

2003 has been quite a year!

- We developed and successfully piloted *Celebrating Families!* -- the substance abuse prevention education/support group for Family Drug Treatment Court. Preliminary evaluation of the children's groups shows "strong agreement" that
 - Their parents' alcoholism/addiction is not their fault.
 - They are not alone. There are other kids like them with addicted parents.
 - They have an adult they can talk to. (This is a significant protective factor.)
 - They know how to choose and keep safe friends.
 - All (!) children say that using drugs or alcohol - even once in a while - is very harmful.

- And Judge Len Edwards asked Rosemary and Deborah Dohse (Coordinator of Celebrating Families! for Social Services) to accompany him to the January meeting of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges to explain the program allowing other courts to have the opportunity to replicate *Celebrating Families!*.

- Our curriculum, *Keys to Healthy Living*, has been translated, "Russianized" and successfully piloted in child welfare centers. It will be piloted this winter in schools.

- Irina Yakubova, Co-Director of OPORA and her colleague, Irina Osokina, Deputy Chief of the Social Protection Department of the City of Moscow and ex-member of the Moscow Duma visited in August. Since their visit:
 - OPORA has been officially invited to train staff in all children's centers in Moscow (including street children shelters) on prevention and implementation of the *Keys* curriculum.
 - The Mayor of Moscow sent a delegation of 16 high level officials (the heads of each of district's Social Welfare Department) to visit San Jose, Ca. The City of Moscow allocated \$20,000 for this visit, an unheard of amount, according to the American Co-Director of OPORA. This was an "once in a life time experience":
 - After spending time with Judge Len Edwards in the morning and the afternoon with the Dept. of Alcohol & Drug Services, the leader of the delegation said "we didn't understand why you wanted us to spend so much time on alcoholism, as we as social services administrators. Now we understand that the problems we are working on are related to alcohol."
 - After seeing the Juvenile Treatment Court and the care and concern they showed for teens they said "we now understand we must do something about the alcohol."

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The Russian delegates have much work to do, but I believe they left with the foundation of a better understanding of the disease of addiction and that people (and families) can and do recover. They saw that systems can change. And they built their own work/personal relationships from this trip and their experiences here. (They were asked by one of the leaders to "not drink much" because they were here to learn about prevention. By the end of the week they were talking about how they had learned that could have a good time without drinking all the time and how much better they felt!)

- Several Rotary clubs and Santa Clara - Moscow Sister County Commission are now partnering with us regarding our prevention work in Russia.
- We have a web site (www.preventionpartnership.us)!

Our programs work!

One of the primary concepts for our children's group is

Chemical dependency is a disease. You (the child) do not cause it, cannot cure it, and cannot control your parents' addiction. You can learn to take care of yourself.

We are excited to see these spontaneous responses by the children on our post test:

True/False Statements	Children's Spontaneous Responses
<i>I can help my parent stop drinking if I try hard enough</i>	"I can't cure it!"
<i>I can change how other people feel.</i>	"I can't control it."
<i>I can make healthy choices for myself.</i>	"I can take care of myself."

Parents, in a focus group of parents led by outside evaluators, say:

<p><i>"This parenting class has given me so many tools to use now and in the future. The things I've learned here have taught me and my children how to continue to live in a safe and healthy environment and have helped me, as well, to deal with issues of chemical dependency and what it does to adults, as well as to children. I would like to thank everyone. I wish you success in your life and God Bless You.</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Always grateful, Angelina G</i></p>
<p><i>"This program is about healing my family. It's different from all the other parenting programs I have attended. "</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Victoria</i></p>
<p><i>"I just want to say thank you for everything that you have done for me to be a better person towards my children. I really got a lot of good from this class. "</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Lisa</i></p>

There is much yet to be done and we need your financial support!

- PPI has received a grant covering most of the costs of replicating *Celebrating Families!* However, \$20,000 is needed to evaluate replications, to offer supply kits of videos and children's literature, and to provide supervision and mentoring support for replication sites.
- We need to complete *Keys to Healthy Living*. \$130,000 will cover the costs of Year II and III curriculum development and related trainings in Moscow.

Your donations can be designated to a particular project. For example

- \$1,000 sponsors one supply kit (videos and children's books) for a replication site.
- \$5,000 underwrites the evaluation cost for *Celebrating Families!* replication.
- \$30,000 underwrites the cost of trainings in Moscow.
- \$50,000 underwrites the cost of curriculum development for one year for *Keys for Healthy Living*.

I'm delighted to talk with you personally and to answer any questions you might have. My home phone is 408-395-6449; message/cell phone is 408-406-0467; and email rstisch@aol.com.

All donations are always appreciated and help!

Thank you!

Donations made to Prevention Partnership International are tax-deductible through the parent nonprofit, Family Resources International. Please click on "Yes I'd like to donate" on the home page for a donor form.