse in July 2004 and at the 23rd Annual UC Davis Western Regional Child Abuse and Neglect Conference at UC Davis.
- Giorgio Quittan (author of the San Jose State study) and I will be presenting at the 2004 International Council on Alcoholism and Addictions: *Visions for the Future* in Venice, Italy in November.

Research is beginning to validate the effectiveness of *Celebrating Families!* A study of the impact of *Celebrating Families!* on reunification timelines showed length of time children are in Child Welfare System (CWS) statistically significantly decreased to 6 -12 months with *Celebrating Families!* from 13-18 months in Drug Court without *Celebrating Families!* and 19-24 months in traditional CWS.²

Wow! Rosemary and her colleagues have surely set the standard with this comprehensive, clear, step-by-step, in-depth guide to family education about addiction. This encyclopedic curriculum should be the starting point for beginners and advanced group leaders, educators, counselors and the criminal justice system -- anyone who wants to intervene positively with adults and children to build healthy families. *Celebrating Families!* is richly layered on a solid base of research, practical experience and evaluation. This is a curriculum that works.

Stephanie Brown, Ph.D. 10/15/04

² Giorgio A. Quittan, "An Evaluation of the Impact of the *Celebrating Families!* Program and Family Drug Treatment Court (FTDC) on Parents receiving Family Reunification Services." Partial Fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Social Work, Social Work 298 Special Project, Presented to the Faculty of the College of Social Work San Jose State University.

