



## Families: Key Ingredient in Collective Impact Work

There's hardly a day that goes by that we don't hear about a new strategy or model for organizational collaboration and problem-solving, and Collective Impact is an approach that has recently gained a lot of momentum. Collective Impact is a framework that is designed to address social and community challenges by focusing on five key principles:

- Common Agenda
- Shared Measurement
- Mutually Reinforcing Activities
- Continuous Communication
- Backbone Support

Over the past several years, new collaboratives have begun using Collective Impact principles to affect social change and influence public policy. Practitioners and researchers that have observed these collaborative endeavors have found that the most successful Collective Impact efforts recognize the importance of developing relationships and engaging with people who have authentic

experience with the issue being addressed and who will ultimately benefit from program and policy changes.

As in all collaborative efforts, families are key partners in Collective Impact efforts and can play a critical role in collecting and reviewing data as well as building relationships and creating the structure that support a cross-sector approach to problem-solving.

Collective Impact has the potential to shift the way communities approach collaboration and the relationships that make those collaborative endeavors effective. Practitioners must commit to authentic partnerships with families and community stakeholders to ensure that Collective Impact doesn't become the latest buzzword, but instead a viable strategy for sustained system change that provides solutions to complex social and community challenges.

—Carolyn Abdullah  
Prevention Network Coordinator

## Dads' Café in Missouri

Through a collaboration of Churches, Social Service programs and Community Members the first Dads' Café was held at the Everlasting Life Church in St. Louis, Missouri, on November 15, 2014. The theme of the café was "Conversations to Keep Your Family Strong". The Dads gathered around tables in groups of five while following the Parent Café structure which allows each person to share their thoughts and talk about how to incorporate the protective factors into



Dads' Café participants

their lives. These conversations brought forth stimulating conversations and the beginning of a new stronger partnership

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Visit the PAC on the FRIENDS website at [www.friendsnrc.org](http://www.friendsnrc.org)



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## FRIENDS National Center Info

### *Give Me Five!*

Last Spring FRIENDS applied for an additional five years of funding and is pleased that our application was approved. It has been our pleasure to serve the child abuse prevention community since our inception in October 1995. Through the years we've learned quite a bit about the importance of meaningful parent leadership. We've been fortunate to work with our group of advisors, the FRIENDS Parent Advisory Council (PAC), who have

continually made contributions to our projects. We are looking forward to our PAC retreat in March where they will carve out their 2015 workplan.

We are also excited about working with the **E-TEAM at the University of Oklahoma** who will be serving as our external evaluators, **Ray Kirk and Associates** who will provide technical assistance to states advancing their evaluation capacity and the **University of**

**Kansas, Center for Public Partnerships and Research** who will be developing products and providing TA in the areas of collective impact and cost analysis.

Thanks to all of you for your support through the years and be sure to celebrate Parent Leadership Month in February.

*-Linda Baker  
FRIENDS NCCBCAP Director*

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## Prevent Child Abuse Tennessee's Parent Leadership Retreat

Prevent Child Abuse Tennessee's (PCAT) Inaugural Parent Leadership Retreat, which took place on October 22-23, 2014, at the Holiday Inn Express at Mt. Juliet, was a success. Thirteen parent leaders from around the state of Tennessee gathered for two days of team building, goal setting, advocacy, and engagement. The goal of the retreat was to strengthen the relationships among veteran parent leaders, establish relationships among newer parents, identify the needs and wishes of parent leaders, and provide useful information and resources.

Parent leaders welcomed several guest presenters: Lorraine Lucinski from the State Department of Health, who presented on the ACE study as it informs health initiatives in Tennessee, as well as the effects of toxic stress on child development and families; Brian Stephens from the Tennessee Department of



*The Tennessee Parent Leadership Team at their retreat.*

Children Services, who spoke to parent leaders about the value of parent leadership locally and statewide; and Kristen Rector, PCAT's executive director, who spoke on the growth of parent leadership and PCAT's support of that work.

Parents were surveyed after the retreat on their experience.

One hundred percent of respondents said they had a good or excellent experience

at the retreat. Additionally, 100 percent agreed or strongly agreed that the team-building activities built a sense of camaraderie, and 100 percent agreed or strongly agreed that retreat presenters were engaging and knowledgeable.

*-submitted by Melissa Perry*

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## How Tennessee's Parent Leadership Team is Celebrating National Parent Leadership Month

The Tennessee Parent Leadership Team is preparing for National Parent Leadership Month all across the state. We believe parents should be honored and celebrated for the critical leadership roles they hold in their homes, communities, and in local, state, and international positions. Parent Leaders are vital to the success of child abuse prevention and providing safe and nurturing homes for children. That success is achieved when policy makers, professionals, local businesses and parents work together to improve systems and policies. Our Parent Leaders

have written a letter to public officials and the Governor requesting they proclaim February 2015 as National Parent Leadership Month. They are also preparing a special newsletter highlighting Parent Leaders in their communities, speaking at different agencies, making a daily post via FaceBook and Twitter on ways to celebrate parent leaders, and holding local celebrations in honor of National Parent Leadership Month in order to raise awareness, honor, celebrate, and give recognition to parents as leaders.

*-submitted by Melissa Perry*

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## Dad's Café

among the fathers. One of the fathers said that he felt a kindred spirit with the dads though he had never met them before. We are planning for at least six more dad's cafes in the coming year.

*- submitted by Sam Blue,  
FRIENDS NCCBCAP PAC*

**Celebrate!**  
**February is National  
Parent Leadership  
Month.**

## In the Spotlight: New Hampshire CBCAP

This February, honorees and their families will gather in the Governor and Council Chambers at the New Hampshire State House for the 8<sup>th</sup> annual Unsung Hero Awards ceremony. The New Hampshire Children's Trust/ Prevent Child Abuse New Hampshire presents 28 awards, to honor and recognize extraordinary parents and caregivers who go above and beyond to be the best parents that they can be. Check it out at <http://www.nhchildrenstrust.org/event/unsung-hero-awards-2015>

*—Keryn Bernard Kriegl  
NH CBCAP Lead*



*FRIENDS Parent Advisory Council members (from l to r): Dawn Patzer, Jill Gentry, Sam Furhmann, Eliza Cooper, Jessica Diel, Sam Blue .  
(Not pictured: Fatima Galinda Gonzalez, Art Hernandez and Brook Hoffbauer)*

### About the PAC

FRIENDS has established a Parent Advisory Council to provide useful overall program direction and guidance to the activities of the National Center. Committee members share their experience and expertise in child abuse prevention and family strengthening through their active participation in FRIENDS workgroups and the annual Grantee's meeting, development/review of FRIENDS written materials, and by providing resource center staff with consultation and advice.

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