

# lookin' up



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# spring 2003

## Dear Friends:

I'm writing this letter having recently returned from the 14th National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office on Child Abuse and Neglect (OCAN).

Attending this conference never fails to inspire me with the breadth of work being done in this field and the depth of dedication and perseverance displayed by each and every attendee. This year's conference was particularly noteworthy since it represented the first time the theme focused on prevention.



I was pleased to have the opportunity to address a plenary session, at which I shared my thoughts about framing the issue of child abuse and neglect for greater public understanding, and about increasing our bipartisan political effectiveness on behalf of prevention policies and funding.

One of the highlights for me was the full-day think-tank session held by our Research Center, which proved a useful and provocative exercise as experts from around the country began helping us develop a research agenda for the child abuse and neglect prevention field.

Unfortunately, data released at the conference showed that confirmed cases of child abuse and neglect increased three percent between 2000 and 2001. This increase – the second in as many years – was particularly disheartening given the steady decline in reports of abuse and neglect during the 1990s.

But the conference also provided a wonderful opportunity to interact with the executive directors of our state chapters, our prevention partners from the Healthy Families America and Circle of Parents networks, and the representatives of the National Family Support Roundtable.

We were particularly proud of four of our chapter leaders who were honored with special awards at the conference: Marketa Garner Gautreau (PCA Louisiana), Roy Harley (PCA Illinois), Linda Johnson (PCA Vermont) and Steve Scott (PCA Iowa). They were joined by one of our newer board members, Kip Tokuda of Seattle, in receiving Commissioner's Awards, a particularly high honor in our field.

I am truly inspired by the professional expertise – and the deep personal friendship – of these wonderful individuals, whose daily commitment to the prevention of child abuse and neglect is proof enough that things must surely be ... *lookin' up*.

Best Wishes,

A. Sidney Johnson III  
President and CEO

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# Gateways to prevention



*This year marks the 20th Anniversary of the Presidential Proclamation designating April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. This month-long observation is one of the most important for child abuse prevention advocates nationwide. It's a time when advocates not only take a hard look at the issue itself, but also take a look at the solutions. It's also a time of collaboration, when organizations and individuals at the national, state and local levels work together to educate the public that child abuse can be prevented.*

Collaboration played a key role in PCA America's Child Abuse Prevention Month efforts this year. We were proud to partner with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Children's Bureau's Office on Child Abuse and Neglect (OCAN) and the National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information (NCCAN) in the development of our annual Community Resource Packet. We also hosted a press conference with OCAN and many of the nation's leading children's organizations at OCAN's 14th National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect, "Gateways to Prevention," in St. Louis. We

are particularly grateful to Catherine Nolan, director of the Office on Child Abuse and Neglect, and her staff for their efforts in this partnership.

## **Community Resource Packet**

This year, PCA America's 2003 Community Resource Packet, "Gateways to Prevention," was more content-rich than ever before, providing individuals and community leaders with the tools needed to mobilize community prevention efforts. The success of this packet was due to our unique partnership with NCCAN, OCAN, and other national child abuse and neglect prevention organizations. We are grateful to OCAN for contributing to the funding of this project.

The 2003 packet adopted its theme from OCAN's 14th National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect, and describes the many strategies we as child advocates can use to build strong communities in which families and children are supported and valued. The packets are available for use not only in April, but throughout the year. To order a packet (\$3.50 per packet) call 1.800.CHILDREN or visit our Web site at [www.preventchildabuse.org](http://www.preventchildabuse.org).

## **Gateways to Prevention Press Conference**

On April 1, PCA America, OCAN and the country's leading prevention organizations held a press conference to launch the 2003 OCAN prevention initiative "Gateways to Prevention," and to release the most recent national statistics on child abuse and neglect contained in the DHHS *Child Maltreatment 2001* annual report.

Unfortunately, the national statistics released by Assistant Secretary Dr. Wade Horn, showed a three percent increase in confirmed cases of child abuse and neglect, the second increase in two years. It is estimated that 2,673,000 U.S. children were reported abused or neglected in 2001, with 903,000 confirmed victims. While these numbers are still lower than the levels of maltreatment we saw during most of the 1990s, there is concern that this could be a new trend. And this concern increases as prevention programs and organizations face budget cuts nationwide.

Prevention advocates across the country are especially mindful that the stress caused by an economic downturn and the state of world affairs can put a dangerous strain on families, increasing the risk of child abuse and neglect. As reports of child maltreatment grow during these uncertain times, our need for prevention becomes even more critical.

Our country's current state of child abuse and neglect makes this historic collaboration between DHHS, PCA America and the country's leading child abuse prevention organizations all the more important. This partnership underscores the need for cooperation among public and private entities nationwide – whether we're government, social service agencies, non-profit organizations or child advocates – to end child abuse and

**F**ederal study recognizes programs of PCA America's network partners. Two PCA America chapter programs and an Healthy Families America® (HFA) state system were among those selected for inclusion in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office on Child Abuse and Neglect's Emerging Practices in Prevention Project and report released at the 14th National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect in St. Louis on April 1. PCA Georgia's First Steps program, PCA Kentucky's Fathers and Children Together (FACT) and Healthy Families Arizona are listed in the report, which was released as part of the Bush Administration's Prevention Initiative.

**PCA Kentucky's FACT** program helps imprisoned fathers master parenting skills and bond with their children. Under the leadership of PCA Kentucky Executive Director **Jill Seyfred**, FACT began in 1992 as a collaboration between the chapter and Blackburn – a state minimum-security prison in Lexington. FACT is unique both in the way it involves fathers and in its distinctive partnership between a nonprofit group and a prison. Participants enroll in a 14-week course and engage in visits with their children, who range from infants to teen-agers.

**PCA Georgia's First Steps** program helps parents and their infants get to know each other. In a hospital or clinic setting, trained volunteers offer new parents support, parenting education, and referrals to services that can help families in the early months of parenting. The program offers a combination of services and materials, including personal visits by trained volunteers and staff in the hospital or clinic; "Our Baby's First Year Calendar," which features growth and developmental milestones for infants; and use of a telephone helpline providing support and answers to parenting questions.

**Healthy Families Arizona** is an HFA state system supporting home visiting programs for parents with newborn infants. It operates statewide at two-dozen sites, which range from public and private service agencies to hospitals and health clinics. Between 2000 and 2001, the program served 2,300 families. During this time, the immunization rate for program participants was almost 92 percent at the two-month assessment, and less than 1 percent of families had substantiated incidents of child abuse and neglect.

*Prevent Child Abuse America*



**T**he Massachusetts Citizens for Children presents a special one-day conference addressing the prevention of child sexual abuse. On Saturday, April 5, our Massachusetts chapter hosted the conference, "**Taking Action to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse: Strategies for Your Community.**" This conference was generously funded through a grant from the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.**

Conference attendees included parents, community leaders, educators and legislators. Attendees learned about the myths and facts associated with sexual abuse, its victims and perpetrators; what to look for when adults interact with children; essential steps communities can take to develop sexual abuse prevention efforts; and examples of effective prevention programs and strategies.

*Massachusetts Citizens for Children*

**P**CA Georgia hosts STARS in the Arts benefit gala. The annual **STARS in the Arts** benefit was held on April 4, in the Egyptian Ballroom of the Fox Theatre in Atlanta, Georgia. It paired entertainment, sports and corporate leaders together with high profile artists to collaborate on original works of art that were auctioned live during the gala. Some of the highlights of the evening included an original work by artist Radcliffe Bailey and an autographed piece by Chipper Jones of the Atlanta Braves. With 340 guests, the event raised over \$150,000 to benefit the prevention efforts and programs of PCA Georgia.

*Prevent Child Abuse Georgia*

## Leadership Conference highlights the power of collaboration

Nearly 200 members of our chapter, Circle of Parents™ and HFA networks gathered in Jacksonville, Florida in March to discuss and tackle common challenges in the prevention field at the **2003 Leadership Conference, “Prevention Leadership in Times of Change.”** This was the first combined meeting of network leaders since the 2002 National Conference in Dallas and participants enjoyed an opportunity to focus both on individual network topics and subjects of shared interest among all three groups.

State leaders from the HFA network addressed advocacy and research issues in a meeting facilitated for the first time by the State Leaders Advisory Committee – a representative group of network members from around the country. Members of the National Family Support Roundtable – PCA America’s collaborating partner in the Circle of Parents project – spent their time together discussing the future structure of the project, supported by a four-year grant that will end in 2004. Highlights of the chapters meeting included remarks by Michael Axelrod, chairman of PCA America’s Board of Directors; an update on PCA America’s plans to conduct research on reframing our prevention message; an overview of the chapter fundraising landscape; and a special session on aligning practices with values in our national/chapter relationship.

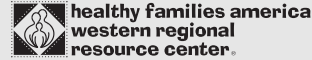
Keynote speakers included **Dr. David L. Chadwick**, who spoke on ending child abuse; **W. Rodney Hammond, Ph.D.** and **Corinne Graffunder** of the Division of Violence Prevention at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), who provided an overview of prevention trends nationwide and an in-depth look at the CDC’s current project on child sexual abuse prevention; and **Linda Cirulli-Burton**, a public relations director, teacher and motivator who provided guidance on thriving in the face of change.

## Healthy Families America sites awarded

The National Association of Counties (NACo) honored three Healthy Families America programs with its **“Counties Care for Kids” awards.** **Healthy Families Oakland (MI), Every Child Succeeds - Hamilton County (OH),** and **Healthy Families Fairfax (VA)** were honored in April, receiving recognition for their excellence in working collaboratively on a county level to provide comprehensive early childhood services.

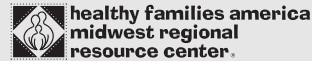
## HFA receives \$1 million grant

The **Doris Duke Charitable Foundation** has awarded PCA America a three-year, \$1 million grant to support the development of new Regional Resource Centers to provide training



and technical assistance resources to state-level HFA programs. The first two pilot

centers are the **Western Regional Center** housed in Arizona and the **Midwest Regional Center**, which is a collaboration among the states of Michigan, Indiana and Illinois, housed



in Michigan. Additionally, the grant supports PCA America’s provision of technical assistance, capacity building and program evaluation services

to the centers. PCA America is grateful to the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation for this generous gift and for its continued support in our prevention efforts.

## Four new states join Circle of Parents project

Statewide networks in Missouri, North Carolina, South Dakota and Texas joined the Circle of Parents project last Fall. **Volunteers of America/Dakotas, PCA Missouri, PCA North Carolina,** and **Family Forward of Texas** will work with the National Family Support Roundtable and PCA America to support and grow mutual self-help support programs for parents. Circle of Parents programs are now available in 23 states, represented by 24 regional and statewide networks.

## People magazine praises HFA

Two HFA programs in Florida and Virginia were featured in the April 21 issue of *People* magazine. The publication described the program as an “astounding success” and followed the stories of two home visitors. **Angelita Rodriguez** of Healthy Families Pasco County in Florida and **Shealene Michael-Dumont** of Healthy Families Hampton in Virginia described their work and backgrounds while illustrating the impact the program has had on several families. The magazine’s website also linked readers to the HFA website. We are so pleased to have this opportunity to spread the word about HFA to the 3 million weekly readers of *People*.

# people



**CHICAGO** – PCA America welcomes new Vice President of Advocacy **Shaun Lane**. He brings to PCA America extensive experience advocating on behalf

of children and families, and a deep personal commitment to the prevention of child abuse.

Lane comes from the University of Chicago, School of Social Service Administration, where he teaches courses in social welfare policy and management, and directs the Management Institute and Professional Development Program. He began his career working as a social worker for abused and neglected children and their families, and subsequently led public policy and advocacy efforts with the Child Care Association of Illinois and Children's Home & Aid Society

of Illinois. His expertise and leadership will be a valuable contribution to PCA America.

**USA** – Congratulations to the following PCA America chapter executive directors for receiving the Administration on Children, Youth and Families Commissioner's Award – **Marketa Gautreau**, executive director, PCA Louisiana; **Roy Harley**, executive director, PCA Illinois; **Linda Johnson**, executive director, PCA Vermont; **Steve Scott**, executive director, PCA Iowa; and **Kip Tokuda**, PCA America Board of Directors, and director, City of Seattle, Human Services Department, Family and Youth Services. This prestigious award honors one person from each state for significant contributions toward the prevention and treatment of child abuse and neglect. The awards were presented at the 14th National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect, "Gateways to Prevention," which took place in St. Louis, Missouri, March 31-April 5.

**USA** – We are pleased to announce **Lucky Hollander** (right) as this year's recipient of the 2003 "Donna J. Stone Award," presented to those individuals who embody our founder's spirit of volunteerism, making a significant contribution to the prevention of child abuse and neglect.

As past executive director of our former chapter, PCA Maine, Hollander has worked tirelessly over the past two decades to prevent the abuse and neglect of Maine's children. Thanks to her efforts, the child abuse councils in each of Maine's 16 counties remain strong. She led a statewide initiative that resulted in the adoption of legislation creating a task force to study and implement home visiting throughout Maine. From this effort was born a grassroots coalition called "Start ME Right" to advocate for funding for early child care initiatives, which has secured the most money ever



allocated to prevention in Maine. Hollander is a true champion for the children and families of her state.

**NEW YORK** – Congratulations to PCA America National Board Member

**Milagros Batista** and **Moises Perez** of Alianza Dominicana, a 2002 FAMILIES COUNT honoree. The "FAMILIES COUNT Strengthening Awards" – a program co-sponsored by the Annie E. Casey Foundation – honors exemplary programs that help strengthen families. Alianza Dominicana, founded in 1987, is a community-based agency that provides comprehensive services and programs to the neighborhoods of Washington Heights and Inwood at the northern tip of Manhattan.

## Advocacy briefs

### Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) update

On March 26, the full House passed by voice vote H.R. 14, the House bill to reauthorize CAPTA. Earlier the U.S. Senate unanimously passed its CAPTA bill, S. 342. The bills are similar in many ways. Both:

- Reauthorize CAPTA through FY 2007;
- Increase authorized funding from \$166 to \$200 million – this differs from actual appropriations, which were \$81 million for FY 2002;
- Expand the role of the National Child Abuse Clearinghouse to including maintaining information on best practices in prevention and intervention;
- Improve training for child and family service workers and improve cross-training to improve recognition of neglect, domestic violence, or substance abuse in a family; and
- Encourage the creation of networks between child protective services and education, health, mental health, and judicial organizations.

CAPTA reauthorization will now go to conference committee to reconcile differences between the House and Senate

versions. It is believed the bill will be completed by April. For more information on PCA America's advocacy efforts, please visit our website at [www.preventchildabuse.org](http://www.preventchildabuse.org).

### Congress doubles funding for PCA America and National Family Support Roundtable programs

In the Fall issue of *Lookin' Up*, we reported that Congress was considering an increase in funds for PCA America's and the Roundtable's work on parent self-help support groups. We are pleased now to announce that Congress actually doubled funding for this project. PCA America will receive \$600,000 to work with the Roundtable to support the Circle of Parents program, which supports groups for parents across the country. In light of recent massive cuts to social services we are deeply appreciative of this increase. The omnibus appropriations bill for federal FY 2003 (H.J. Res. 2), passed by both Houses of Congress on February 13, provides funds to PCA America through a juvenile justice grant program in the Department of Justice. Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT) led the effort to secure this earmark.

**Guest forum** an interview with Senator Mike DeWine (R-OH) who was sworn into the U.S. Senate in 1995 as the first Republican U.S. Senator to represent the Buckeye state in more than two decades. He was re-elected in 2000. Since his arrival in the Senate, DeWine has further defined his role of service to Ohio and his country by establishing himself as a leader in efforts to fight for the health, welfare and safety of our children.

# Senator Mike DeWine: fighting for the safety and welfare of children nationwide

## **Why is preventing child abuse and neglect, and strengthening families so important to you?**

“As a parent of eight and a grandparent of eight, nothing disturbs me more than reports of child abuse and neglect. When I was serving as Assistant Greene County Prosecuting Attorney and then as Greene County Prosecutor, I witnessed first-hand what abuse and neglect can do to a child – and it’s truly tragic. The saddest thing is that the very same kinds of child abuse cases I saw in Greene County are still happening today. The names change, but the abuse continues. We have an obligation to do everything we can to help these vulnerable children. Children, more than anyone, need someone in their corner fighting for them and for their safety and welfare.”

## **How does your experience as a father and grandfather influence the work you do now?**

“It’s a part of everything I do. I know that family is the most unique and sacred relationship we have, and I try and do everything I can to help protect my own loved ones and all families. My wife, Fran, and our children and grandchildren help me keep my perspective and keep me aware of the concerns of families in Ohio and across the country.”

## **You’ve championed several pieces of legislation in recent years, including the CAPE Act. Why is this legislation important for keeping children safe?**

“The Child Abuse Prevention and Enforcement (CAPE) Act that Representative Deborah Pryce (R-Columbus) and I wrote was signed into law in 2000. This law provides much-needed increases in funding for the investigation of child abuse crimes and the implementation of child abuse prevention programs. To improve access to critical law enforcement information, the CAPE law improves the ability of our local law enforcement systems to exchange timely and accurate criminal history information with agencies involved in child welfare, child abuse and adoption services.”

## **Can you tell me about the Comprehensive Child Protection Act of 2003 that you introduced in March?**

“I first introduced this legislation in September 2002. The Comprehensive Child Protection Act of 2003 would enhance national efforts to investigate, prosecute and prevent crimes against children. In general, the bill addresses the need for a nationally coordinated response to the information received about abused children and their offenders. Among many things, it allows the FBI to establish a National Crimes Against Children Response Center, with the primary mission of providing a rapid response plan to reported crimes against children. The act would direct the Department of Justice to create a national Internet site with the names of sex offenders and consolidate other sex offender information. This legislation also addresses a problem



with the current law that only permits child abuse cases to be brought until the person reaches 25 years of age. Most children who were abused do not come forward about the abuse until much later. My bill would extend the statute of limitations for 10 more years for children who were abused under the age of 18.”

## **What work have you done as a member of the Subcommittee on Children/Families & Aging?**

“As a member of the HELP (Health, Education, Labor & Pensions) Committee, I sit on the Children, Families & Aging Subcommittee, and Chair the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Subcommittee. There is always more to be done with these issues, but some important legislation we’ve accomplished includes the Promoting Safe and Stable Families Act (PSSF), a bill I authored that was signed into law last year by President Bush. Under this new law, more money is allocated for post-adoption services designed to help child welfare agencies establish and maintain permanency for children. PSSF also includes a mentoring program for children of prisoners and an education voucher program for foster care children. The grants also promote more timely court actions that provide for the safety of children in foster care and expedite the placement of children in appropriate permanent settings. I’m proud of this legislation because I’ve seen first-hand that the long legal process required in adoption can really harm the child.”

## **What still needs to be done at the federal and local levels to keep children safe from child abuse and neglect?**

“I think it starts with prevention. Just recently, on the National Day of Hope for Abused Children, I was joined by Senators Blanche Lincoln (D-AR) and Richard Shelby (R-AL) in forming the Senate Caucus on Missing, Exploited and Runaway Children. I plan to use this caucus to help pass legislation to help protect children from abuse, strengthen AMBER Alert programs, and place pictures of missing Ohio children on my office mailing envelopes.”

### Easing stresses brought on by these uncertain times

As our country deals with the economic downturn and situation in Iraq, families nationwide are feeling the stress and anxiety associated with our current state of affairs. With increased stress among families, the potential for child abuse and neglect can rise. Following are some tips for parents on easing these stresses.

1. *Think about the serious issues of the day, but keep things in perspective.*
2. *Stay on regular sleep cycles.*
3. *Relaxation techniques, yoga and exercise are all helpful for daily stress and worry.*
4. *Take time away from the stressful situation and spend it with your children. Take a walk, go to the park or zoo, or visit friends and family.*
5. *Talk about the issue at hand with your children, as appropriate.*
6. *If you find that it is becoming difficult to avoid being verbally or physically harsh with your children, **STOP**. Don't take out your anger on your kids. Instead, try the following:*
  - *Take a deep breath and count to 20.*
  - *Phone a friend.*
  - *Take a walk outside, or use another form of exercise.*
  - *Laugh. Even a comedy show on television will help relieve stress.*
  - *Spend one hour doing something you really enjoy.*

7. *Finally, seek help if things seem out of control. Get counseling, enroll in a parent support group, or talk to a health care provider or leader in your faith community.*

### Children helping children

PCA America extends a special “thank you” to two of its youngest donors, **Yael Krevsky**, 11, and **David Lander**, 8. Both children recently made donations to help us in our effort to end child abuse and neglect.

This year, David Lander, his brother and sister were each given \$100 to donate to the charity of their choosing. Using *Worth* magazine’s list of the country’s top 100 charities, which included PCA America, he chose PCA America as one of his charities. He has started a special notebook to keep the letters and materials from his charities to see how the money is being used. A second-grader at Fayerweather Street School in Cambridge, MA, David plays soccer year round, but also enjoys football and likes to paint. His favorite subject at school is math.

Yael Krevsky attends Park Slope Jewish Center Hebrew School in Park Slope, Brooklyn. Last December, her school held a Tzedakah Fair, where students choose a charity and create a poster with information about that organization. During the fair, visitors from other classes and the community can learn about the charities represented and make donations. She raised \$120 from this fair and explained that she chose PCA America because “I think you do great things for children.” She learned about us through her father who is a guidance counselor. Yael says that she loves drama and is currently playing an elf in “Robin Hood” at school. She was also an extra in the upcoming movie “Duplex” starring Ben Stiller and Drew Barrymore.

We are grateful to Yael and David for their kind hearts and generosity. Their support reminds us that each one of us, even children, has a role to play in preventing child abuse and neglect.

### New publications and resource materials

#### What Parents Should Know About Bullying

Bullying isn’t “just part of growing up” – it’s damaging to the victim and can set the stage for continued violence. This is the message parents get, along with straightforward advice on how to tell if their child is being bullied; how to respond in an appropriate, effective manner; and how to intervene if their child is bullying other children. This useful publication also includes bullying-prevention tips and safety strategies parents can teach their children.

To order, call the PCA America Fulfillment Center at 800.835.2671.

#### Bullies, Targets and Witnesses, Helping Children Break the Pain Chain

PCA America National Board Member SuEllen Fried and her daughter Paula Fried have released their second book about bullying. It contains information collected from over 60,000 children that SuEllen has worked with in public, private and parochial schools in 26 states. The book supports their belief that bullying is a form of child abuse and contains practical, concrete ideas for parents, teacher, students and child advocates. It’s available at major bookstores nationwide.

**2001 HFA SITE SURVEY –**

In April, PCA America's National Center on Child Abuse Prevention Research released the results of the **2001 HFA Site Survey**, which included information from 388 of 456 sites nationwide, representing a 3% increase from 2000. Over the past decade HFA has grown from a model program in a single state to a national program reaching more than 400 communities. The 2001 survey shows promising results, indicating that HFA is entering a maturation phase in program development, marked by stable funding, expanding partnerships and quality assurance.

State funding is an important aspect of mature programs, and the survey indicates that over 75% of HFA programs maintained or increased funding from the previous year, averaging \$530,000 per site. Accreditation of both host agencies and HFA programs also showed a substantial increase from 2000 to 2001, indicating program maturity.

The survey also shows impressive growth in families enrolled in HFA. An estimated 50,000 families were enrolled in 2001, an increase of 28% from 2000, with 36% of these families enrolled prenatally. On average, 73% of families remained enrolled at least six months.

In terms of staffing, the 2001 survey results show the number of home visitors per site remained the same as in 2000, averaging seven full-time home visitors per site. Supervisors' qualifications were requested for the first time in the 2001 survey, showing that the majority of HFA supervisors hold a bachelor's (41%) or master's (49%) degree. However, results also suggest that experience may prove to be a better indicator of staff quality, as shown by the significant relationship between home visitor experience and family retention rates.

The 2001 survey clearly indicates the importance of HFA partnerships, with nearly 50% of auxiliary services provided through partnering agencies. To address challenges of domestic violence, substance abuse and mental

health, 86% of HFA sites partner with at least one of these services and 63% have relationships with all three. In fact, 79% of sites offer one or more additional services through a partnering agency, demonstrating the importance of forming a community-wide system of support in order to meet the multi-faceted needs of young children and families.

The results of the 2001 HFA Site Survey clearly distinguish HFA as a leader in the field of home visitation, ensuring that more children and families will find the support they need to thrive.

PCA AMERICA PRESENTS POSTER SESSION ON PRENATAL SERVICES & FATHER INVOLVEMENT AT NCCAN – During the 14th National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect, "Gateways to Prevention," PCA America staff presented the poster session "**Great Beginnings Start Before Birth: Strengthening Families Through Early Prenatal Support Services and Father Involvement.**" Presented by **Ching-Tung Wang, Helen Reif** and **Domarina Oshana**, this session took a look at the importance of improving and strengthening family life through prenatal home visiting services and engaging fathers right from the start.

During the past decade, research in the prenatal field has produced a wealth of scientific evidence about the development of an unborn child. Further, research on fatherhood suggests that the roles of the father in families and the father's impact on the child's cognitive, social and emotional development are vastly understated.

This session looked at PCA America's HFA Prenatal Project, "Great Beginnings Start Before Birth," and the advantages of engaging fathers in home visiting services as well as the challenges of including fathers. Specific strategies on how to engage fathers during the prenatal period and how to increase home visitors' awareness and skills in providing prenatal services were also discussed.

We were pleased to have the following organizations and programs participate at the press conference: **American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC), Circle of Parents, Community-Based Family Resource and Support Programs, Family Support America, Healthy Families America, National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds, National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information, National Exchange Club Foundation for the Prevention of Child Abuse, National Family Support Roundtable, Parents Anonymous®** and **PCA Missouri**.

We are happy to report that the press conference received impressive media coverage including *USA Today*, the Associated Press, and the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. These media placements help ensure that we continue to educate the public about the issue and the importance of prevention.

**OACN 2003 Prevention Initiative**

During the press conference, OACN launched its 2003 prevention initiative, which focuses on various components of the child abuse and neglect issue, and was developed to encourage communities nationwide to work together to keep our children safe and to provide the support that families need to stay together. This initiative includes the Community Resource Packet, the release of the *Child Maltreatment 2001* data, the 14th National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect, and the launch of a new Prevention Initiative Web site through the NCCAN, among others.

This year's conference was particularly noteworthy since it represented the first time the theme focused on prevention. It included over 200 informative workshops, think tanks and seminars, all focusing on building strong families and mobilizing communities on behalf of children. One of the highlights was the one-day think tank led by PCA America's Research Center to begin to develop a research agenda for the child abuse and neglect prevention field (watch for highlights in the summer issue of *Lookin' Up*). PCA America staff also presented several workshops ranging in issues from reframing the issue of child maltreatment to prenatal support and father involvement.

We are proud to have had the opportunity to participate in this collaboration. It truly represents the range of prevention efforts taking place nationwide. We all know that there is not one clear path to preventing child abuse and neglect, but rather many approaches and strategies – gateways that our communities build toward an ideal world, where all children are safe.

For a copy of *Child Maltreatment 2001* visit [www.calib.com/nccanch/prevention](http://www.calib.com/nccanch/prevention).



“Children, more than anyone, need someone in their corner fighting for them and for their safety and welfare.”

Senator Mike DeWine (R-OH)  
Interview on page 7

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visit our web sites at

[www.preventchildabuse.org](http://www.preventchildabuse.org)  
[www.healthyfamiliesamerica.org](http://www.healthyfamiliesamerica.org)  
[www.circleofparents.org](http://www.circleofparents.org)

Plan ahead, all are welcome to attend

# events

## JUNE 11-13, 2003

The National Fatherhood Initiative (NFI) presents its **2003 National Summit on Fatherhood, "Carrying the Flag for Fatherhood."** This year's summit includes new innovative workshops, more breakout sessions and opportunities for networking, as well as an additional full-day, pre-summit Training Institute. Some of the topics will include public and private funding sources, social marketing, getting new fathers involved and developing community initiatives. NFI's mission is to improve the well being of children by increasing the proportion of children growing up with involved, responsible and committed fathers. **Hyatt Regency Philadelphia at Penn's Landing, Philadelphia, PA**  
Contact: To register or for more information contact Elaine Sherman at 301.948.0599 or [esherman@fatherhood.org](mailto:esherman@fatherhood.org).

## JULY 23-26, 2003

The American Professional Society for the Abuse of Children (APSAC) hosts its **"11th Annual National Colloquium,"** a major source of

information and research for interdisciplinary professionals in the field of child abuse and neglect. The colloquium provides an excellent opportunity for leaders in the field of child maltreatment to join forces to advance best practices. The colloquium will include interdisciplinary skills-based training seminars on all aspects of child maltreatment, research papers, poster presentations, networking opportunities and a faculty of internationally recognized experts. APSAC is a membership society dedicated to serving professionals who work in child abuse and neglect and thereby improve the quality of services to maltreated children and the adults who share and influence their lives. **Hyatt Orlando, Orlando, FL**  
Contact: To register or for more information visit [www.apsac.org](http://www.apsac.org).

## OCTOBER 25, 2003

**Save the date!** PCA America Chicago Board will host its annual **Gold & Silver Ball. Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Chicago**  
Contact: Babette Nyka, 312.663.3520 ext. 164

## MAY 14-19, 2004

**Save the Date!** Start planning now to participate in the 2004 PCA America National Conference. It provides a wonderful opportunity for members of the PCA America network and others interested in supporting strong families and safe, healthy children to come together for education, inspiration, motivation and recreation. The 2004 conference will be held at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida. A special conference rate of \$138 per night will be honored six days before and after the conference dates for all attendees. **Disney's Coronado Springs Resort, Walt Disney World, Orlando, FL**  
Contact: Conference Manager Ann Johnson at [ajohnson@preventchildabuse.org](mailto:ajohnson@preventchildabuse.org) or Conference Services Coordinator Rebecca Loden at [rloden@preventchildabuse.org](mailto:rloden@preventchildabuse.org), or call 312.663.3520.

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