

Parent Education Makes a World of Difference

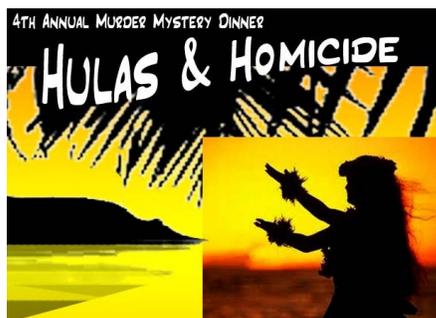
People often wonder why parents attend parent education classes. Isn't good parenting inborn? Don't parents automatically know what's best for their children? Studies show that most parents benefit greatly from the guidance offered in parenting classes. Parenting is the most important and challenging job any of us can have; yet, it receives very little recognition in our society and generally, there is very little formal training for parenting. Parents often feel isolated and without adequate support. Evaluations received from our parenting classes indicate that parents not only learn how better to care for their children but really enjoy talking and sharing experiences with fellow parents. Effective parent education programs can make a significant in increased parental knowledge of child development, and parenting skills and have been linked with:



- decreased rates of child abuse and neglect
- better physical, cognitive and emotional development in children
- improved parent-child communication
- reduced youth substance abuse
- more effective parental monitoring and discipline

Parenting classes at the Child and Parent Center are an important resource for the Jackson community! Parents sign up for classes at many of the community events the CPCAN attends and others hear about it by word of mouth. We also get referrals from diverse organizations in and around the city. The most recent Great Parents, Great Start grant enabled the CPCAN to provide free weekly 1.5 hour parenting classes at the Child and Parent Center for families with children 0-5 which serviced 50 adults and 95 children from February 6 – September 17, 2012. Each six-week session provided 9 hours of education and guidance on how to be a better parent. Trained volunteers spent quality time with the children as their parents attended classes and Little Caesars on Wildwood supplied pizza dinners - all in order to make participation easier on parents and fun for the whole family. Thanks to a generous donation received from the Jackson County Great Start Collaborative we are able to give Parenting Kits (*Life with Toddler* or *Life with Preschooler Kit* developed by the Talaris Institute, a \$40 value) in addition to Certificates of Completion to parents who attended a full 6-week session.

CPCAN Annual Fall Fundraiser



Hawaiian Luau Murder Mystery

What happened to Winnie Waheli Hula Honcho and head judge at the annual hula contest on Kikiwai Beach? All is not well in paradise, for someone seems to have taken exception to Winnie's overbearing antics! Her lifeless body was found on the very beach where she had achieved fame and fortune, the seeming victim of foul play.

Join CPCAN supporters for our fourth annual mystery theatre dinner on Friday, October 26, 2012 at the Cascades Manor House. This year's event entitled "*Hulas and Homicide*" will start with cocktails at 5:30 p.m. followed by dinner and the mystery at 6:15 p.m. Tickets are \$75 per couple. Guests are encouraged to wear aloha wear. The fall event is our major fundraiser for the year. Please join us!

Upcoming CPCAN Events

October 26
Mystery Theatre
Dinner Fundraiser
5:30-9 p.m.

November 22
Happy Thanksgiving

December 7
Holiday Open House
4-6 p.m.

A Message from the Director



It's hard to believe that summer is over - and what a busy one it was for the CPCAN! Our weekly parenting classes were in full swing with warm Monday evenings at the Child and Parent Center brimming with parents, kids and volunteers. Donita and I gave numerous presentations on the CPCAN to service clubs and organizations, and over 100 people in our community became Stewards of Children by completing the child sexual abuse prevention training. CPCAN also participated in the Partnership Park Baby Shower and the Kids' Fest where our volunteers distributed child safety and parenting materials, gave presentations on Safe Sleep and the dangers of shaking a baby and signed-up parents for our parenting classes.

As one of the 73 the designated Local Council of the Children's Trust Fund serving the 83 counties in Michigan I was required to submit a lengthy application for the upcoming 2013-15 fiscal years, attend multiple CTF meetings, and was selected along with two other Local Council members to create a presentation for the upcoming University of Michigan Child Abuse and Neglect Conference.

There is always so much to do to broaden community awareness and support in our aspiration that all children grow up cherished in a loving, safe environment. The CPCAN was organized over 30 years ago by a small group of concerned citizens in an effort to improve the safety, health and well being of the children in Jackson County and this is what we must continue to work towards. As Margaret Mead most eloquently stated,

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, concerned citizens can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has."



Meet the Board

JENNIFER SCZYKUTOWICZ has worked for the Department of Human Services since 2000 and came to Jackson County in 2003. In 2003, Jennifer volunteered to be on the Board of Directors for CPCAN and has been on the board ever since.

Why did you decide to volunteer for the CPCAN? I enjoy the work that is done at CPCAN and the prevention services offered to families and children in Jackson County. I consider this work extremely necessary as it assists DHS with ongoing Children's Protective Services and foster care cases. I am particularly excited about CPCAN's collaboration with the Child Advocacy Center to prevent child sexual abuse in our community.

While serving on the Board, I have also been able to use the Child & Parent Center as a place to host Independent Living classes for foster care youth. These classes took place over a six month time period and serviced approximately 10 foster care youth who received a certificate of completion at the end for participating in Independent Living classes to assist them with life skills. The youth would not have been able to participate in these classes if it wasn't for the ongoing support of CPCAN.

In 2010, I became a foster care supervisor for DHS along with Board Chair at CPCAN. I continue to enjoy the work I do both in foster care and with the Child & Parent Center to assist families in the Jackson community. I look forward to the continued work that both agencies do to help the most vulnerable population in our community, the children.

The CPCAN has a Facebook page to keep people up to date with our programming and reach new supporters. You can help us raise awareness by simply 'liking' us. Just login to your Facebook account, then find our page at www.facebook.com/cpcanjackson and click the 'Like' button. Then ask your friends to check out our page and do the same.