



Fall 2019 & Winter 2020 Update

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 now available thanks to the Saratoga Rotary Charitable Foundation. Contact Rosemary Tisch at rstisch@gmail.com for copies.

What About the Children?

"Children are the most vulnerable witnesses of the opioid epidemic and further research is urgently needed to expand prevention interventions." National Institutes of Health (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/31303278>)

"Every 25 minutes in America, a baby is born suffering from opioid withdrawal, which can mean lower birthweights, respiratory conditions, feeding difficulties, seizures and longer hospital stays." American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Fact Sheets, 2020

"Children who have parents with substance use disorders need healthy attachment bonds with their primary adult caregiver in order to grow, develop and thrive,"
(Journal of Applied Research on Children: Informing Policy for Children at Risk, 2019)

Nationally

- 8.7 million children have a parent who suffers from a substance use disorder (Am Academy of Pediatrics).
- 41% of these children are under the age of 6 (kidscount.org).
- 400,000 births a year are affected by prenatal exposure to alcohol and illicit drugs (SAMHSA: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration).
- 59% of adults in treatment programs are parents of children, 27% have had one or more children removed by child welfare services (Journal of Applied Research on Children: Informing Policy for Children at Risk)
- Approximately 70% of women in treatment have children (Journal of Applied Research on Children, 2019).

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) can have lasting, negative effects on health, well-being, and are highly correlated to substance use disorders in the family. Research shows that ACEs increase the risk of a child developing a substance use disorder; a wide range of chronic mental and physical disorders; or experiencing early death due to cancer, diabetes, heart disease, and suicide; sexually transmitted infections; health problems; teen pregnancy; and involvement in sex trafficking (Centers for Disease Control www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/preventingACES-508.pdf.)

Keeping families together from the start helps prevent further trauma and improves outcome.
(American Academy of Pediatrics)

Celebrating Families!™ Can Make The Difference!

*"Published reports and current evaluations have shown that **Celebrating Families!™(CF!)** is effective in improving parenting skills, family relationships, and family communication for parents whose substance use has resulted in involvement with child welfare and dependency drug courts."*

Dr. Ed Cohen, San Jose State University, Evaluator.

Here are some of the locations where Celebrating Families!™ is meeting the needs of children and their families, made possible through your commitment, dedication and generosity:

Celebrating Families!™ California Expansion Project: Los Angeles and Willits, CA, as part of the California Office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP) Project, SHIELDS for Families, Para Los Niños, and Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians, received training in the *Celebrating Families!™* model this fall. The 2.5 day trainings prepare participants to be group leaders. Evaluations were overwhelmingly positive with much excitement about bringing CF! to their

communities. Some excerpts from evaluations: *"We are now ready to heal the wounds of our community."* *"Thank you for your attention to trauma, equality, respect and spirituality. This was a gift to our people."* *"Recovery is more fruitful with whole family involved."*



**Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo
Indians Training Group**

"I wanted to thank you for allowing us to be a part of the training in Willits. It was definitely a unique and very powerful experience. Seeing the training on the ground and being conducted in person was valuable for this partnership. It allowed me to put all of the theory of this project into perspective. Aside from the professional standpoint, I felt respected and honored that they included us in this amazing beginning to what is hopefully going to be a profound step forward in developing resources for the community." OCAP Contract Monitor

MetaHouse, Milwaukee, WI, continues to offer *Celebrating Families!*™. MetaHouse is one of the first residential treatment facilities in the US designed specifically for women and their children to live in residential treatment and to receive supportive services simultaneously. This fall 11 families successfully completed *Celebrating Families!*



In Bexar County Texas, Judge Sakai's Family Drug Court specializes in addiction and *"helps with strained relationships of the past to restore faith, hope and humanity to family"*. His court believes in therapeutic justice and helping the entire family. Not only is there support and education for the parents, but also for the children. His court offers *Celebrating Families!*, allowing the family unit to understand what drugs have done to their family unit; the child/children to have a voice with the court; and their parents to learn how addiction has hurt them. Working together with a wraparound approach has led to the successful reunification of over 719 children. See more at <https://youtube/du1jYC2XgZM> and article at <http://preventionpartnership.us/pdf/DrugCourtReview.pdf>.



Kalamazoo, Michigan



Saginaw Chippewa Academy, Mt Pleasant, Michigan

Thank you for being part of the dedicated and extremely competent *Celebrating Families!*™(CFI) 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!**

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