

"*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.

"*Celebrating Families!*™ is an excellent family skills training program for parents in early recovery.

Karol L. Kumpfer, Ph.D.



It is exciting and humbling to watch the growth of *Celebrating Families!*™ Interest continues to grow exponentially with *Celebrating Families!*™ (CF!) now recognized as uniquely effective program helping families troubled by substance abuse. As announced in the attached news release, May 1 *Celebrating Families!*™ was transferred as our gift to the National Association for Children of Alcoholics (NACoA). With NACoA's leadership, *Celebrating Families!*™ is now poised for national distribution. At the same time Friends Outside in Santa Clara County has become the lead agency in Santa Clara County, CA providing leadership and training where the program was developed.

Our local sites (EMQ-Addiction Prevention Services, ARH-Parisi House On the Hill, and Friends Outside) have been critical to our success. According to our records, as of January 2007 over 600 families had received CF! services. Adding known new sites (Alliance for Drug Endangered Children in Georgia and Kentucky and new sites in Hanford and Marysville, CA) more than 1,000 families will be receiving services this year. In addition:

- A joint three-hour pre-conference workshop by NACoA and PPI at the national conference of the National Association for Drug Court Professionals in Washington D.C.
- Partnership with First 5 continues with its staff referring families from every court to *Celebrating Families!*™ and sponsorship of a three-day training from MACSA, and Community Solutions to increase availability of services in Morgan Hill/Gilroy and with the Spanish speaking communities.

What difference does *Celebrating Families!*™ make? According to our evaluation studies:

- Reunification time is significantly decreased
- Number of families reunified increases
- There is a very large effect on parenting
- CF! is effective with Hispanic families "indicating that CF! may be effective among different ethnic groups and a valuable resource for working in ethnically diverse communities. Similar programs might learn from the strategies and curriculum offered by CF!."
- Participants learn and apply new parenting and healthy living skills.

If you are working with children of substance abusers I encourage you to read the website (www.celebratingfamilies.net) or contact Steve Hornberger at NACoA to learn more (888-554-2627 or shornberger@nacoa.org). I thank you for your interest in children of alcoholics/addicts and *Celebrating Families!*™