



# Parents Anonymous® Inc.

## Founder and National Sponsor of National Parent Leadership Month

### Background Information

Founded in 1969, Parents Anonymous® Inc. is the nation's oldest child abuse prevention organization dedicated to strengthening families through mutual support and Parent Leadership. Parents Anonymous® Inc. was established through the extraordinary efforts of Jolly K., a courageous parent who sought help to create a safe and caring home for her family. Working in partnership with her social worker, they launched a unique solution for parents who wanted to strengthen their families — the Parents Anonymous® Group. These weekly groups are co-led by parents and professionally trained Group Facilitators and are free of charge to participants.

Today Parents Anonymous® Inc. leads a dynamic international Network of accredited organizations that implement quality Parents Anonymous® Groups and Children's Programs. Parents Anonymous® Inc. provides training and technical assistance, develops publications and conducts research on Parent Leadership, systems reform and effective community-based strategies to strengthen families.

- ◆ Integral to our mission and operations is the unique partnership established with Parents Anonymous® Parent Leaders.
- ◆ Parents Anonymous® Inc. has a long impressive history of effectively advocating for the creation and support of meaningful leadership roles for parents to ensure better outcomes for families.
- ◆ Parents Anonymous® Inc. took Parent Leadership to a new level when it created the first ever National Parent Leadership Team® (NPLT), an organizational unit composed of a diverse group of mothers, fathers, and grandparents. These individuals were identified as strong Parent Leaders in their local Parents Anonymous® Programs and now serve to help families on a national level.
- ◆ Based on the success of the NPLT, many state and local Parents Anonymous® organizations have developed Parent Leadership Teams to accomplish similar goals in their own communities.
- ◆ In an effort to educate and engage parents and all others interested in Parent Leadership, Parents Anonymous® Inc. has developed and operates the *Parent Leadership Network*. This is a unique online community for parents and other parties such as staff, community members, professionals, and policymakers from across the country to talk about Parent Leadership development and opportunities. Membership is free. To join, members complete an online registration form at [www.parentleadershipnetwork.org](http://www.parentleadershipnetwork.org).

## Parents Anonymous® Research

- ◆ Parents Anonymous® Inc. has created a groundbreaking Parent Leadership Behavior Scale to develop a valid and reliable measure of Parent Leadership behaviors (based on Leadership Practices Inventory, Kouzes and Posner's, 1995).
- ◆ Parent Leaders achieve better outcomes for families when they have opportunities to use their expertise through meaningful and active roles in the planning, implementation, oversight and evaluation of programs, as well as in the development of public policies that affect families and children.
- ◆ Parents Anonymous® Inc. conducted several evaluation studies on the effectiveness of Parents Anonymous® Inc.'s national trainings on Parent Leadership and concluded that there was enhancement of knowledge, skills and abilities of Parent Leaders and an increase in their leadership activities:
  - ❖ Thirty-eight percent (38%) of parents who participated in Parents Anonymous® Inc.'s 1998 National Parent Leadership Institute became members of boards of directors, advisory councils, or other policymaking groups.
  - ❖ Thirty percent (30%) of parents who participated in Parents Anonymous® Inc.'s 1998 National Parent Leadership Institute participated in advocacy activities.
  - ❖ Forty-eight percent (48%) of parents who participated in Parents Anonymous® Inc.'s 1998 National Parent Leadership Institute wrote newspaper or newsletter articles, and 13% had television, radio or newspaper interviews.

The Parents Anonymous® Inc. legacy continues because of the millions of courageous parents and children who have successfully changed their lives forever through the Parents Anonymous® principle of Parent Leadership.