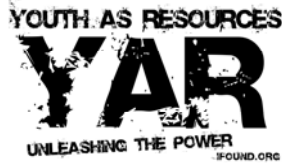




**INITIATIVE
FOUNDATION**

Children, Youth & Families News You Can Use



FALL 2008

This newsletter is sent to everyone that has provided an e-mail at one of our Children, Youth and Families-based training events. If you wish to be removed or if you have other names/e-mails to add please contact Jolene Howard (jhoward@ifound.org) . Thank you!



Initiative Foundation adds VISTA Member for Work on Fatherhood Project

Please join us in welcoming Tiffany Spoor to the Children, Youth and Family team at the Initiative Foundation.



Tiffany will spend this year at the Initiative Foundation as a VISTA member working on a project to address ways to increase involvement of incarcerated fathers in the lives of their young children. She first became aware of the needs of families with an incarcerated parent when writing her senior honors thesis on reducing recidivism through educational programs. Tiffany is very excited to continue her work with this issue.

Originally from Eden Prairie, Tiffany graduated in May from St. Lawrence University in New York with a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics and government. She is a wonderful addition to our team!

If you have resources or questions for Tiffany, she can be reached at tspoor@ifound.org.

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Welcome New Early Childhood Coalitions!

**Long Prairie - Grey Eagle
&
Staples - Motley**

Upcoming Events . . .

Teen Pregnancy Prevention 101

September 24, 2008

Do you work with young people and want to know what you can do to prevent teen pregnancy? This training is designed for professionals new to the field of teen pregnancy prevention. Participants will review adolescent pregnancy, STI and birth statistics; trends in teen pregnancy and sexual behaviors; risk and protective factors associated with teen pregnancy; and prevention strategies that work. Each participant will leave with a basic understanding of current research and resources in teen pregnancy prevention, what to do to promote adolescent health and where to go for more information and support. For more information or to register, contact Lorie at (651) 644-1447 x 12 or lorie@moapp.org.

Helping 21ST Century Children Succeed in a Media Culture

September 29, 9:00am-4:30pm (check-in at 8:30am)

The National Institute on Media and the Family is presenting a day-long package of workshops designed for professionals who work with children and families, as well as those who train them. Sessions will address various aspects of media, their effects on children's health, brain development and behavior, and the role of the adults who care for them. The target audience includes professionals who work with children and families in early care and education, community and public health, parks and recreation, community organizations, churches, and social services, such as home visitors and family advocates. Location: University of Minnesota, Continuing Education and Conference Center, St. Paul. For more up-to-date information, please go to <http://www.mediafamily.org/earlychild/register.shtml>

Minnesota Annual Winter Training Conference

Monday – Tuesday, January 12 – 13, 2009, FATHERHOOD SUMMIT at the St. Cloud Civic Center.

Join MFFN for our 6th annual winter conference for professionals working in fatherhood programs, early childhood settings, public health, government agencies, and related family/social service organizations.

The 2009 theme will focus on healthy masculinity with keynotes by various noted speakers including Dr. Christopher Kilmartin, a college professor, author, stand-up comedian, actor, playwright, consultant and professional psychologist. Kilmartin is a Professor of Psychology at Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg, VA. His major scholarly book is *The Masculine Self*. He also wrote a manual titled *Sexual Assault in Context: Teaching College Men about Gender* and he co-wrote *The Pain behind the Mask: Overcoming Masculine Depression*. In his spare time, Dr. Kilmartin is a professional stand-up comedian, and he has written a solo performance theatre piece on men's issues entitled *Crimes Against Nature*. Dr. Kilmartin has also been involved in national leadership of the White Ribbon Campaign, a grass-roots effort to decrease men's violence against women. Conference details and registration materials will be available in late-summer at www.mnfathers.org or call (651) 222-7432.





Resources for Families in Tough Economic Times

Rising grocery prices. Pain at the gas pump. Home foreclosures. These days the economic news isn't good for families. Families are having to make adjustments in many areas of the family budget. Sometimes economic stress can result in short tempers and lack of communication.

The University of Minnesota Extension has resources that can help families not only with strategies to help manage family resources but also to improve communication, especially with children, in tough economic times.

For more info:

<http://www.parenting.umn.edu/>

Outstanding Friend of Children, Youth & Families

When Lowell Johnson moved to the Brainerd Lakes Area in 2001, the young children got an advocate with bountiful energy.



Lowell has an enormous passion for getting fathers more involved in the lives of their children. As a member of the Brainerd Lakes Area Early Childhood Coalition, he has been instrumental in coordinating and growing the Fathers Read Every Day (FRED) program, Boot Camp for News Dads and updating the Daddy Book.

Thank you Lowell, for your dedication to children and families!

Fathers and Children's Mental Health Workshop Series

Engaging Fathers in Supporting Healthy Development of Young Children is a series of seven workshops across Minnesota that will provide a training opportunity for individuals working in family services, child welfare, family courts, parenting education, early childhood development, public health, child support enforcement, fatherhood advocacy and other social service organizations.

Topics will include research and theory about parent-child mental health birth-to-three, mental health community support for parents, principles for engaging men as clients and colleagues, and community resources for promoting parent engagement in early childhood development. Offered by MFFN, Prevent Child Abuse Minnesota, DHS Children's Trust Fund, the Minnesota Initiative Foundations, and St. Cloud State University.

FREE to MFFN members, Child Abuse Prevention Council members, Early Childhood Initiative members, Thrive Initiative members, and Circle of Parents members. Non-member registration fee is \$20.00. Details and registration information are available at www.pcamn.org or call (651) 523-0099.

Bemidji: Fri. 10/3, 10:00am - 3:00pm	Little Falls: Tues. 10/7, 10:00am - 3:00pm
Albert Lea: Fri. 10/10, 10:00am - 3:00pm	Litchfield: Tues. 10/ 21, 10:00am - 3:00pm
Twin Cities: Tues. 10/28, 10:00am - 3:00pm	Alexandria: Fri. 11/21, 10:30am - 3:30pm <i>**note later start time**</i>
Duluth: Fri. 11/7, 10:00am - 3:00pm	



Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention Survey

The Doris Duke Charitable Foundation is seeking input on strategies to prevent child abuse and neglect. An online survey is being conducted by the Promising Practices Network (PPN) on Children, Families and Communities, which is operated by the RAND Corporation.

The survey takes about 15 minutes to complete and the information gathered from the survey will help shape the foundation's future grant-making strategies as well as inform the prevention field.

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=vEXAXuQkOj4MrWMbWQ81hA_3d_3d

Please take a few minutes to fill this out!

Funding Opportunities

Porter Foundation

Deadline: February 1st.

The Irwin Andrew Porter Foundation will consider proposals from any family and children's nonprofit provided the proposal "fosters connections between communities and individuals and creates partnerships with multiple organizations". For more information, visit www.iapfoundation.org.



Educational Opportunities

Center for Early Education and Development (CEED)

College of Education and Human Development / University of MN

Registration still available!

"Parent-Infant Pathways: An Educators Guide to Providing Information and Support to New Parents"

Dates: September 22 to November 24th. Cost: \$415.00

**Earn a Continuing Education Certificate (36 clock hours)

"Introduction to Infant Mental Health"

Dates: September 29 to December 1st. Cost: \$262.95

**Earn a Continuing Education Certificate (24 clock hours)

Please call Karen Anderson at (612) 625-6617 or ander352@umn.edu with questions.

Cultural Competency Workshop Series

Increase your ability to understand, work with and engage immigrant and refugee populations.

Location: Neighborhood House, St. Paul

Cost: \$20/session

Who should attend: Early Childhood Educators, Community Organizers, Health Care Service Providers, K-12 Educators, Human Services Providers, City and County Employees and Faith Based Community Members.

Latinos in Minnesota - October 21, 2008 from 6-7 p.m.

An Introduction to Hmong Culture and Family Systems - November 20, 2008 form 6-7 p.m.

The Refugee Journey - December 16, 2008 from 6-7 p.m.

For more information or to register, email: trivera-prescott@neighb.org

