Thank You!

We would like to thank all the Idahoans who generously donated nearly $60,000 through their Idaho State Income Tax forms. We are not able to learn your names, but your support is most valuable in preventing child abuse in our state.
The work of the Idaho Children’s Trust Fund is about strengthening families to prevent child abuse. Prevention to us means before abuse ever happens. The absence of abuse is not “nothing”; “Nothing” is neglect. The opposite of abuse is nurture. The work we promote and fund is designed to nurture children and strengthen families, to create an environment where all children thrive—cradle to career.

Prevention works. Think about seat belts and cigarettes. I remember, as many of you of a certain age probably do, bouncing around in the back of cars on long trips, riding in the back of pick up trucks, seeing kids on parents’ laps as they were driving. All with a cigarette smoking Mom or Dad driving with the windows closed. We do not see that anymore because we’ve invested in prevention campaigns to get people to wear seat belts and keep more and more people from smoking. While neither of these campaigns have been 100% successful, they have changed our culture.

These campaigns worked because prevention became a community norm. We tell our kids—and later they tell us—not to smoke and to put on our seat belts. We are moving in this direction in prevention of child abuse. When prevention of child abuse becomes the norm at all levels from our schools and child care centers, to how we plan our cities, to how we meet each other’s families in our neighborhoods, we will have succeeded.

You are the heroes

It is not the critic who counts, not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust, and sweat, and blood; who strives valiantly; who errrs and comes short again and again because there is no effort without error and shortcomings; but who actually strives to do the deed, who knows the great devotion; who spends himself in a worthy cause, who at the best knows in the end the high achievement of triumph and who at worst, if he fails while daring greatly, knows his place shall never be with those timid and cold souls who know neither victory nor defeat.

Thank you to Roger, Wixes and Shelli, the ICTF staff, who consistently and valiantly strive to achieve success by keeping children safe from child abuse and neglect.

When resources are limited and the short term forecast appears to be bleak for the State and federal budgets, the tenor of our thinking changes, inhibiting our minds with a deficit mentality. Sharing less, restricting access and guarding existing resources with a renewed vigilance will not cultivate the fertile ground from which our “Best Thinking” emerges. Keeping children safe is ultimately what we agree is most important.

It may seem counter intuitive, but the time is now to embrace an abundance mentality; resources are available and plentiful. Let’s use our most brave and courageous minds to rethink and retool a system that is often times built on redundancy. Let’s dismantle the silos and hierarchies in a valiant effort to provide a seamless and, multi-disciplinary approach to preventing child abuse and neglect in Idaho. We have the components of that system at our finger tips; now it’s a matter of putting all the pieces together to create a mosaic of services that we can embrace.

“You are the heroes who strive valiantly every day to keep children safe. It is with immense gratitude that I extend my appreciation to all of you.”

Mary Marshall | Board Chair, Jerome, Idaho

Child Abuse Prevention Month, April 2010

The national symbol for child abuse prevention is a pinwheel. Why? The pinwheel is fun; it’s carefree — it reflects our hopes and dreams that all children will have the healthy, happy childhood they deserve — free from abuse and neglect. During April, pinwheels could be seen throughout towns from Sandpoint to Rexburg.
Our Feet on the Ground

The community programs funded by the Idaho CTF are truly our feet on the ground. As the lead agency for child abuse prevention in Idaho, we train, convene, coordinate, provide technical assistance and fund community-based organizations that work with children and families. The programs move major initiatives forward.

Annual Grant Program
Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse

- The ICARE program of St. Vincent DePaul in Coeur d’Alene provided Stewards of Children training to adults in youth serving organizations in the community.
- Bright Tomorrows in Pocatello and the Family Safety Network in Driggs teamed up and trained more than 20 new facilitators to work with groups throughout the state. This is an investment in the long-term future of the movement and most importantly our children.
- Friends of Family and Children Head Start in Ada and Elmore Counties trained Head Start staff and parents to collaborate to end child sexual abuse.
- Easter Seals—Goodwill invested in training two Stewards of Children facilitators from its staff who worked with women coming out of the correctional facility south of Boise.

Parent Education

- The Benewah Co. Community Coalition provided parenting classes for parents involved in divorce, custody or paternity related issues.
- Nurturing Parenting, an evidence-based parenting and child abuse prevention curriculum, was used by the Bannock Youth Foundation in Pocatello and by Easter Seals—Goodwill.
- At the Baby Haven in Caldwell they used an incentives-based program to help parents make healthy decisions.
- Familias Saludables in Hailey, a project of St. Luke’s Community Health, provided free parenting classes as well as a health fair and other services to the Latino community in the Wood River Valley.
- The Family Services Alliance in Pocatello is working with teen parents using the Parents As Teachers curriculum for in-home visits.

Multi-Year Grant Program

Four projects completed their third and final years. The multi-year projects help to demonstrate innovative programs or deeper implementation of prevention work.

- ICARE Children and Family Advocacy Center, Coeur d’Alene targeting two underserved populations, ICARE used its ICTF funding to reach out to both fathers & rural parents to reduce/prevent child abuse & neglect. Fathers participated in the Nurturing Fathers program and rural parents have Love and Logic and Early Childhood Parenting made Fun classes offered in their communities. Home visits, based on the Parents As Teachers program have been available to both groups.
- Mercy Medical Center, Nampa The Community Outreach Initiative coordinated a collaborative, community-wide effort to strengthen families & promote a Healthy Start for young children. Project activities included: 1) establishing a systematic, collaborative network to coordinate family services & enhance support systems for vulnerable families, 2) offering emotional support, parent education & referral to community resources for first time families of newborns at Mercy through the First Steps Project, 3) implementing a Family Outreach program that combines parent education, using the Nurturing Parenting curriculum, with a series of child health & family wellness programs using volunteer resource people from the community.
- Strengthening Families Initiative, Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children, Statewide The initiative expanded the Strengthening Families through Early Care and Education program to reach more child care centers and families throughout Idaho. The project focused on underserved Latino families and families that include people with disabilities. The Strengthening Families model uses natural and trusted partners (child care providers) to help build strengths and protective factors in families.
- The Shoshone Bannock Tribe’s Keeping Native Kids Safe Project is in its third year of operation on the Fort Hall Reservation. The project offers parent education classes and other support services to Native American families to prevent child abuse and child neglect. Tribal history and values are an integral part of this project.

Each of the multi-year grantees presented a workshop at the annual Strengthening Families Training Institute March 16 and 17, 2010 in Boise.
Prevention is everybody’s work

In January 2010 the work of several years came to fruition with the roll out of the Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) for child care programs in Idaho. As its name implies, this system is set up to help child care programs throughout Idaho develop quality early learning environments for children and then to earn “stars” that help parents know how to choose the best programs for their children. The QRIS provides monetary incentives to programs for accomplishing a variety of goals that improve quality.

A significant quality indicator that is built into the QRIS is strengthening the capacity of child care workers to work with parents to prevent child abuse and neglect. Using a curriculum, based in 5 protective factors that strengthen families, which was developed by the Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children and the Idaho Children’s Trust Fund, child care providers learn best practices for partnering with parents to strengthen their families and prevent child abuse and neglect.

This is a proven strategy. Incorporating the work of prevention into organizations or a system that already touches families and children is likely to be the most effective way to reach them. The Children’s Trust Fund is currently working with other systems that touch parents and children—schools, social service agencies, correctional facilities—to build family engagement and strengthening into their existing work.

Prevention is everybody’s work. The Idaho Children’s Trust Fund is working daily to help everyone figure out the role they can play.

In Memoriam

Karen Mason was a brilliant visionary, a compassionate leader, a mentor to many, and a tireless champion for all Idaho’s young children. We miss her very much. Although her body is no longer with us, Karen’s light still shines the way for Idaho AEYC and all Idahoans who advocate for our youngest children.

Karen Mason was an invaluable collaborator for the Idaho Children’s Trust Fund. Her vision and skill helped propel the Strengthening Families work in Idaho forward and on into the national stage. In recognition of that work, the Trust Fund nominated her for the prestigious Commissioner’s Award in 2009 along with her co-collaborator Doug Fagemess.

Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children receives First Ed Van Dusen Legacy Award

Shortly after Ed Van Dusen died in 2009, the board of the Idaho Children’s Trust Fund honored his memory by renaming its annual Board Award. Ed was the Father of the Idaho Children’s Trust Fund, having envisioned it and then shepherding the legislation that created it in 1985. The Ed Van Dusen Legacy Award was presented for the first time to Karen Mason for her service to the Children’s Trust Fund in recognition of her work on behalf of Idaho’s young children.

Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children

Karen Mason, Executive Director, Idaho Assoc. for the Education of Young Children

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