

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

### Mission Statement

*The Children, Youth, and Family Consortium was established in fall 1991 in an effort to bring together the varied competencies of the University of Minnesota and the vital resources of Minnesota's communities to enhance the ability of individuals and organizations to address critical health, education, and social policy concerns in ways that improve the well-being of Minnesota children, youth, and families.*

## Resiliency and Risk in Communities of Color

*Pete Rode, Research Director, The Urban Coalition*

There is a lot of excitement about the search for ingredients that strengthen resiliency in youth—the capacity to thrive, be emotionally healthy and avoid destructive behavior in spite of very difficult circumstances. Understanding resiliency has special importance for adolescents of color, who often grow up not only in poverty but also with messages from the larger culture that tear away at confidence and self-worth.

The Urban Coalition, working with the U of MN's Adolescent Health Program, has joined the search. Our study focuses on three outcome variables representing feelings and behavior: emotional stress, suicide risk, and delinquency. Using survey data on 7th-12th grade students from Minneapolis and St. Paul, we tried to identify the small number of factors and life experiences that uniquely and significantly influenced each of the outcome variables. The analysis was done separately for African American, American Indian, Asian, Chicano/Latino and white youth.

The study found, for example, that four factors significantly influenced emotional stress in all five racial/ethnic groups. Adolescents who said that they were bored ("nothing interesting to do"), who had negative feelings about their bodies, and who were worried about violence had much higher levels of emotional stress. On the other hand, strong family connectedness reduced emotional stress. Young people who said they had lots of fun with their families and who felt that their families cared about and understood them reported much less emotional stress.

Only two factors significantly influenced suicide risk in all five racial/ethnic groups. Persons with high emotional stress and with recent serious mental health/emotional problems in their families appeared to be at greater risk of suicide. In some groups, but not all, suicide risk was also greater among adolescents who had experienced physical abuse, who had certain physical health problems, and who expressed an unwillingness to seek help from anyone about emotional or relationship concerns. On the other hand, in the American Indian and Chicano/Latino communities, those who considered themselves to be a religious or spiritual person were much less likely to report suicidal thoughts or attempts.

In general, many of the factors identified as having an impact on the outcome variables are linked to personal relationships and to the adolescent's sense of belonging. This suggests to us that two paths of activism must come together to bring about real improvements in the health and well-being of adolescents. The structural issues—such as creating good jobs, health insurance, education, job training, tax reform and more—must move ahead. But they must be joined by programs and policies that address this fundamental need for caring and belonging, as well as other risk and protective factors discussed in the study. ■

*The full report, "Resiliency and Risk Among Young People of Color," is available by calling the Urban Coalition at 612/348-8550 or by writing to 2610 University Avenue West, Suite 201, St. Paul, MN 55114. The Coalition is a research and public policy advocacy organization working with low-income people and communities of color.*

## Consortium Connections

*Consortium Connections* is published three times a year (Winter, Spring, and Fall) by the Children, Youth, and Family Consortium: A University and Community Collaboration.

**Publication Staff:** Martha Farrell Erickson, Deborah Fravel, Marian Heinrichs, Jan Joannides

### Office:

Children, Youth and Family Consortium  
University of Minnesota  
12 McNeal Hall, 1985 Buford Avenue  
St. Paul, MN 55108  
612/626-1212 Fax 612/626-1210

*The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity employer and educator*

### Consortium Steering Committee

**Sheila Ards** Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, U of MN

**Robert Blum** Adolescent Health Program, U of MN

**Geraldine Kearsa Brookins\*** School of Social Work, U of MN

**Robert Bruininks** College of Education, U of MN

**Richard Byrne** Minnesota Extension Service, 4-H Youth Development, U of MN

**John Couchman** The St. Paul Foundation

**Carol Ericson** Roseville Public Schools

**Donald Fraser** Institute of Politics, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University

**Harold Grotevant\*** Family Social Science, U of MN

**Carolyn Hendrixson** Congregations Concerned for Children

**Jan Hively** College of Education, U of MN

**Karen Kurz-Riemer** Consultant

**Colleen Landkammer** Commissioner, Blue Earth County

**Marilyn Larson\*** Community Connectors Institute

**Lee Luebbe** Luebbe Consulting Services

**Jeanne Markell** Agriculture, Forestry, and Home Economics Administration, U of MN

**Wanda Miller** St. Paul Public Schools

**Jane Ranum** Senator, Minnesota State Senate

**John Red Horse** College of Liberal Arts, University of Minnesota - Duluth

**Jack Rossmann** Psychology Department, Macalester College

**David Sanders** Children & Family Services, Hennepin County

**Sharon Sayles Belton** Mayor, City of Minneapolis

**Mary Ann Smith** MN Coalition of Family Organizations

**Patricia Torres Ray** State Office of Ombudsman for Families

**Richard Weinberg\*** Institute of Child Development, U of MN

*(Members with \* also serve on the Executive Committee)*

### Consortium Staff

**Martha Farrell Erickson** Director

**Marian Heinrichs** Assistant Coordinator

**Jan Joannides** Office Manager

**Jane Anne Bennett** Administrative Fellow

**Deborah Lewis Fravel** Administrative Fellow

## Employment Development for Native American Youth

*Tony LookingElk, ANISHINABE Council of Job Developers, Inc.*

*“Let us put our minds together and see what life we will make for our children”  
—Sitting Bull*

One of the basic concepts of program planning is assessing where you are today and where would you like to be tomorrow. As I began my work with young Native Americans, I realized how “privileged” my life has been. I grew up with both parents at home (a home they own), both parents employed (blue collar jobs) and I graduated from high school. These may not seem out of the ordinary for the audience reading this but for the Native American youth I work with there is a very good chance that none of these things will be realized.

The statistics on the Native American population are disturbing and humbling. The Native American population experiences the highest dropout rate, highest unemployment, highest poverty level, and lowest educational attainment of any ethnic group. These statistics require any program offering Native Americans services to rethink how their efforts are addressing these problems. ANISHINABE Council of Job Developers (ACJD) has been addressing employment issues for economically disadvantaged Native Americans for ten years. In 1993 ACJD’s youth program created an internship model linking business, education and social services together to provide a holistic approach in providing quality employment opportunities to Native American youth.

ACJD’s youth program provides a field experience partnership based on the young person’s interests and takes an interactive approach to career education. The strength of this program is how we connect and understand the youths’ lives outside of the program. The counseling aspect of this program provides resources, referrals and continuous contact throughout the internship. A young person’s life can become very fragmented. Home, friends, and school tend to ask for different things from a young person and can create stress and problems. Issues young people have to deal with include: family relationships, friendships, peer pressure, violence, poverty, chemical dependency, alcohol, teen pregnancy, racism and discrimination. ACJD’s “coach” works with young people to help them understand their issues and the effects they have on their lives, and then helps to develop possible solutions.

This approach has provided us with a system of checks and balances that can offer a sense of advocacy and security to our youth. For example, last year a young person’s attendance dropped off sharply during her internship. Our interaction with the young person allowed her to share a situation where she felt sexually harassed during her internship by a fellow youth. Our intervention produced actions by the worksite to address the issue and provide training to all staff. The young person felt her worksite cared and responded to the issue, and she felt comfortable returning to work. Had our interaction not been continuous, the young person would not have returned, and unfortunately, would have accepted the blame for the incident. While this is an extreme scenario, this is the type of issue in which young people need assistance and guidance in developing solutions.

The culture of the Native American youth and its relationship with mainstream culture is one area where questions are raised by both participants and supervisors. Supervisors become overly sensitive to the point of embarrassment. Often citing any differences in behavior, attitudes or methods as something “Native American,” they rarely look to other aspects of their environment for explanations. At other times they overlook problems and differences, feeling that if they don’t openly recognize them, they are safe from mistakes. However, this process doesn’t allow for acceptance and understanding—vital points in working in a multicultural environment. Many books and training programs are available that help people learn about “Native Americans,” but rarely will these be understood until one applies and evaluates one’s knowledge. The ACJD program allows both the youth and the organizations involved to begin that process. ■

# Connection Corner

■ The College of Education Diversity Committee at the University of Minnesota has compiled a list of courses within the College of Education that deal with issues of multicultural education, diversity and oppression. Examples of courses include: Cross-Cultural Child Development; Curriculum and Culture; Language, Cultures, and Education; Methods of Teaching Visually Handicapped Students; and Women in Sports and Leisure. If you would like a copy of this preliminary list which includes over 50 course listings, please write or call the Consortium office.

■ PACER Center will offer a free workshop about how the U.S. Rehabilitation Act affects persons with disabilities and their families on Thursday, June 2 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Courage Center, 3915 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley. Project PRIDE (PACER Rehabilitation Act Information & Disability Education) will emphasize information and training on the Act, appeal proceedings and civil rights issues. The Client Assistance Project (CAP) will also explain its program. To preregister or for more information, call PACER Center at 612/827-2966, Voice TDD. PACER is a statewide, nonprofit information and training center for parents of children and young adults with all disabilities.

■ New Project to Aid Teens with Disabilities. A new project at PACER Center, Minneapolis, is helping African-American families of children ages 14-21 with disabilities get the training and supports the youths will need after high school. Project Youth

will provide training about self-advocacy, legal rights and adult services for teens with mental retardation, other disabilities and chronic health issues such as hemophilia, severe asthma, cystic fibrosis, sickle-cell anemia, spina bifida, etc. African-American teens or their families can receive information about transition planning by contacting Beverly Price at PACER, 612/827-2966. All services, including workshops, individual assistance and written materials are free.

■ The Roundtable on Youth Without Permanent Shelter is a metro-wide coalition of individuals and agencies whose mission is to provide a forum for dialogue among service providers and the community that will lead toward the goal that all youth have a safe and respectful place to live and to receive the assistance they desire. This coalition works to fulfill its mission by working in partnership with youth to address the root causes that lead to homelessness, and they create greater sensitivity and awareness in their communities about the needs and issues concerning youth without permanent shelter. For information on upcoming events call Barbara Stone at 612/227-2637 ext. 3063.

■ Girls & Girlhood: A Perilous Path is an exhibition that will run from October 15 to November 12, 1994. Organized and presented by UNICEF, this exhibition has the goal of raising the awareness about the situation of girls throughout the world and to support change in regard to their rights and education. The exhibition will be held in Dayton's 12th Floor Gallery at 700 Nicollet Mall in Minneapolis. The exhibit combines the arts of storytelling, book and graphic illustration, painting, stage scenery, photography, and video to guide the viewer through the maze of various stages of a girl's development from Prebirth and Birth; Infancy and Early Childhood; Childhood; and Adolescence through Teenage Years. For information on being included on the mailing list or getting involved in the planning for the exhibition, please call Susan Hill Gross at 612/644-1727.

■ PATH, a private nonprofit treatment foster care agency with offices in Minnesota and Wisconsin, is looking for faculty members, researchers, or graduate students who are interested in conducting research related to treatment foster care. PATH is one of the largest and oldest treatment foster care programs in North America and has extensive data resources. For a copy of their research prospectus that describes some of the issues PATH is interested in working on with others, and for more information call Kendra Brooks, Director of Development and Research at 612/641-0455.

*If you have items for Connection Corner please send them to the Consortium office. Deadline for the Fall newsletter is September 15, 1994.*

## Six Principles for Developing Family Friendly Policy

*Developed by  
MN Coalition of Family Organizations*

1. Reinforce family, parental, and marital commitment and stability, especially when children are involved.
2. Strengthen families' ability to manage and fulfill their own functions.
3. Recognize the strengths and persistence of family ties.
4. Treat families as partners when providing services to each individual.
5. Recognize the diversity of family life.
6. Give top priorities to families in greatest economic need, social need, or those most vulnerable to breakdown.

*MN COFO 612/625-5703*

### Child Advocates Hot Line

**1-800-626-6108**

**Twin Cities Area: 871-1473**

Call for action & events for children

## A Tribute to Experience: Two Long Time Child Advocates Retire

Marian Heinrichs, CYF Consortium

This year two long term child advocates will be retiring from the University of Minnesota. While we will miss them very much, we know that even in their retirement they will continue to be strong voices for children.

Erna Fishhaut has been Program Coordinator of the Center for Early Education and Development at the University of Minnesota since 1973. Among the myriad of activities she has coordinated and planned is Project CEED (Continuing Education in Early Development) which provided five states with seminars, public forums, and community education for professionals and parents.

FACT FIND is another vital project Erna has spearheaded. This project established and maintained a link between the University of Minnesota and the Minnesota State Legislature, keeping legislators informed on issues of child development. Erna has also coordinated the wonderfully successful Minnesota Round Tables in Early Education. These conferences have brought together national and state leaders in child development, early education, special education and social work. In addition to developing and conducting several courses on day care and child development, Erna has been a prolific writer, particularly as editor of Early Report and FACT FIND Fact Sheets.

Erna's involvement in the Consortium began in its very early days. She was a



Erna Fishhaut (right) and Mary Lou Gilstad at the 1990 CEED Round Table.

part of the original retreat in which the plans for the Consortium were developed. Erna coordinated a series of Coffee Klatches that were co-sponsored by the Consortium and CEED. She has been actively engaged in many of the Consortium's activities, including the Advocacy Workgroup, has been a valuable resource, especially in the area of children's policy, and has provided important material for the Consortium Electronic Clearinghouse.

Erna will be starting her retirement on July 1 and intends to spend her time with family, traveling and generally enjoying life. We will remember Erna as a strong advocate of children and their caregivers. It has been through her understanding of and great respect for children and families that she has been able to accomplish so much.

Mary Lou Gilstad began her career as a training developer and coordinator with Continuing Education at the University of Minnesota over 21 years ago. Her first project was with Headstart Training Program for the Metropolitan area and central Minnesota. Later she worked with day care centers to develop credit training for workers and with in-home services to develop training programs for paraprofessionals who worked with families in their homes. Mary Lou has worked with the U.S. Army Child Development Services to develop a child abuse prevention program for workers in their day care centers. For the last five years, she has provided training for foster parents in 25 counties.

Mary Lou has been an active participant in the Consortium's activities, particularly in the Teaching Workgroup and has been co-facilitator for the last year.

Over the years, Mary Lou has learned that the University and community can form effective partnerships. These partnerships have been important in all of her projects, bringing together paraprofessionals and professionals in the community with University faculty and the foundations who support the project. Such a partnership brings the resources of the University to the community but it also introduces the faculty to aspects of the community they may not have known about.

Mary Lou will begin her retirement this summer, but in no way is she slowing down. With her husband, Dick, she will be starting a small business doing consulting; she also intends to teach and write. She is excited about an upcoming project to help 911 operators become more supportive of each other, thereby reducing some of the stress in their jobs.

Mary Lou will be missed by all of us who have worked with her. Her commitment to children and families, and the individuals who work with them has been an inspiration to us. We will always remember the kindness and genuine concern that Mary Lou shows to all people she meets. ■

### Violence and Children: A Few Facts

from the Children's Defense Fund-MN

- Between 1979 and 1991, almost 50,000 American children were killed by guns. More American children died from firearms on the killing fields of America than American soldiers died on the killing fields of Vietnam.
- Twice as many American children under 10 were killed by firearms in 1991 as American soldiers were killed in the Persian Gulf and Somalia combined. An American child is 15 times as likely to be killed by gunfire as a child growing up in Northern Ireland.
- Twenty-five American children—a classroom full—are killed by guns every two days.
- In 1990, 560 American 10- to 14-year-old children died from guns. This was twice the number of handgun deaths of citizens of all ages in all of Sweden, Switzerland, Japan, Canada, Great Britain, and Australia combined that year.

---

## Parent Education Initiatives in the Southeast Asian Community

Dan Detzner, Department of Family Social Science, U of MN and Blong Xiong, Extension Educator, Dakota County

More than 50,000 Southeast Asian refugees have resettled in Minnesota during the past 20 years, most in the Twin Cities area. Many of these families are living below or near the poverty level. They confront a variety of adaptation barriers such as language, post traumatic stress, unemployment, generational adaptation differences, and unfamiliar social, political, and educational systems. Adjustment is a long-term issue, not only for the new arrivals, but also for the host communities as well. A recent increase in arrests amongst Southeast Asian youth and a rapid growth in youth gangs in the Twin Cities has caused alarm amongst many observers. Public images of the "model minority" are beginning to clash with the on-going difficulties of resettlement for this latest American immigrant group.

Discussions with County Extension Educators, program staff at the United Cambodian Association of Minnesota, the Southeast Asian Coalition for Youth and Families (SACCYF), focus groups with Southeast Asian parents and youth, and life history interviews with Vietnamese, Cambodian, Hmong, and Lao elders indicate that many of the adults feel that they have lost control of their children. Leaders in the community, program staff working in non-profits who serve refugees, and other concerned observers have repeatedly called for a culturally sensitive curricula on bicultural parenting for Southeast Asian families to help bridge the void developing between the younger and older generations. Although a number of efforts to reach parents and families have been attempted in the Twin Cities area, there appears to be a consensus that these programs fall short of the desired outcomes due to inappropriate or culturally irrelevant materials and delivery systems.

Blong Xiong, a Hmong American Extension Educator in Dakota County, has recently received an Innovative Grant from the Minnesota Extension Service (MES) to pilot a program focused on parents of Vietnamese and Laotian adolescents age 11-19 in Dakota County. He is working with Sue Devich from MELD (MN Early Learning Development), and Ron Pitzer

from MES on this project. However, funding is limited, the program does not involve Hmong or Cambodian parents, and it does not address parenting issues for the pre-teenaged children. An Outreach Proposal was recently granted to Dan Detzner, a faculty member in the Family Social Science Department (U of MN) by the Dean's Office in the College of Human Ecology to complement the Innovative Grant and prepare the way for a more comprehensive proposal designed to reach broadly throughout the Twin Cities Southeast Asian community.

The primary goals of the combined efforts of these projects are to assess the status of parent and family education programs for Southeast Asian refugees in the metropolitan area and the literature on cross cultural parenting; to determine who are the target populations and what are the most appropriate methods for reaching them; and, to design, develop, and pilot a culturally sensitive bicultural parenting curriculum aimed at reaching families with culturally relevant parent education program(s).

The action plan for these projects includes an assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of existing parenting programs in the metro area and elsewhere. A review of the research literature on cross cultural parenting will help to frame this effort in the limited knowledge base developed in this area. In addition to examining current practices, we will assess the interest of ethnic Mutual Assistance Associations, non-profit organizations, and churches serving this population to work cooperatively on a larger scale project. Appropriate alternative delivery mechanisms for a parent education program need to be studied. There are several possibilities for distance delivery, including a program on parenting in multiple Southeast Asian languages to be offered on cable television or the infusion of parenting content into the English as a Second Language programs aimed at adults.

Our long-range goal is to work collaboratively with others to develop a comprehensive parent education curriculum grounded in the experiences and needs of families that is delivered throughout the Southeast Asian community. ■

---

## Children in Rumania - A Special Presentation

On June 1, the CYF Consortium and Worldspan will sponsor a colloquium presented by Dr. Violeta Stan, a child psychiatrist from Rumania who is spending several months in the Twin Cities as a participant in the Twin Cities International Program. Since earning her medical degree in 1980, Dr. Stan has worked as a pediatrician, a neuro-psychiatrist, and a professor of child psychiatry. In addition to her medical work, she currently is president of Save the Children in her home town of Timisoara, Rumania.



In this colloquium, Dr. Stan will discuss her search for knowledge during the days of censorship and book-banning, her participation in the Rumanian revolution of 1989, and the realization of her vision to create the "House with Open Windows" for abandoned infants. With slides, traditional Rumanian music, and a passionate description of her work on behalf of the children of Rumania, Dr. Stan provides a wonderful example of child advocacy in the face of

oppressive circumstances. The Colloquium will be from 3 - 5 pm in the Minnesota Commons Room, St. Paul Student Center (1980 Buford Avenue), on the University of Minnesota's St. Paul Campus.

Come and hear this inspiring and informative presentation! For further information call the Consortium office at 612/626-1212. ■

---

## Lessons on Diversity

Editor's Note: *Following are excerpts from a paper written by Juan C. Moreno, Donna M. Hauer, and Linda M. Wolford of the Student Diversity Institute at the U of MN entitled "What We Have Learned Thus Far: Reflections on Human Oppression Work at the University of Minnesota." The paper is printed in its entirety on the Consortium Electronic Clearinghouse and copies are available through the Consortium.*

The Student Diversity Institute was established in January 1992 in order to meet an emerging developmental need in the area of diversity programming for a "next state" center. The primary focus of this new venture was to generate and disseminate knowledge about the interconnectedness of all areas of human oppression and privilege as well as develop innovative strategies to build authentic community while embracing human differences. The working mission of the Institute has been since its inception, "to actively promote the multicultural development of students."

The Institute has fulfilled this mission by designing and implementing innovative strategies that seek to empower, challenge, inspire, liberate, and ultimately transform individuals from the fears and prejudices that hinder the achievement of their full potential. The Institute has also served as a center for community transformation where issues of human differences are acknowledged, appreciated, and celebrated. The Institute's many services have included training, workshops, consultations, advocacy, internships, research, and small grants.

What follows is a partial list of insights we have distilled as a result of wrestling with these issues over the past two years:

- Power and oppression are interrelated. Power combined with prejudice leads to oppression. Power, however, is both personal and institutional, and either form can be used to dehumanize others.
- Most humans have not experienced interactions based on equality. We lack a reservoir of experiences to help us establish relationships with one another that are not about domination ("up-ness") and subordination ("down-ness").
- All societies assign both unearned privilege as well as unearned prejudice to various aspects of our biology, our history, and our culture. We are generally more aware of the dynamics of prejudice in our lives than we are of the dynamics of privilege.

- In the area of human oppression we are all involved both as victims and as villains. It may be (sadly) a fact of human nature that "ups" want to remain "ups" while "downs" want to become "ups." In a paradoxical way, victimization may have rewards for both the villain as well as the victim.
- Liberation from oppression is in the very nature of things. The oppressed do not tolerate their position indefinitely. The human spirit always longs for dignity, respect, equality, and freedom.
- Education is better than ignorance. In the paradoxical nature of oppression, however, much human suffering and oppression has been carried-out by persons who have also been highly educated.
- There appears to be a strong correlation between competence and inclusion. The greater the sense of inclusion (mattering) that a person feels in a group, the greater the person's sense of competence and vice versa.
- Persons traditionally excluded from a particular group face the additional burden and expectation of being teachers, spokespersons, and experts on

their marginalized status.

- We tend to remember more vividly experiences of marginality than those of inclusion.
- Like many other things in the human experience, the centerpiece of diversity is complexity.
- People fear what is unfamiliar or what they don't understand.
- Legislation on matters of equality will only go so far. Unlearning human oppression in its most basic elements of thoughts, feelings and actions is a personal journey and a developmental process that should accompany us for a lifetime.

We are still learning a great deal about oppression, this unique phenomenon in the human experience. Our hope for achieving some semblance of equality in our interactions with others resides in the great human capacity of personal and societal transformation, a capacity that is deeply rooted in our growing ability to experience authentic community through the process of sharing our common humanity with uncommon humility. ■

---

## Point of View

### Denial of General Assistance to Undocumented Persons

**Who wins? Who loses?** by Patricia Ray, Office of Ombudsperson for Families

In October of 1993 a new Minnesota Statute that forbids undocumented persons from applying for General Assistance and General Assistance Medical Care became effective. Billed by its Legislative author as a significant cost savings for tax payers, it really amounts to a cost shifting from the state to local units of government, and unfortunately, children will pay the price for this legislative action.

Although the Statute specifically exempts children under eighteen from the exclusion, it is already apparent that many children who legally qualify for services are being excluded. One reason for their exclusion is that undocumented parents, including many whose children were born here in Minnesota, are often reluctant to apply for General Assistance Medical Care for their qualified children for fear of themselves being identified as undocumented and then deported or imprisoned and separated from their children.

Another reason qualified children are excluded is that whenever a new Statute is enacted there is room for interpretation or misinterpretation of its application. Following this Statute's enactment last year numerous complaints came to the offices of advocates who deal with families in special legal situations. Social care providers, who are ill informed about the legal implications of this law, have been denying services to these children because their parents were applying for their services for them. Neither the state or the counties have made an effort to train individual care providers, especially social workers, about the application of this law and its exceptions. As a result the children from these families are under-served even though they are legally entitled to services. As a society we will pay a very high price for the neglect these children are suffering today.

In my opinion the old argument that immigrants are an economic drain, which was first heard in the early 1800's when English settlers tried to close the doors to Irish and other European immigrants, is once again being applied to newcomers, today the Mexican-Latino people, and once again children are the ones to pay the price most dear. ■

# Consortium Update

■ On April 13 and 14 the Consortium, the MN Chapter of the American Evaluation Association, PATH, Wilder Research Center and Search Institute sponsored a conference entitled: *Building Effective Child and Family Programs: Research and Evaluation Perspectives*. Over 400 people attended this conference held at the Thunderbird Hotel in Bloomington. The feedback so far has been overwhelmingly positive.

The Consortium and the other co-sponsors of this event are planning a continued focus on evaluation this coming year. A special thanks to the conference Steering Committee - Dale Blyth, Search Institute, Laura Bloomberg, Institute on Community Integration, U of M, Kedra Brooks, PATH, Trudy Dunham, Center for 4-H Youth Development, U of MN, Marian Heinrichs, CYF Consortium, Barbara Leonard, School of Nursing, U of MN, Greg Owen, Wilder Research Center, Carol Pederson, School of Nursing, U of MN, Gayle Zoffer, Search Institute, and to everyone else who helped make this conference a success.

■ The CYF Consortium's Director, Marti Erickson, met with Vice President Gore and Mrs. Gore at the White House in February. The purpose of the meeting was two-fold: 1) to discuss research on parent-child attachment and how that research should inform family policy; 2) to explore how the CYF Consortium might support the administration in addressing CYF issues. Marti will be meeting again with the Gores to plan a conference on the role of men in children's lives, to be held in Nashville on July 11. The Consortium will co-sponsor the conference with the Tennessee Department of Human Services and will be responsible for follow-up activities.

■ Congratulations to Hal Grotevant who just received the U of MN's College of Human Ecology Excellence in Research Award. Hal is a member of the Consortium's Executive Committee and is the Head of the Department of Family Social Science at the U of MN.

■ The CYF Consortium, CURA, the Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare, and Professional Development and Conference Services sponsored a conference entitled "Children in the Shadows: The Fate of Children in Neglecting Families" on April 15. The conference drew a standing-room-only crowd to the Humphrey Center. Proceedings will be published and made available through the Consortium Electronic Clearinghouse and the Consortium office.

■ Consortium Executive Committee members Rich Weinberg and Geraldine Kears Brookins and Consortium Director Marti Erickson are serving as members of the National Advisory Board of "Parenting Works," the new PBS Television series for parents of young children. This winter, following previews and receptions at the Governor's residences in Colorado and Minnesota, the show's pilot aired locally on KTCA, as well as PBS affiliates in Denver, New York, and Washington, D.C.

■ The Consortium gratefully thanks Paul Carrizales and Lee Luebe who have ended their terms on the Consortium Steering Committee after 3 years service. The Consortium welcomes the following new members to its Steering Committee: Sharon Sayles Belton, Mayor of Minneapolis; Carolyn Hendrixson, Director, Congregations Concerned for Children; Jan Hively, Senior Fellow, College of Education, U of MN; Patricia Torres Ray, Office of Ombudsperson for Families; John Red Horse, Dean, College of Liberal Arts; U of MN-Duluth; David Sanders, Director, Children & Family Services, Hennepin County; Mary Ann Smith, Chair, Steering Committee, MN Coalition of Family Organizations.

■ The McKnight Foundation just awarded \$330,000 to the Consortium for the implementation of the Community Connectors Institute in three Minnesota communities. This innovative concept of community-driven education around CYF issues was developed through a 15-month planning process under the leadership of Marilyn Larson, who will continue as director of the project under contract with the University.

■ The Minnesota Higher Education Coordinating Board recently announced the establishment of the Higher Education Center Against Violence and Abuse. The Center's goal is to enhance and expand the education, licensing, and continuing education of professionals who work with victims and perpetrators of violence. The Center will also help Minnesota higher education institutions in training students, faculty and staff regarding harassment and violence on campus. As part of its work, the Center will establish a collection of curriculum and training materials as well as an electronic clearinghouse on the Internet.

The Center will be Co-Chaired by Jamie Tiedemann, Director of the University's Sexual Violence Program, and Professor Jeffrey Edleson, from the School of Social Work. It will be located in 395 McNeal Hall on the University of Minnesota's St. Paul Campus.

■ 1663 connections were made to the Consortium Electronic Clearinghouse in March. Calls were placed from 941 different computer addresses worldwide. For more information on the Clearinghouse call the Consortium Office.

■ Over 100 parents, caregivers and professionals attended a conference in Red Wing to discuss alternatives to physical punishment. This conference is part of an effort by the Goodhue County violence prevention project KIDS (Kinder Intervention and Discipline Styles). Murray Strauss of the University of New Hampshire's Family Research Laboratory and Ron Pitzer, Family Sociologist with the MN Extension Service were featured speakers at the conference. Marti Erickson represented the Consortium as a speaker and her group Free Spirit sang at the conference and at an evening community event.

# Consortium Calendar

May

- 18, 12:10 - 1 pm. *The Too Perfect Child and the Bad to the Bone Kid*, MN Commons Room, St. Paul Student Center, U of MN. Series sponsored by CEE and the Consortium. Presenter Linda Budd, family therapist and author. Hal Grotevant, Professor of Family Social Science will moderate. For more info call the Consortium at 612/626-1212.
- May 25 Youth Policy Forum, *Learning by Doing: A Hands-on Workshop Exploring Experiential Education in Youth Work*, 1 - 5:00 pm at the West River Point Conference Center in Minneapolis. Sponsored by Search Institute. For more information and pre-registration call Laura Krump at 612/376-8955.
- June 1, 3 - 5 pm. *Children in Rumania*, a special presentation by Violet Stan sponsored by the Consortium and Worldspan. (See page 3 for details.)
- June 8 12:10-1 pm *Teaching Our Children Hope*. St. Paul Student Center, Minnesota Commons Room. How can we help our children develop a sense of future with possibilities. Hal Grotevant will be the moderator. For more info call the Consortium at 612/626-1212.
- September 16 Today's Girls, Tomorrow's Leaders: Growing Up Female and Strong. A symposium on the challenges facing today's girls. 8 - 3 pm, College of St. Catherine, St. Paul, MN. Presented by the Girl Scout Councils of Greater Minneapolis and St. Croix Valley. For more info call Gaye Delaney at 612/227-8835 or Kate Brehe at 612/535-4602.
- July 31-August 3 *Many Voices, One Vision*, 6th National conference By, For and About Battered Women and Their Children. For more information call 612/646-3512 (TDD).
- September 20 Dr. T. Berry Brazelton Lecture for Parents. 7 - 9 pm at Northrop Auditorium at the U of MN. Cost \$5 per person. For tickets call 612/624-2345.
- September 21 *Partnering with Families*, T. Berry Brazelton National Seminar Series. A Professional Workshop Designed to Address Child Development Issues in our Community. 7:45 - 4:30 pm Radisson Metrodome Hotel, U of MN campus. Cost \$95 per person, \$65 students. For more information or workshop registration call 612/939-0396.
- November 8 - 13 National Council on Family Relations 1994 Annual Conference, *Families and Justice: From Neighborhoods to Nations*, Minneapolis Hilton and Towers, Minneapolis, MN. Pre-conference workshop on November 8, *Anticipating the Future of Males in Families*. For further information call the NCFR office at 612/781-9331.

Submit entries for calendar to the Consortium office. Deadline for Fall newsletter is September 15.

## Who is the Consortium?

**Jan Hively** is Senior Fellow in the College of Education at the U of MN and was on the original Steering Committee that gave life to the Consortium. She returns to the Twin Cities from Chicago and we welcome her back to the Consortium Steering Committee.

**Kendra Brooks** is the Development and Research Director for PATH (Professional Association of Treatment Homes). She is a vital member of the Research Workgroup and was a key player on the Steering Committee for the Evaluation Conference.

**Alaine Siniff** is the Assistant to the VP of the Institute of Agriculture, Forestry, and Home Economics at the U of MN and has been invaluable in assisting the Consortium through a time of transition and expansion. Alaine has been a long time advocate for children and families and is active on United Way committees.

**Rae Montgomery** is part of the EXTEND group of MN Extension Service's Educational Development Systems. Rae serves on the Consortium Electronic Clearinghouse's Steering Committee, and has played a vital role in ongoing efforts to expand and improve the Clearinghouse.

**John Henry** is the Director of Minority Student Affairs in the College of Human Ecology at the U of MN. He is leading an effort to create a partnership between the University and Afro-centric churches to support services in their communities.

**And the Consortium is you!**

## UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Children, Youth, and Family Consortium  
12 McNeal Hall, 1985 Buford Avenue  
St. Paul, MN 55108  
(612) 626-1212

Non Profit  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Minneapolis, MN  
Permit No. 155