



February 2010

2009 was an exciting and full year. Here are some of the highlights:

1. *¡Celebrando Familias!* (*¡CF!*) – the Spanish version of *Celebrating Families!* (*CF!*) – was translated, piloted and evaluated. Evaluation findings include:

A. Significant impact on family functioning

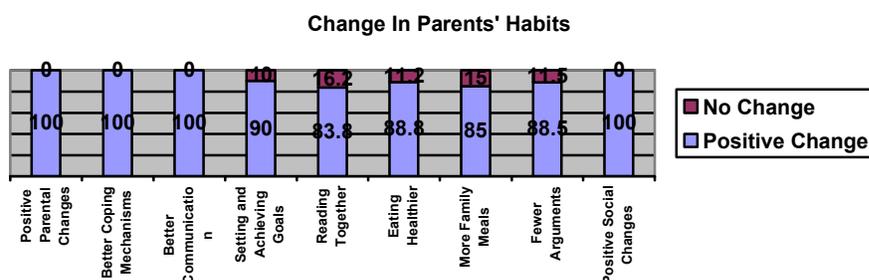
- Group leaders reported 100% increase in parents' understanding of substance abuse and its relationship to child abuse and observed improvement in 12 of 13 family areas. The two areas showing the highest interval of change were:
  - I practice Acts of Kindness
  - I am able to center.
- Parents indicated significant improvement in use of "effective positive discipline" with
  - 99% reporting that "they felt more informed about how to be a better parent."
  - Dorsa School parents reported positive change in 9 of 10 areas measured:
    - 89% indicating they praise their children more.
    - 83% were more likely to talk with their child(ren).
    - 68% were more likely to hold or cuddle their child(ren).
    - 75% were less likely to scold/yell at their child(ren).
    - 72% were more likely to teach their child(ren) new things.
    - 63% were more like to play with their child(ren).
    - 58% reporting they did not spank or slap their children at completion of *¡CF!*. Of parents who still spanked or slapped their children, 37% reported that it was less often that before attending *¡CF!*.
    - 53% were more likely to read to their child(ren).
  - At the Oklahoma site, with parents in recovery 100% responded that *¡CF!* had affected their recovery "a lot".

B. Significant impact on Developmental Assets or Protective Factors:

- 80% increase in number of meals eaten as a family.
- 80% increase in participants' ability to connect with safe people.
- 70% increase in participants' ability to identify and appropriately express feelings.
- 80% increase in participants' service to others.

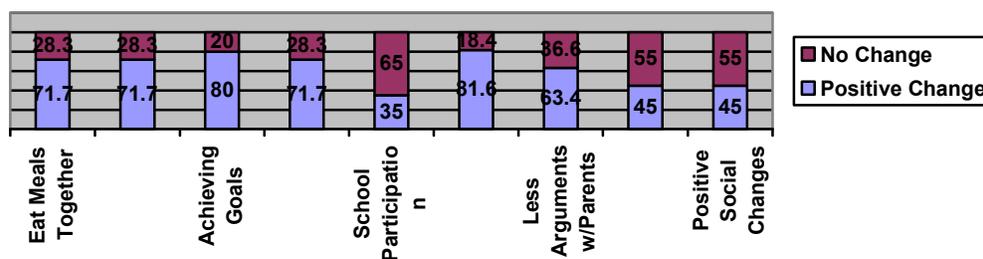
C. An unexpected outcome was recognition that the program is effective as a primary prevention program for at-risk families, as well as families with identified substance abuse problems. (Dorsa school served parents that did not have identified substance abuse problems.

2. There are now over 53 *Celebrating Families!* sites nationwide which PPI in partnership with NACoA trains and supports. One site in Sacramento - Bridges, The STARS program – shared their evaluation data, documenting the kinds of change in families our programs support: The evaluator notes that "no change also meant that the question did not apply to them".





**Change In Children's Habits**



- In September PPI hosted the first *Celebrating Families!* Summit, with support from Charter Oak and FHL Foundations. The Summit included: (a) a presentation on *Increasing Healthy Attachment for Children & Families*, with Dr. Douglas Goldsmith; (b) A “sold-out” dinner, co-sponsored by Ming’s Chinese Cuisine, with panel discussion of *The Importance of Family Focused Services*; and (c) A retreat with *CF!* sites to discuss curriculum and attachment-based activities.

Thanks to the volunteer efforts of a many Advisory Board Members and financial support from you, I am able for the first time to dream about what PPI can achieve in 2010! Here are our plans:

- To complete the cultural adaptation of *¡Celebrando Familias!*
- To continue to build community capacity in Santa Clara County by underwriting the training of new staff and parent graduates from Dorsa School (San Jose, CA).
- To create a *CF!* Activity Supplement incorporating attachment-based activities and updates (thanks to underwriting by Hurlbut-Johnson Foundation). The supplement will be distributed to all existing sites and given to NACoA for national distribution.
- To develop a package of recommended evaluation instruments, preparing for a multi-site evaluation study, costs underwritten by Hurlbut-Johnson Foundation. We are still not pleased with the instruments we have - they are too long and difficult for clients, and we believe, not effective in adequately measuring changes in children and families.
- To continue building national and international interest in family-based services through involvement on National Work Groups, presentations at International and National Conferences, and supporting international replications.

Why do I stay committed? Read through the stories sites shared at the Summit this Fall in the attached booklet!

Families are hurting; children are hurting; substance abuse disorders are destroying families (and I believe communities). This week Sharon DiPirre-Beard, Program Coordinator for Dependency Drug Courts in Sacramento, said

*Celebrating Families! is what has been missing. It gives the children a voice.  
 Celebrating Families! helps fix families.*

I thank you for your support and remain happy to answer questions.

**Rosemary**

Rosemary Tisch, Director