

Press Release

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Prevent Child Abuse America recognizes award winners at its 2008 National Conference

CHICAGO, IL - June 18, 2008 - During Prevent Child Abuse America's National Conference - **Connecting the Dots...turning knowledge into action** held May 19-22 in Milwaukee, WI a number of individuals and organizations were recognized for their commitment to investing in childhood development, changing the systems and policies that support parents and the prevention of child abuse and neglect before it occurs.

"Whether individuals or organizations, all those being recognized at the conference understand the need to invest in prevention, because the work we do today has a long term impact on children, the communities they live in and the nation as a whole," said James M. Hmurovich, President and CEO of Prevent Child Abuse America. "We're honored to be able to recognize them for their fine work."

A list of those recognized is as follows:

- **Parent Leadership Award**

Gina Sanchez - Healthy Families of Waukesha County, Wisconsin.

Gina is a graduate of Healthy Families of Waukesha County and has served as both a spokesperson for Healthy Families and on the Healthy Families Board of Directors.

- **Healthy Families America Service Excellence Award/Family Support Worker**

Mary Garfield - Near North Health Service Corporation.

Mary has consistently received the highest performance evaluations of the team at her host agency and leads the team in accomplishing program goals.

- **Healthy Families America Service Excellence Award/Family Assessment and Outreach Worker**

Tanya Landsman - Teen Parent Connection.

Tanya is an integral part of building partnerships with other community service agencies by being the point of first contact in the introduction to the Teen Parent Connection family and coordinates support services for parents by introducing them to all agency programs at the initial assessment.



- **Healthy Families America Service Excellence Award/Supervisor**

Patricia McCollum - Healthy Families Johnson County Kansas Children's Service League.

In her role as supervisor for the Healthy Families Johnson County program, Patty has developed this program from the beginning in 2002 and her team has served more than 300 families in the past three years, maintaining a 99% or better success rate in the prevention of abuse and neglect.

- **Healthy Families America Service Excellence Award/Program Manager**

Shirley Wehmeier - Healthy Families of Waukesha County.

Shirley has been a Family Support Worker for Healthy Families of Waukesha County since 1992 and Program Manager since January of 2007 where she has been able to build a cohesive and compassionate team of workers.

- **Healthy Families America Service Excellence Award/TA-QA Specialist**

Kate Whitaker - Healthy Families Western Regional Office and Healthy Families Arizona

Kate has been working with the program in Arizona since 1991 and was the original supervisor for the first program site on the mainland and in Arizona. Kate developed the QA system for the Healthy Families Arizona program and since 1993 the system has expanded to TA/QA and training services to 58 program sites.

- **Donna J. Stone Award**

Mary Ann Renz - PCA Wisconsin/Child Abuse Prevention Fund of Children's Hospital and Health System

Mary Ann began her child abuse prevention work at Children's Hospital and Health System by helping to plan and organize services for children at the Child Protection Center in the late 1980's. In 1987 the Child Abuse Prevention Fund was created and Mary Ann served as one of the founding members of the grants review committee, a role she continues on the committee to this day. Mary Ann has also on the Board of the Directors of Children's Service Society of Wisconsin for over 10 years and in 2004 was appointed to Governor Jim Doyle's State Call to Action - A Summit to Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect.

- **National Leadership Award**

Mark A. Washington - Former Commissioner, Kentucky Department of Community Based Services

Mark was appointed to this position in 2005 by Governor Ernie Fletcher and his number one vision was "50/50 by 2012," translation – the Kentucky Department of Community Based



Services was to spend 50% of its budget on prevention (with 50% on intervention/ treatment). Kentucky is currently at 21%, but inching up monthly. Mark was also part of a team that was successful in passing Senate Bill 59 resulting in \$6 million of improvements in the state child welfare system.

- **Corporate Leadership Award**

Kappa Delta

Kappa Delta has 131 active collegiate chapters and 502 chartered alumnae associations across the United States. The Kappa Deltas have selected four national philanthropies including Prevent Child Abuse America and its state chapter network. Through their annual Shamrock Events, the collegiate and alumnae Chapters raised \$186,000 for Prevent Child Abuse America's national office 2007 alone and in 2008, Kappa Delta made a significant contribution to Prevent Child Abuse America to advance awareness of bullying.

Sigma Delta Tau

Since their 1982 National Convention when Prevent Child Abuse America became their National Philanthropy, Sigma Delta Tau has made significant investments of time and donations to Prevent Child Abuse America. Every year, each of the 99 collegiate chapters conduct an annual service project, educational program or major fund raiser for the benefit of Prevent Child Abuse America, currently totaling almost \$90,000 a year.

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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 44 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, stable and nurturing experiences for more than 100,000 families every year. For more information, please visit www.preventchildabuse.org and www.healthyfamiliesamerica.org.

