

# INNOVATIONS

Parents Anonymous® Inc.

Strengthening Families Around the World

Summer/Fall 2003



## Message from the President and CEO

This issue of *Innovations* highlights our legacy and expertise on effective Parent Leadership. In 2004, Parents Anonymous® Inc. will celebrate its 35th anniversary in successfully strengthening and supporting strong and safe families through quality Parents Anonymous® Programs. Our accomplishments over the past 35 years are due to the strong partnerships that we have with Parents Anonymous® Parent Leaders and our work together in meaningful Parent Leadership efforts leading to positive results for families. The National Parent Leadership Team® has made significant contributions to the field by providing effective trainings, innovative technical assistance, and valuable materials to assist public agencies and community-based organizations in implementing effective shared leadership strategies around the world. As a result of the collaborative work between the California Department of Social Services, California Parent Leadership Team and Parents Anonymous® Inc., several California counties have begun to implement comprehensive Parent Leadership strategies relative to the reform and improvement of their Child Welfare Service systems. Other Child Welfare systems and national organizations are now following our lead, embracing the important concepts of Parent Leadership and Shared Leadership and looking for creative ways to partner with parents.

In February 2004, Parents Anonymous® Inc will launch the first ever National Parent Leadership Month to celebrate and acknowledge



**Dr. Lisa Pion-Berlin**  
President & CEO

effective Parent Leaders throughout the country. We and our Parents Anonymous® Network welcome the participation of any organization interested in highlighting Parent Leaders in their local communities to ensure that Parent Leadership continues to be in the forefront of new and innovative initiatives. Now more than ever, parents, staff, professionals and policymakers are asking the question – how can we ensure that Parent Leaders are partners in developing, implementing and evaluating programs? These ideas are not new. It's easy to be philosophically committed to the idea of Parent Leadership but it's a lot harder to make it into a reality. Parent Leadership is more than a thought or an idea – it needs to be promoted, nurtured and implemented throughout the mission, structure and activities of any organization. Parents Anonymous® Inc. specializes in assisting organizations to assess their organizational readiness to venture down this arduous but extremely rewarding pathway. Furthermore, Parents Anonymous® Inc.

provides comprehensive trainings, intensive technical assistance, and specialized publications, coupled with a clear evaluation strategy to organizations committed to achieving meaningful Parent Leadership.

This *Innovations* highlights many of Parents Anonymous® Inc.'s important Parent Leadership efforts over the past year. We recognized the extraordinary efforts of a Parents Anonymous® Parent Leader, Sue Smith, who won the 2003 Jolly K. Award and also an exceptional volunteer, Wendy Haas, who won the 2003 Juanita Chávez Award. In partnership with Parents Anonymous® Parent Leaders, we launched a new Web site and produced a new Public Service Announcement with Catherine Hicks, well-known actress and mother on *7th Heaven*. Many specialized workshops on Parent Leadership and Shared Leadership were presented to thousands of service providers at a wide variety of conferences including the 14th National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect. In February 2003, Parents Anonymous® Inc. took Parent Leadership training to a new level when we hosted the first Certified Parent Leader Trainer Institute. Twenty-nine Parent Leaders graduated from an intensive three-day certification process in preparation for their new role as a co-trainer in their local community. Most recently, Tanya Long, National Parent Leadership Team® Co-Chair, accepted another important leadership role as member of the Parents Anonymous® Inc. Board of Directors. As you read this issue, we hope you will join us in launching National Parent Leadership Month in February 2004 and explore new ways to work in partnership with Parent Leaders in your community.

## National Parent Leadership Month

Get Ready to Recognize Parent Leaders!

Parents Anonymous® Inc. will kick off the first ever **National Parent Leadership Month** in February 2004. Plans are underway to highlight February as the month to recognize the meaningful leadership roles of parents in their families, communities and in local, state, national and international arenas. National Parent Leadership Month will also showcase the many opportunities available for parents, professionals, policymakers and other community members to engage in partnerships with the goal of building and supporting strong, safe families.

Parents Anonymous® Inc. and its diverse international Network will work in partnership with public and private organizations such as social services, education, juvenile justice, childcare, mental health, health, businesses and policymakers to promote National Parent Leadership Month in communities around the world.

### By partnering together we can:

- ❖ Raise public awareness about the important roles parents play in shaping the lives of children and families
- ❖ Publicize and expand opportunities for Parent Leaders to participate in meaningful Parent Leadership activities at the local, state and national levels
- ❖ Recognize individual Parent Leaders whose contributions make a positive difference to their families and their communities
- ❖ Build successful partnerships between Parent Leaders and professionals in sharing responsibility, expertise and leadership in decisions being made that affect families and communities.

### Benefits of Participating:

- ❖ Letting parents know that help and support is available
- ❖ Celebrating Parent Leaders in local communities
- ❖ Educating communities about Parent Leadership and Shared Leadership and what these important concepts mean
- ❖ Inspiring parents to become leaders in their homes and in their communities
- ❖ Providing opportunities for parents to demonstrate Parent Leadership

To learn more, contact your local Parents Anonymous® organization, or Meryl Levine, ( 909) 621-6184, extension 220, [mlevine@parentsanonymous.org](mailto:mlevine@parentsanonymous.org)

**Attention: Executive Directors · Program Staff · Parent Leaders · Volunteers · Board Members**

**Save  
The  
Date**

### 2004 National Parent Leadership Training Institute

**Date: Sunday, February 8 – Monday, February 9, 2004**

**Place: Marriott Crystal City • 1999 Jefferson Davis Hwy • Arlington, VA 22202**

- \* 35th Anniversary Celebration \*
- \* National Parent Leadership Month Kick-off \*
- \* Exciting Plenary Sessions \*
- \* Skill Building Workshops for Staff and Parent Leaders \*
- \* Networking Opportunities \*

## Check Out Our New Look!



The Parents Anonymous® Inc. Web site has a beautiful, new look and feel. Now you can see pictures of real Parents Anonymous® families, learn about the Parents Anonymous® Programs, keep up with the National Parent Leadership Team®, find a Parents Anonymous® Group in your area, and get to know the National Child Abuse Prevention Advisory Board, all with the click of your mouse.

The new site provides a place where parents seeking help and support can find the resources they need. There is a listing of available Parents Anonymous® Groups and Children's Programs around the country, practical tips on parenting, child abuse prevention and family strengthening community events, and much, much more.

Additional areas of the Web site provide an abundance of information about our:

- History and Mission
- Programs and Network
- Parent Leadership and Shared Leadership Activities
- Training and Technical Assistance
- Research
- Publications
- Media Activities

There is even an opportunity for visitors to share their ideas and thoughts about family strengthening and child abuse prevention. You can check out our new Web site by going to [www.parentsanonymous.org](http://www.parentsanonymous.org).

## Catherine Hicks Records Newest PSA



Enormous public awareness of Parents Anonymous® Inc. is being generated through our Public Service Announcements airing on national television stations across the country. Public Service Announcements are excellent tools for reaching out to parents and provide valuable resource information to professionals and citizens. "Our national Public Service Announcements generate thousands of inquiries annually and help to connect parents to local Parents Anonymous® Programs," says Lisa Pion-Berlin, President and Chief Executive Officer, Parents Anonymous® Inc.

Catherine Hicks, well-known actress on the family-oriented show *7th Heaven*, and also a working mother, recorded our newest national Public Service Announcement. CNN aired our PSA throughout January and again in April for Child Abuse Prevention Month. Warner Brothers Network distributed it to their 100 affiliated stations across the country. Oxygen Media, USA Network and many local stations are also airing it. You can see our newest Public Service Announcement, along with the previous one recorded by the famous actress, Phylicia Rashad, best known for her role on *The Cosby Show*, at anytime by going to our Web site and clicking on "Press Room."

*Thank you Ms. Hicks and Ms. Rashad for your commitment to strengthening families.*

## JOLLY K. AWARD Presented to Parents Anonymous® Parent Leader

In April 2003 Parents Anonymous® Inc. proudly presented the **Jolly K. Award** to **Sue Smith** from St. Louis, Missouri, to recognize her outstanding contributions as a Parent Leader in the field of child abuse prevention. Dr. Lisa Pion-Berlin, President and Chief Executive Officer, explained that Parents Anonymous® Inc. presents the Jolly K. Award to a Parents Anonymous® Parent Leader who exemplifies the courage, tenacity and strong leadership first demonstrated by Parents Anonymous® Inc. founding parent, Jolly K. Along with recognizing the outstanding contributions of this individual, this award promotes the importance of parents having opportunities to take on leadership roles and to 'give back' to the programs, organizations that provide services, and to the community-at-large. Dr. Pion-Berlin stated that "Sue represents thousands of Parents Anonymous® parents throughout the country whose efforts make a positive difference for their own families as well as for others in their communities."

Sue Smith is a very dedicated Parents Anonymous® Parent Leader who has been involved with Parents Anonymous® of St. Louis, Missouri for 7 years. Shortly after she started attending a Parents Anonymous® Group, she was elected as the Parent Group Leader due to her willingness to face the challenges of parenting in her own family and her tireless commitment to support and 'give back' to other parents in the group. Sue has always been a strong force within the Parents Anonymous® Group and as she continued to make changes for herself and her family, she also proved to be an excellent mentor to other parents.

Sue's dedication to the Parents Anonymous® model as a strength-based program to support families led to many new leadership opportunities for her. Sue served on the initial St. Louis Parents Anonymous® Steering

Committee, consisting of staff, community volunteers and Parent Leaders, which was instrumental in the development of the current Parents Anonymous® of St. Louis program and organization. She served for three years as a member of the Parents Anonymous® Inc. National Parent Leadership Team®, co-chairing the Team during the last two years of her term. She co-trained with Parents Anonymous® Inc. staff and made numerous presentations on the Parents Anonymous® Program and on Parent Leadership to organizations. Sue also represented Parents Anonymous® Inc. on the National Advisory Committee for the FRIENDS National Resource Center for Community Based Family Resource and Support Lead Agencies. Most recently, Sue was elected to the Parents Anonymous® Inc. Board of Directors.

In addition to these important leadership roles, Sue was active in the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation's Community Partnerships for Protecting Children Initiative in St. Louis where she chaired several Community Partnership committees focused on child abuse and neglect prevention. She served as Co-Chair of the St. Louis Neighborhood Network Council which later developed the Sue Smith Family Support Award that has been given to individuals who demonstrate strength-based practice with families. For three years, Sue worked as a Chronic Neglect Family Support Worker at the Family Resource Center in St. Louis and made



*"If we really want to keep children safe, please make sure there are Parents Anonymous® programs in your community. Children need them and parents, grandparents, and caregivers deserve them. Imagine a safe place for families to go where all parents are leaders, where the support is mutual, where the leadership is shared, and where the personal growth extends from the home to the community. Imagine a safe place where parents are not judged but supported in such a meaningful way that positive change is inevitable. That place is Parents Anonymous®. Parents Anonymous® really does make such a difference for so many children and families."*

weekly home visits to families.

Sue is married and dedicated to her five children and one grandchild. Her passion for family strengthening initiatives has led to many more families being better served through Parents Anonymous® Programs.

## JUANITA CHÁVEZ AWARD

### Presented To Parents Anonymous® Children's Program Volunteer

Parents Anonymous® Inc. selected **Wendy Haas** from Parents Anonymous® of Columbus, Ohio as the recipient of the **2003 Juanita Chávez Award**. The Juanita Chávez Award recognizes a Parents Anonymous® staff member or volunteer for his or her work in partnering with parents to create and support meaningful Parent Leadership to ensure better outcomes for children and families.

Wendy Haas is a vitally important volunteer for the Parents Anonymous® Children's Program in Columbus, Ohio. She reaches out to parents attending the Parents Anonymous® Adult Group and ensures they are active partners in her work in the Children's Program. Both groups meet at the same time at the Holy Rosary Barbara Bonner Shelter for Homeless in Columbus, Ohio. Children find a safe and nurturing environment in the weekly, free of charge, Parents Anonymous® Children's Program.

Wendy is extremely dedicated to promoting Parent Leadership and to building positive relationships between the children and their parents in order to prevent child abuse and neglect. She always keeps the parents informed about the progress that their children are making in the Parents Anonymous® Children's Program. She is very responsive to the parents' needs and frequently talks to them about creative ways to reinforce positive interactions with their children and how to effectively advocate for their children's needs. She models excellent nurturing, play and social interactions with the pre-school and school-aged children in the Children's Program and demonstrates creative ways to promote their positive emotional and social growth and development.

Wendy is a Registered Nurse and has worked in Home Health Care for the last 15 years. She is currently employed part-time at Lifetime Alliance in Columbus, Ohio and

provides home health care services to seniors. Wendy brings her wealth of experience and expertise as a Registered Nurse to the Parents Anonymous® Children's Program. She is able to detect health problems or issues relating to the children at an early stage and make recommendations for appropriate follow-up to the parents.

Wendy's wonderful nurturing, supervision and support help the children in the Parents Anonymous® Children's Program learn better coping strategies and develop positive relationships with their parents. Because she knows the importance of partnering with parents in Shared Leadership, Wendy is a source of support as parents grow and make changes in their lives. Wendy is very committed to her volunteer work with the Parents Anonymous® Children's Program and states that "I support parents in taking on leadership roles and help to provide them with opportunities for growth and change by providing a safe and caring environment for their children while they attend the Parents Anonymous® Adult Group."

Wendy is married and a very devoted mother of a 22-year-old son and a 17-year-old daughter. She and her husband previously provided foster care for two young children.

"Juanita Chavez would be proud of the important work Wendy Haas is doing with children and their parents," stated Dr. Lisa Pion-Berlin, President and Chief Executive Officer, Parents Anonymous® Inc.. "As a Children's Program Volunteer, Wendy is helping to shape the next generation of families."



*"Parents Anonymous® is dedicated to advocating for stronger families and the best possible achievements for children and their parents. This is something that I believe in and hope to continually strive for".*



In addition to the award recipients featured on page 4 and 5, we congratulate all of the individuals who were nominated. The nominees for the Jolly K. Award were Tom Dunbar from Iowa and Happy Metcalfe from Canada. The nominees for the Juanita Chávez Award were Helen Kalk from Alaska, Belinda James from Missouri, Joan Collins from New Jersey and Ya'Landa Ervin from California.

## Parents Anonymous® Inc. Highlights Parent Leadership at the 14th National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect

As a key partner with the U.S. Office of Child Abuse and Neglect (OCAN), Parents Anonymous® Inc., served as a co-sponsor to help plan the largest Child Abuse and Neglect Conference in the nation. Every other year, during Child Abuse Prevention Month, OCAN holds this state-of-the-art conference. Thousands of providers in the child abuse prevention field come together to forge new partnerships, exchange cutting-edge information and research, and learn innovative techniques. The conference, entitled “Gateways to Prevention,” was held in St. Louis, Missouri during the first week of April 2003. Here are some of the ways that Parents Anonymous® Inc. participated in this important conference.

- **National Planning Committee** – Meryl Levine, Vice President of Development, Parents Anonymous® Inc. served on the National Planning Committee to help plan the theme and events for the conference. The Committee identified the theme, “Gateways to Prevention,” as a way to recognize that prevention remains the best defense for our children.
- **Press Conference** – Parents Anonymous® Inc. and many other leading children’s organizations joined with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services at a press conference to kick off April’s observance of Child Abuse Prevention Month. Assistant Secretary Wade F. Horn opened the press conference by launching the new “Gateways to Prevention” initiative.



*Dr. Sandra Williams and Tanya Long, NPLT co-lead workshop at 14th National Conference*

- **Child Abuse Prevention Community Resource Packet** – Parents Anonymous® Inc. helped develop the 2003 child abuse prevention community resource packet, “*What Everyone Can Do to Prevent Child Abuse*” to kick off Child Abuse Prevention Month. The packet includes information about child abuse prevention, what organizations and individuals can do to address the problem along with a comprehensive directory of resources. Parents Anonymous® Inc. developed specific materials describing how parents can effectively work with the media and serve as spokespersons. Parents Anonymous® Inc. was also listed as a national resource for families and communities. This community resource packet continues to be available as a critical child abuse prevention resource to agencies and families nationwide through the National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information website ([www.calib.com/nccanch](http://www.calib.com/nccanch)).



*Wendy Haas, recipient of the Juanita Chavéz Award, and family visit the Parents Anonymous® Inc. booth during the 14th National Conference.*

- **Workshops and Information Booth** – Three workshops were co-led by Parents Anonymous® Inc. staff and Parent Leaders. These workshops focused on increasing participants’ understanding of Parent Leadership and Shared Leadership. One workshop addressed Parents Anonymous® Inc. research on Parent Leadership, another highlighted how Parents Anonymous® Inc. is providing training and technical assistance to strengthen Child Protective Systems through Parent Leadership, and the third provided a practical approach to establishing meaningful partnerships between parents and providers. Hundreds of conference participants stopped at the Parents Anonymous® Inc. booth to speak with staff and Parent Leaders and learn more about the effective Parents Anonymous® Program.

## Parent Leaders Graduate From First Ever Certified Parent Leader Trainer Institute

Parents Anonymous® Inc. took Parent Leadership to a new level when it hosted the first ever Certified Parent Leader Trainer Institute. Parents Anonymous® Inc., in partnership with the National Parent Leadership Team®, designed and delivered a groundbreaking, intensive three and a half day training institute for 29 Parent Leaders representing Parents Anonymous® accredited organizations in the U.S., Canada and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The training provided parents with the knowledge, skills and abilities needed to become co-trainers with Parents Anonymous® staff. To attend the Institute, parents must have participated in a Parents Anonymous® Group for at least six months and be

committed to serving as a co-trainer with Parents Anonymous® staff.

During the Certified Parent Leader Trainer Institute, Parents Anonymous® Parent Leaders and program staff were trained together and had opportunities to learn, role-play and plan for sharing leadership when they work together as co-trainers. The key training areas focused on planning, developing, operating and evaluating quality Parents Anonymous® Groups and Parents Anonymous® Children's Programs. The participants were very excited to begin their work as co-trainers and rated the Institute as highly successful.

Parents Anonymous® Inc. has always been committed to supporting

and preparing parents to effectively carry out their roles as co-trainers. Powerful results are achieved when parent leaders and staff work in partnership as co-trainers. The Certified Parent Leader Trainer Institute provided an opportunity for accredited Parents Anonymous® organizations to educate and support parents to become co-trainers in their local communities.

A second Certified Parent Leader Trainer Institute was held in Ontario, CA, on July 12-15, 2003. This dynamic new role of Certified Parent Leader Trainer within the Parents Anonymous® Network will continue to be a vital element in furthering the success of Parents Anonymous® Programs throughout the world.

## Parents Anonymous® Of St. Louis Honors Parent Leaders

Parents Anonymous® of St. Louis, Missouri, St. Louis Neighborhood Network and Parents Anonymous® Inc. jointly hosted a special reception in April 2003 to acknowledge the outstanding work that local Parent Leaders are doing in the community to support and advocate for families. During the reception, the dedicated staff, agencies, volunteers and parents who make Parents Anonymous® of St. Louis so successful were honored. A special tribute was also given to Sue Smith, the recipient of the 2003 Parents Anonymous® Inc. Jolly K. Award. A special thanks goes to Andy Conover, Executive Director and Belinda James, Parents Anonymous® Coordinator of Parents Anonymous® of St. Louis, Missouri for their hard work and efforts.



*Left to right: Tanya Long, Sue Smith, Dr. Lisa Pion-Berlin, Corine Reed and Belinda James*

## New Parents Anonymous® Inc. Training Modules Are A Big Hit!

Due to overwhelming demand from the Parents Anonymous® accredited organizations, Parents Anonymous® Inc. has developed a variety of dynamic training modules on topics relating to the Parents Anonymous® model and programming. The training modules were developed in partnership with Parents Anonymous® Parent Leaders and staff from accredited organizations. Parents Anonymous® organizations can use these new training tools to enhance ongoing training provided to staff and volunteers involved in implementing Parents Anonymous® Programs.

Each training module is ready to go and includes an agenda, guidelines for conducting the training and an interactive PowerPoint presentation with easy-to-read training notes. Training topics include:

- **Leadership Development** – Are people born to be leaders or can leadership be developed in individuals? This training module provides an overview of how leadership is developed in individuals.
- **Trainings for Group Facilitators, Children’s Program Workers, and Parent Group Leaders** – These three trainings help participants enhance their knowledge,

skills and abilities to effectively develop, implement and sustain quality Parents Anonymous® Programs.

- **Group Facilitation Techniques for Effective Parents Anonymous® Groups** – This fun and interactive training offers Group Facilitators and Parent Group Leaders an overview of group process, group stages and basic facilitation techniques to create a safe, non-judgmental environment for all group participants.
- **Positive Behavior Supports in Parents Anonymous® Children’s Programs** – This comprehensive training module offers staff helpful techniques to sustain positive, long-term behaviors in children who participate in Parents Anonymous® Children’s Programs.
- **Program Outreach Techniques** – In addition to highlighting innovative outreach strategies, this training module focuses on effective ways to motivate staff in carrying out this important task.

All of these exciting new training modules are accessible to Parents Anonymous® accredited organizations through the new Parents Anonymous® Inc. Web site.

### What Do You Think?

## Parenting Stress Identified as Major Issue for Families

Overwhelmingly, parents, social service providers, grandparents, foster and adoptive parents, childcare and healthcare providers, and concerned citizens agree that the stress of parenting is one of the biggest concerns facing their families today.

Additionally, the top ideas for addressing parenting stress include:

- Parent Leadership training
- Safe places for teens to hang out
- Improved mental health services for children and parents
- More Parents Anonymous® Groups for adults and children
- Afterschool programs

These results are based on the hundreds of responses that have poured in from the newest survey available on the Parents Anonymous® Inc. Web site. The survey, which can be reached by clicking on the tab, “What Do You Think?” provides an opportunity for the diverse group of visitors on the site to tell us what they think about key issues facing families today. So far, approximately fifty percent (50%) of the respondents are parents, grandparents, foster or adoptive parents, and kinship care providers. An additional twenty-five (25%) are social service, childcare and healthcare providers. The remainder categorized themselves as religious leaders, school personnel and concerned citizens. Sixty percent (60%) state they have been affected by child abuse and neglect.

Next time you are visiting the Parents Anonymous® Inc. Web site, be sure to fill out the latest survey. Your opinions are important to us! Go to [www.parentsanonymous.org](http://www.parentsanonymous.org).

## Parents Anonymous® Parents Take Message To The Media

Acting with courage and commitment, three Parents Anonymous® Parent Leaders, who are members of the National Parent Leadership Team® recently appeared on television or in the newspaper to share their personal stories so that others might be helped.



**Sheila Pettengill** from Portales, New Mexico, appeared on “You Should Know,” a local PBS Program in New Mexico. As the single mother of three sons, this was Sheila’s first television appearance. Wanting to be sure that her boys were comfortable with the idea, Sheila waited until they gave her the go ahead. Once they did, she rehearsed many times in order to be sure her message points were clear. Sheila sailed through the interview and received a wonderful reaction to her appearance.



*Jackie Ramirez (right) NPLT member with daughters Francisca and Kasey on the set of the PBS program “Keeping Kids Healthy.”*

**Jackie Ramirez** shared her story on another PBS program called “Keeping Kids Healthy,” which recently aired in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. Because the program’s focus was on child abuse, the producer contacted Parents Anonymous® Inc. looking for a parent who might be willing to share his/her personal story. When the producer heard about Jackie, she jumped at the chance to have her appear on the show. Not only did Jackie appear in studio, the producer sent a crew to her home to tape “a typical day in the life of Jackie Ramirez.”



**Steve Walker** interviewed for an article in the Iowa newspaper, *The Des Moines Register*. The article featured a large picture of Steve and his family and an in-depth interview about the support they receive by attending a Parents Anonymous® group. Steve and his wife, Latrice, sought support when they married and blended their families together. In the article, Steve talks about all that they have learned through Parents Anonymous® and encourages others to seek support to be the best parents they can be.

These courageous parents took their very personal stories and shared them in a very public medium. It is because of Parent Leaders like Steve, Jackie and Sheila that more people learn about Parents Anonymous® and find the help, support, strength and hope they need.

## Thank You For Your Dedication

In 1976, Michele Keal, founded Parents Anonymous® of Arizona. As President and Chief Executive Officer, she developed one of the most extensive statewide Parents Anonymous® organizations, making Parents Anonymous® groups and Children’s Programs available to parents and children throughout Arizona. As Michele begins her retirement, Parents Anonymous® Inc. would like to acknowledge her dedication and commitment to children and families and thank her for her many years of leadership within Arizona and within the international Network of accredited Parents Anonymous® organizations. We wish her the best.



## Awards, Recognition And Happenings

### Parents Anonymous® Programs Recognized as Noteworthy

The Parents Anonymous® Parent Leadership Program and the Parents Anonymous® Children's Program were both selected as Noteworthy programs to prevent child abuse and neglect. Both programs are highlighted in a publication entitled *Emerging Practices in the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect* published through the federal Office on Child Abuse and Neglect (OCAN). The publication is a result of a two-year project that was initiated to identify effective and innovative programs in child abuse and neglect prevention around the nation. To ensure that this initiative reflected the needs of the field, a National Advisory Group of experts, which included Dr. Lisa Pion-Berlin, President and Chief Executive Officer of Parents Anonymous® Inc., was assembled to provide input into the planning and serve as peer reviewers for all nominated programs. The letter from the Office of Child Abuse and Neglect stated that, "It was the collective opinion of the advisory Group...that your program is deserving of this recognition and that the story of your program and its successes ought to be shared with the professional community." This important distinction was shared with programs throughout the country during the 14th National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect.

### The Parents Anonymous® Network is Expanding

Nine newly accredited organizations will be offering Parents Anonymous® Groups and Children's Programs in their communities. Parents Anonymous® Inc. is pleased to welcome the following organizations to our Network:

- Parents Anonymous® of Chicago, Illinois
- Parents Anonymous® of Weld County, Colorado
- Parents Anonymous® of Marquette, Michigan
- Parents Anonymous® of Detroit, Michigan
- Parents Anonymous® of Syracuse, New York
- Parents Anonymous® of Abilene, Texas
- Parents Anonymous® of Dallas, Texas
- Parents Anonymous® of Northeast Texas
- Parents Anonymous® of Tyler, Texas

### NPLT Members Receive Awards

**Kim Antonioli** received the **Binney & Smith Volunteer Award** for Making the Difference in the Life of a Child. Kim is a member of the National Parent Leadership Team® (NPLT). She is the Chair of Parents Anonymous® of Pennsylvania's statewide Parent Leadership Team and a dedicated member of a Parents Anonymous® group. The Binney & Smith Company is the maker of well known products such as Crayola crayons and Silly Putty.



**Jackie Ramirez** was awarded the **Jefferson Award**, which is sponsored by the Mercer County Chamber of Commerce and The Times of Trenton. The award is given to a volunteer in recognition of their public service. Jackie has been attending Parents Anonymous® for 14 years. She is a member of the National Parent Leadership Team® and the Parents Anonymous® of New Jersey Parent Leadership Team. She has testified before legislative committees, been on national and local radio and television, and acts as an advocate for families at the state and national level.

Congratulations to Jackie and Kim who use their Parent Leadership skills to help parents in all that they do!

(Continued on page 12)

## The National Parent Leadership Team® Welcomes New Members



*Back Row: Left to right – Teresa Rafael, Art Hernandez, Bridget Hammons, Stephen Walker, Sr., Robena Littles, Jessica Sturner  
Middle Row: Left to right – Renee Roe, Tina Phillips, Cleopra Dyas, Tanya Long, Cory P. Pariseau, Lisa Pion-Berlin  
Front Row: Left to right – Mary Spoerl, Kimberly Antonioli, Bunti Reed, Sheila Pettingill, Jill Gentry*

“The National Parent Leadership Team® (NPLT) plays a vital role in Parents Anonymous® Inc. by partnering with us in policymaking decisions, in the delivery of national trainings, in interviews with the media and in the development of program materials,” states Dr. Lisa Pion-Berlin, President and Chief Executive Officer. Every year, Parents Anonymous® Groups across the country nominate Parent Leaders to serve on the NPLT for a three-year term. This ensures that there are always opportunities for new Parent Leaders to bring their leadership skills to the Team. This year we wish to welcome the following new NPLT members: Jill Gentry and Renee Roe from Oregon, Art Hernandez from California, Cory P. Pariseau from Ohio, and Tina Phillips from Wisconsin.

There are also five Team members who have completed their terms and are transitioning into other leadership roles. These NPLT members are: Bunti Reed from Alaska, Cleopra Dyas and Joe Gonzales from California, Jackie Ramirez from New Jersey and Bridget Hammons from Utah.

We wish to thank all of the members of the NPLT for their hard work and important contributions to Parents Anonymous® Inc. and to children and families around the world.

## Awards, Recognition And Happenings (Continued from page 10)

### Parents Anonymous® Inc. Brings Parent Leadership to Key Conferences

New partnerships were forged when Parents Anonymous® Inc. staff and a Parent Leader provided Parents Leadership Training at the Annie E. Casey Foundation **National Conference for Family to Family** in Portland, Oregon in June 2003. The training entitled "Partnering for Success: Effective Parent Leadership Strategies for Family to Family Programs" provided attendees with innovative strategies to effectively involve parents in meaningful leadership roles within their Family to Family sites.

Parents Anonymous® Inc. was a

co-sponsor and workshop presenter at the annual conference of the Ventura County Partnership for Safe Families in April 2003. The conference, Abuse Across the Lifespan, included workshops by renowned experts in the field of family violence prevention, professionals in the fields of social work, health care, education, law enforcement, child care, and parents and other concerned citizens.

Another important workshop was conducted at the Child Welfare League of America National Conference in Washington, D.C. in March 2003. Parents Anonymous® Inc. shared our innovative ethnographic research that resulted in a conceptual framework of the 10 significant steps to building

successful Parent Leadership.

At the Annual Conference of the American Evaluation Association in Virginia in November 2002, Parents Anonymous® Inc. Research Department staff presented the unique evaluation being done by Parents Anonymous® Inc. as part of our work in implementing Parent Leadership as an effective strategy for child welfare system reform in California.

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