

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Prevent Child Abuse America Pauses to Take a Look Back... Even As It Begins Looking Forward.

PCA America celebrates 2007 as it prepares for a big year in 2008.

CHICAGO – January 18, 2008 – Prevent Child Abuse America (PCA America) is very excited about all it accomplished in 2007:

- We served thousands of families in 32 states by providing support, services and information with positive results.
- We informed Congress of the importance of home visitation to promote early childhood development (**The Education Begins at Home Act**) and the importance of health care for children (**The State Child Health Care Program**).
- Within each state, we sought and gained even more support from state and local leaders through additional funding.
- We celebrated PCA America's 35th anniversary.

These accomplishments can be attributed to how the organization continues to hone how it approaches and talks about the prevention of child abuse and neglect.

At this time the organization's three-pronged strategy is as follows:

- **At the community level - Provide access to quality parenting information and services** that help every parent minimize stress and isolation and be the type of parent they want to be, thereby reducing the incidence of abuse and neglect.
- **At the state level - Educate state leaders about how child abuse and neglect impacts other incremental costs** in juvenile delinquency, adult incarceration rates, increased needs for mental health services, greater dependency on drugs, and the increased costs in health and special education costs.
- **At the national level - Inform Congress about child development strategies such as home visitation provided by Healthy Families America (www.healthyfamiliesamerica.org)** and how it can promote child well being and help children prepare to be successful in school.

Building on these strategies, even more great things are expected in 2008:

- First, PCA America will release on the national front an updated economic impact study about the price of failing to prevent child abuse and neglect that was funded by **Pew Charitable Trusts**. This large-scale announcement will provide PCA America with the opportunity to position itself as a national leader on the issue of prevention in the minds of all Americans.
- PCAA will also begin a complex process to ensure each state develops and executes a **comprehensive prevention plan** to ensure our communities promote policies that promise a healthier, safer and more productive future for all children regardless of wealth.
- Finally, for the first time in the organization's history, it was selected by the **Office of Juvenile Justice** and Delinquency Prevention to work with the National Indian Child Welfare Association and Purdue University to improve the lives of Native American youth.

So, please check back in with PCA America during the year, become a member, and educate yourself about its mission and the work of preventing of child abuse and neglect.

ABOUT PREVENT CHILD ABUSE AMERICA

Prevent Child Abuse America, founded in Chicago in 1972, is the nation's leading organization working solely to prevent the abuse and neglect of our nation's children. Through its chapters in 42 states and its voluntary home visitation services provided by Healthy Families America® in more than 400 communities nationwide, Prevent Child Abuse America helps provide healthy, safe and nurturing experiences for more than 100,000 families every year. For more information, please visit www.preventchildabuse.org.

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