



# Parents & Practitioners

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## Kansas Parent Leadership Initiatives

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### FRIENDS Partners:

- \* Chapel Hill Training Outreach Project, Lead Agency
- \* Child Welfare League of America.  
[www.CWLA.org](http://www.CWLA.org)
- \* Circle Of Parents  
[www.circleofparents.org](http://www.circleofparents.org)
- \* Independent Living Resources Inc  
[www.independentlivingresources.com](http://www.independentlivingresources.com)

Parent Leadership occurs when parents actively, creatively, and resourcefully contribute to promoting and developing the well-being of their families and their communities. The active steps of Parent Leadership development are a strategy which enhances the “protective factors” in strengthening families and the prevention of child abuse and neglect. The Kansas Parent Leadership Initiative engages and involves parents in opportunities to network with other parents, share successes and discuss concerns regarding family and the community. The program model provides activities for parent leadership skills and positive advocacy skills development leading to positive outcomes for children, families and the community. The Kansas Parent Leadership Initiative is lead by a successful partnership between the Kansas Children’s Cabinet and Trust Fund, University of Kansas Center for Public Partnership and Research and Kansas Children’s Service League.

### ***The Kansas Parent Leadership Program***

The Kansas Parent Leadership Program increases parents’ leadership and advocacy skills, provides skill development for parents and practitioners to effectively work together as partners and offers continuous support to parents. Several of the components of the Kansas Parent Leadership Program were

created by Kansas Children’s Service League. Through the Parent Leadership Program, 334 new parents attended the Circle of Parents® support groups, and 222 parents attended at least one of the other Parent Leadership Program activities. Parent who attended the activities reported 100% increase in their knowledge of parenting after having participated in the program’s activities. The Parent Leadership Team also had the opportunity to train the Southwest Kansas Librarians in the Community and Parent Café model which they have gone on to use to develop successful collaborations in their communities. The Kansas Parent Leadership Program includes: Parent Cafes; Parent and Community Café Training; Parent Leadership Advisory Council Development and Training Parent Leadership Skills and Effectively Advocacy Training; PLAT – Parent Leadership and Ambassador Training (developed by Circle of Parents® through funding by FRIENDS); Circle of Parents® Mutual Self-Help Support Groups.

### **Kansas Parent Leadership Conference**

The Kansas Parent Leadership Conference is a highlighted event for parents and practitioners. The confer-

ence serves over 200 parents, with child care provided to over 170 children yearly. During the conference, parents and practitioners are offered the experience of hearing state and national guest speakers, to participate in workshops on topics relevant to parents including fatherhood, a Parent Café, a Parent Advocacy Panel and Parent Testimony. The success of the conference can be attributed to the many partners in Kansas who are actively involved in the planning, implementation and support of the overall conference. With the Kansas Children’s Service League as a lead agency for the conference, over twenty partners are actively involved in the planning and implementation of the Kansas Parent Leadership Conference. One of the major partners of the Parent Leadership Conference is the Kansas Statewide Parent Leadership Advisory Council. Their expertise and guidance provide great insight into the conference planning and implementation. Evaluation of the Kansas Parent Leadership conference was high with a score of 5.35 out of 6.

~BJ Gore, Kansas City Children’s Service League

## New PAC Members Parent Leader Profiles

### Shari Kueker

My name is Shari Kueker. I live in the small community of Red Bud, in southern Illinois. We are approximately 45 minutes southeast of St. Louis. I married my husband, Tim 22 years ago. I have three boys. Jacob is a freshman in college majoring in Physical and Special Education and plays college basketball. Blake is a senior in high school this year. He attends alternative school half of his day and vocational school the other half. He will have a certificate in welding when he graduates in May. My youngest son Logan is a freshman in high school and, he too, is a basketball player.

Our experience with working with agencies and services for students began back on December 13, 1996. My middle son, Blake was my biological nephew. My sister and her boyfriend were drug addicts and Blake became a victim of their bad choices.

Blake was physically abused and came to live with us when he was only 21 months old. Due to the abuse and neglect that Blake suffered at such a young age, he had several delays. Due to his delays he didn't attend school like most children do. After 2 years of Early Childhood and a year of half day kindergarten, Blake began attending Alternative Schools. He is still attending Alternative School and will graduate in May of this year.

This experience taught my husband and I a lot of new things. In the process of everything we obtained a foster license with DCFS and in June of 1999 we were able to adopt Blake. In the beginning things were tough and it was a big adjustment for Tim, Jacob, and I. It was also an adjustment for Blake. Having been taken away from his mom and his home as

well as his older sister I am sure he felt like he had been dropped off and forgotten. Blake has come a long way and the fact that he will graduate this Spring is a huge accomplishment for him. We are anxious to see what Blake will do with the next chapter in his life. He is excited about graduating. I think the biggest challenge as a parent through all of this was learning to be flexible. We were lucky to have schools that were willing to work with us to serve Blake. It takes a tremendous amount of patience to work through things that aren't always the norm. Having a child with a disability is something you truly don't understand unless you have to go through it.



### Brooke Hoffbauer

Brook is an active parent representative with the Strengthening Families Alaska Statewide Leadership team and the Alliance National Parent Partnership Council. She engages in many parent conversations and she contributes a parent voice to the projects and activities sponsored. Her experience includes times as a consultant, kindergarten teacher, preschool teacher/director, home child-

care caregiver, foster care respite provider, Community Café host, and most importantly, a parent to her three young children. She loves the outdoors, finding the answers to the many WHY questions from her children, reading Parents Living Well research and all the giggles and tears that parenting brings to her husband, family and friends.



### Fatima Galinda

*Fátima* was born in México and has lived in Olympia, Washington since 1993. She is a mother of two children. Fatima is a volunteer of organizations such as Tumwater Youth Program, the Group of Familias Latinas, and the Hispanic Group at St. Michael Church in Olympia, WA. Fatima is a member of Alliance National Parent Partnership Council. She has been a Community Café leadership team

member for six years. Her dream is to see all families have a life filled with success and to reach their full potential and for Latinos to be able to live in this country without fears, with freedom and be able to reach their goals. She believes in not looking back and looking forward for possibilities to move from adversity.



## Jessica Diel

My name is Jessica Diel. I'm twenty-nine years old and I live in Joplin, MO. I am married to a wonderful man, Joel, who's been my rock. We've been together for eight years and married for four of them. We have two children, my miracle babies. My son, Nikolai, will be four in June and my daughter, Cynthia, just turned two in February. They keep my hands full when I'm not working. I have been disabled since I was nineteen but I'm aiming to finish my degree in Criminal Justice in the area of Child Advocacy. My family gives me the strength, courage and the drive I need to stay focused and pursue my goals.

My journey with parent leadership started when I was referred into a program called Project CARE. I've served as the Family Advisory Board (FAB) President for Project CARE for three years. I also served as the RIF (Reading is Fundamental) Coordinator for Early Head Start for two years. Through Project CARE, I was able to attend the ECCS Family Leadership Summit last year, which really helped me to find my voice and showed me beneficial ways on how to use it. From there, I was able to attend Child Advocacy Day where I was able to learn

even more and talk to elected officials in my state about important matters regarding Early Childhood funding cuts. I'm currently serving as a Policy Council Representative for Early Head Start. I recently stepped down as President from the FAB but I now work for the program. I am honored to have been chosen to serve on the FRIENDS NRC CBCAP PAC and I look forward to working with everyone!



## Project Care



Project CARE is a CBCAP-funded strengthening families program. It was designed to help families become self-sufficient and to help them reduce their monthly stressors. We help at-risk families reach out to community resources, provide Child-Parent Relationship Training parenting classes with a licensed Play Therapist. Diapers, pull-ups, wipes, basic household necessities such as laundry soap, shampoo/conditioner, dish soap, trash bags, toilet paper etc. are also provided along with gas vouchers, families can use to access to work, look for a job, go to a medical appt. or for whatever purpose that will better

them in some way. We provide these services to get people over a "hump" they may experience throughout the month which helps them not to stress so much about how they're going to get by.

Some of the things I've helped to implement as President of Project CARE's Family Advisory Board include family socials/events such as a Clothing/Toy Trade-Off, Easter Egg Hunt, A Day at the Park, Halloween Party, Christmas Party, an area wide Safe Kid's Fair and most recently, Parent's Night Out. We've also organized fundraisers such as a Car Show and car washes. I created monthly

and bi-monthly newsletters for the program participants, which helped them to be aware of community events and resources available during a certain time of year as well as stay on top of socials being provided through organizations such as ours, Parents As Teachers and Early Head Start. Because of my hard work, determination, and effort as President, I was asked to work for the program so I am now the Project CARE assistant and I have the chance to give back and do even more for the families we serve.

*~Submitted by Jessica Diel*

## Strengthening Families: Washington State



Strengthening Families WA (SFWA) at Department of Early Learning focuses on parent leadership and working with families in a variety of ways. SFWA works to emphasize the importance of parents, parenting and parent leadership throughout our work and our collective work in our state. We currently encourage and assist our funded programs in meaningful engagement of parents at every level of their organization as leaders. This includes training, support, and lots of encouragement of the programs about different ways to include parents. Funded programs are asked to report in their reports and in site visits

about how parents are engaged and participate on decision making levels. We also collaborate with the Community Café initiative to encourage and support parent voice and expertise within our state.

Another method that is new to SFWA at DEL is the Unsung Heroes Parent Recognition Month that is being held currently in the month of February 2013 in Washington state. This recognition was started in our state in 2011 and we repeated it for 2013 at the request of our parent leaders. We solicited nominations from around Washington State and then worked with a strong group of parent leaders

to select the 28 honorees for the month. Stories can be found at this site: <http://www.seattleschild.com/article/unsung-hero-alicia-jennings>. An awards dinner was also held to present parents with their awards and recognize their amazing contributions. The intent of this was multifaceted. We hoped to continue a tradition that parents were interested in maintaining, provide a recognition of the amazing work parents are doing in our state, and elevate the understanding, awareness and value of parents to larger systems within our state.

*~Submitted by Fatima Gonzalez*

## Parents & Practitioners

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We're on the web  
[www.friendsnrc.org](http://www.friendsnrc.org)

Family Resource Information, Education, and Network Development Service (FRIENDS)  
National Resource for Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention

## FRIENDS NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER INFO

### New PAC Members

Please welcome the new FRIENDS Parent Advisory Members when you see them at the CBCAP Grantee Meeting and Network for Action.

### CBCAP Grantees Meeting and Network for Action in April

The Parent Advisory Council hopes to meet other parent leaders that will be attending the CBCAP Grantees Meeting and Network for Action Meeting. We will reserve a room where parent leaders can gather for lunch on Wednesday, April 24. Information about the meeting room will be posted in the registration area. Parent leaders will need to purchase their own lunch and bring it to the meeting room.

The Network For Action will offer all participants the opportunity to videotape short messages sharing their points of view. This will be a great opportunity for parent leaders to contribute their thoughts and perspectives

### Best Practices In Parent Leadership

#### Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention: Accomplishments and New Directions, 2011

provides a snapshot of the unique and exemplary practices implemented across the country during Federal Fiscal Year 2011. It was designed to be useful for state leads, but also for local programs, advisory councils, legislative groups and other stakeholders. Sections can be printed and copied to educate others, learn of peers' practices, and illustrate the work being conducted nationally through CBCAP. To download a copy go to [www.friendsnrc.org](http://www.friendsnrc.org) and type CBCAP-Accomplishments and New Directions, 2011 in the search box.



Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention:  
ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND NEW DIRECTIONS  
2011



Fatherhood Café—  
Head Start, KCSL



Parent Café—Parent Leadership,  
KCSL