



## Spring 2020 Update

***"Thank you for sending me the PPI program update. It is an impressive statement of the far-reaching and transformational impact PPI has on families."*** Susan Van Wickle, Donor

I was reminded in a call of the Chinese word for crisis (危機) is frequently cited as two characters: "danger" and "opportunity". I'm seeing both in these months of "sheltering in place". This time is difficult for everyone; however, I'm pleased to share some positive news during this challenging time.

- **New website!** While "isolating" at home, we finally created our new website! I appreciate your feedback, as well as any catches you might find! (I'm sure we have missed some "nits"! ) There's lots of new information. Here's the link, [www.preventionpartnership.us](http://www.preventionpartnership.us). Check it out!
- **Addiction Prevention Services – Uplift Family Services** quickly moved to serving families on-line. Dr. Cohen, SJSU, will evaluate their outcomes comparing them to last years "in person" groups. Agencies working in rural areas have asked for an "on-line" version for some time. Because of the "crisis", we hope to have one to share in the next year.
- **Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians** postponed starting groups, like most *Celebrating Families!*<sup>™</sup> sites. However, they didn't let a global pandemic stop them from bringing *CF!* to their community. Program coordinators hold weekly circle with group leaders, practicing *CF!* concepts and brainstorming ways to bring the content virtually to all families in their tribal communities. Their dedication, passion and innovation is inspiring!
- **Parisi House on the Hill** also postponed their family version of *Celebrating Families!*<sup>™</sup>. However, they are using this time to implement new materials, developed by Mary Gardner and Rosemary Tisch, for agencies taking a break between *CF!* cycles. *Intersessions* are a set of eight lessons for parents focused on reducing Risk Factors and increasing Protective Factors affecting children's physical and mental health, including topics of positive discipline and child development. Also available are *0-3 Parent Strengthening Lessons*, intended to be offered in conjunction with the 0-3 *CF!* Supplement. These 16 sessions focus on "Critical Parenting Skills", providing opportunities to learn and practice skills, art/crafts, songs, and stories appropriate for children. These new materials are available through PPI, contact [MelissaSantos@communitysolutions.org](mailto:MelissaSantos@communitysolutions.org)
- ***iCelebrando Familias! 0-3*** is now available for piloting! Contact [MelissaSantos@communitysolutions.org](mailto:MelissaSantos@communitysolutions.org).

**2020 Hearts & Hands Spotlight on Roger Barney:** *"On March 15, 2000, I was returning from lunch and got a call from my wife, Jeannette, who said, 'come to Kimberly's house, she's in a bad way', and by the time I arrived, the paramedics were there and she'd been pronounced dead. She was two weeks away from her 25th birthday."*-Roger Barney • 2020



Community Hearts & Hands Award recipient and Kimberly's father. *"It all started with a chronic pain condition caused by a neuroma on the bottom of Kimberly's foot, for which she was prescribed Vicodin. The surgery to repair it was unsuccessful and the condition was treated with the extensive use of prescribed opioids by a succession of doctors"*. During that time, addiction took hold and Roger and Jeannette watched their bubbly, upbeat daughter with a wonderful sense of humor turn into an angry, almost unrecognizable version of herself. Four years later, when the pain became too much, she intentionally overdosed. Following the loss of their daughter, Roger and Jeannette made the decision to turn their family's tragedy into hope for other children and families.

**They started by contracting Rosemary Tisch** to create a curriculum for schools that would address legal, prescribed drugs. Roger says, *"For the last 19 years, I've been carrying the torch because I believe so much in this program. And, if I can save one child, it's worth it."* The Hearts & Hands Luncheon! now in September will honor Roger with the Community Hearts & Hands Award for his leadership.

**"Famous Episcopal Church Women at Saint Andrew's"- Rosemary Tisch, PPI Director, recognized for her work:** *"For decades parishioner Rosemary Tisch has been in the forefront in California, nationally, and worldwide, helping spouses, children, and parents deal with the disease of addiction in their families. In 1983 Rosemary founded "Kids Are Special," one of the first programs in the United States to study the impact on and prevention tools useful for children of addicts."*

Rosemary has worked with the Santa Clara County drug court to create *Celebrating Families!™* which resulted in exceptionally positive outcomes for family unification —double the California average. *Celebrating Families!™* has been translated into Spanish and its sister programs, *Keys to Healthy Living* and *Healthy Families*, into Russian. She also headed the team that developed the *Young Women Are Strong* series (focused on preventing teen pregnancies) and *START of California* (working with young adults with learning differences). Rosemary has vast experience in nonprofits and developing programs to address substance abuse. Honors bestowed on Rosemary include Woman of the Year, Santa Clara County; 2013 Simple Servant Award from the Diocese of El Camino; 2008 recipient as one of NACoA's (National Association for Children of Addiction) individuals in the US who 'save, protect, and guide children.'"



**Highlights from Evaluations from Parisi House on the Hill (2016)** Yes, these are from 2016. Been cleaning out files and closets and came across these wonderful outcomes I wanted to share:

**What is one important thing you learned?**

- Self-care is so important.
- Give affirmations .
- Attend to my child's wants and needs with lots of love, support and encouragement.
- Healthy boundaries and relationships.
- Be a better listener.
- Be better than yesterday!

**What did you enjoy or reflect on this session?**

- The importance of family meals.
- How important it is to communicate and bond with our kids.
- What I do, reflects on my son.
- How my emotions affect my parenting.
- My child is "talking" even if he can't yet talk.
- Children misbehave when they don't understand their feelings.
- Babies have feelings.
- I need to be calm for myself before I handle a situation.
- I need to help my children learn to calm themselves on their own.
- Use of time-ins.
- I can change my brain.
- I need to create a safe, secure and serene household for my children.
- How much work is going to be put into keeping Miguel sober!
- Attachment is healthy.
- Safe friends need to be my #1 priority.
- Being consistent with my child.
- What recovering parents can do.
- Walk the talk.
- How important it is to be there for our kids physically and emotionally.
- How important it is to give affirmations and communicate.

**Now available:** A limited number of copies of the NEW *Essential Information & Parenting Skills for Agency Staff and Volunteers Working with Parents and Caregivers of Young Children* and the *0-3 Parenting Tip Booklets* are available thanks to the Saratoga Rotary Charitable Foundation. Contact Rosemary Tisch at [rstisch@gmail.com](mailto:rstisch@gmail.com) for copies.

I hope you'll be able to check out the new website. Also explore the *Celebrating Families!™* Facebook page for lots of resources. (I've been actively adding materials regularly and readership has increased significantly.)

**THANK YOU!** to each of you for being part of the dedicated and extremely competent *Celebrating Families!™*(CF!) team as a group leader, administrator, funder, or participant. With your commitment, help and support **we continue to provide these state-of-the-art services! Stay safe.**

**Rosemary Tisch, Director Prevention Partnership International**

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