

S F T 

Strengthening Families Training Institute



18th Annual Statewide Training Event

2017 Strengthening Families Training Institute
We're All in this Together

March 21-22, 2017

Riverside Hotel

2900 Chinden Blvd, Boise ID 83714

The Board of Directors of the Idaho Children's Trust Fund Salutes:

Family Services Alliance of Southeast Idaho

Winner of the 2017 Ed Van Dusen Legacy Award

**And all Idahoans working to strengthen families
to prevent child abuse and neglect.**

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SFTI at a Glance...

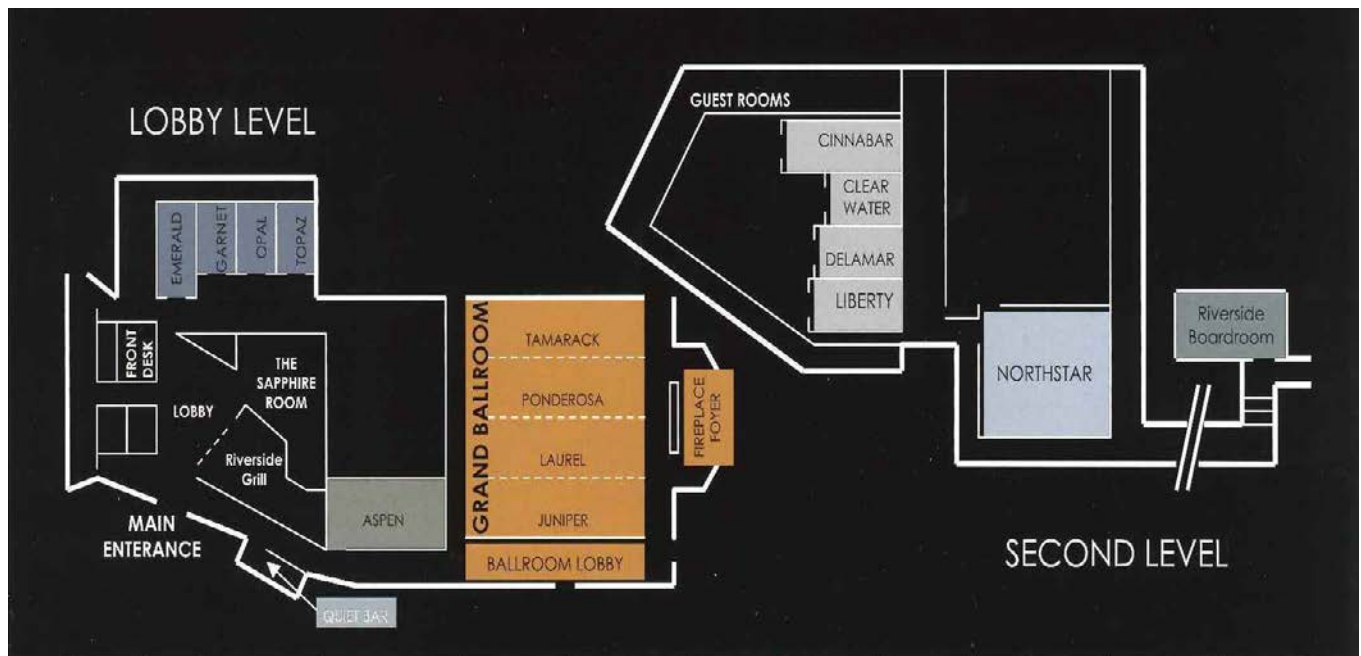
Tuesday - March 21

8 a.m.	Registration
8:45 – 9	Welcome, Introductions, and Housekeeping
9:00 – 10:15	Keynote Address
10:15 – 10:30	Break with Snack
10:30 – noon	Community Workshop
Noon – 1	Lunch
1 – 2:30	Workshop Session 1
2:30 – 2:45	Break with Snack
2:45 – 4:15	Workshop Session 2
6:30 – 8:30	Documentary Film: "Resilience: The Biology of Stress and the Science of Hope"

Wednesday - March 22

8 a.m.	Registration and Light Snack
8:45 – 9	Welcome, Introductions, and Housekeeping
9 – 10:30	Workshop Session 3
10:30 – 10:45	Break
10:45 – 12:15	Workshop Session 4
12:15 – 2:30	Lunch, Closing Panel, and Presentation of the Ed Van Dusen Award

Riverside Hotel Conference Room Map



Welcome to SFTI '17!

Welcome to the 18th annual Strengthening Families Training Institute! This year's theme "We're all in this together" reminds us that the work of strengthening families and preventing child abuse and neglect is really everyone's work. Each of our futures and quite literally the future of the world depends on raising children who are resilient, who are socially and emotionally mature, and who have the capacity to deal with the inevitable challenges of life in whatever role they may play in our communities. Whose job is it to raise those extraordinary (because they are all extraordinary) kids? Of course parents but also teachers, coaches, community volunteers, clergy, politicians, you, me, and pretty much anybody else we can think of has a role to play. When you play the Brain Architecture Game later this morning you'll see that building brains is group work! And so is preventing trauma wherever we can.

This will be the tenth time I have had the privilege of standing up in front of you to kick off this event. We have shared the wisdom of many partners in this work: Robin Karr Morse, author of *Ghosts from the Nursery* and *Scared Sick*, Pat Stanislaski of Prevention Partners, Reverend Darrell Armstrong of Shiloh Baptist Church and the board of Prevent Child Abuse America, Marvin and Jeanett Charles from DADS in Seattle, Judy Langford from the Center for the Study of Social Policy, Jim Hmurovich and Ben Tanzer from Prevent Child Abuse America, Paula Sellars from *Darkness to Light*, Kevin Trapani social entrepreneur from the Redwoods Group and so many more. We have learned much from experts and each other and there is still much to learn.



This morning you will hear from David Sanders who has a world of experience in the field of child welfare at the state and community levels and has been working nationally with Casey Family Programs for more than 10 years. Mr. Sanders was recently the chair of the National Commission to Eliminate Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities that was authorized by Congress in 2015. The Commission made a series of recommendations, many of which focus on prevention. I am excited to learn from his experience and insights.

After some great workshops this afternoon and tomorrow morning we will wrap up by recognizing some of the great work that individuals and groups in our state have been doing to strengthen families and communities to prevent child abuse and neglect. And then finally, and I am really excited about this, we are going to have a panel of parents and young adults who have experienced the challenge of arriving in Idaho as a refugee and having to negotiate a new world of child raising and growing up in a new community with a very different culture.

So, we're all in this together—past, present and future. Give yourself a hand. Pat your new colleague on the back. You all deserve it. Enjoy the conference!

Roger Sherman
Executive Director



Tuesday, March 21, 2017

Evolution of Hope:

How we can ensure the safety and success of every child in America

*David Sanders, Ph.D., Casey Family Programs & Chair of the National
Commission to Eliminate Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities*

David Sanders, Ph.D. serves as Executive Vice President of Systems Improvement at Casey Family Programs, where he provides strategic direction over the foundation's work with child welfare systems to improve practice, with an emphasis on safely reducing the number of children in foster care. David recently chaired the federal Commission to Eliminate Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities, which has issued recommendations for realigning the nation's work to protect children at the highest risk of fatality from abuse and neglect. He has spent his entire career in the human services field, holding leadership positions with the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services and the Hennepin County (Minn.) Children, Family and Adult Services Department, in addition to extensive clinical work.



During his keynote presentation, David will provide an overview of child welfare in the United States today and the challenges that face our current system. He will also discuss the types of long-term changes needed to improve the safety and success of children and families, highlighting examples of communities that are already making progress in their effort to strengthen the well-being of children and families.

David Sanders is the recipient of the 2008 Grace B. Flandreau Award from the National Council on Crime and Delinquency, which recognized his significant contributions to juvenile justice and child welfare. The National Association of Public Child Welfare Administrations honored David in 2007 with the Peter W. Forsythe Award for Leadership in Public Child Welfare. In 2003, he received the Congressional Angels in Adoption Award, and in 2005 he received the Princeton Club of Southern California's Service to the Community Award. David graduated with honors from Princeton University with a bachelor's degree in psychology. He received his Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the University of Minnesota.

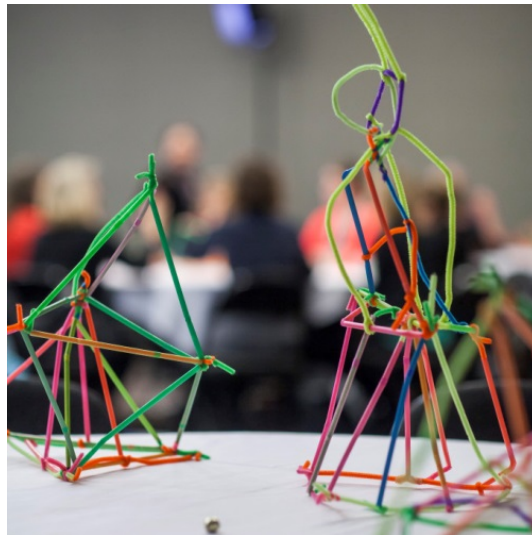
Tuesday, March 21, 2017

Community Plenary: Building Brains is Group Work

The Brain Architecture Game helps people appreciate the impact of early childhood experiences on outcomes across the lifespan.

*"It wasn't a fair game," said one legislator after watching his brain collapse.
"I got a lot of unlucky cards."*

"Isn't that the way it happens in real life?" replied the game facilitator.



The Brain Architecture Game is a tabletop game experience that builds understanding of the powerful role of experiences on early brain development– what promotes it, what derails it, with what are the consequences for society.

The goal is to build a brain that is as tall as possible, which represents functionality, and as sturdy as possible, which represents the ability to withstand stresses. Groups work together, drawing Life Experience cards to gain materials for brain building.

Since 2009, more than 12,000 people in groups around the world have played the Brain Architecture Game, gaining a memorable, compelling perspective on the lifelong impact of early childhood experiences. And now it's our turn to learn by playing!

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Workshop Session 1 Tuesday, 1:00—2:30

1A: Getting the Word Out: Using data to tell your story

Delamar

Casandra Firman

What would you say if you had the opportunity to talk to a potential partner, funder, or policymaker to gain their support? In this workshop, participants will learn how to use data to create messages about their program and its outcomes in order to effectively engage and inform key audiences and to generate support. Participants will work individually and in groups to hone their messages and practice delivering them to various audiences.

1B: Housing First! A concrete support that strengthens families

Liberty

Wyatt Schroeder, MBA

Learn how Strengthening Families and Housing First can transform our case management models, our organizational culture, and how it can provide an ethos that revolutionizes our community partnerships to end homelessness and strengthen families. We know that a supportive home is the central model of health and of resilience. What systems and models of care can our communities establish to ensure that every family can end their homelessness? Nationally, we are seeing a reduction in homelessness, but how can we address the barriers that are preventing Idaho from joining the national trend?

1C: Resiliency Planning: A strategy for responding to trauma

North Star

Melissa Bernier, LCSW

Participants attending this workshop will have the opportunity to develop understanding of resilience as a protective factor and take away tools to engage in resiliency planning with clients as a part of a trauma informed approach or intervention. Resiliency planning is focusing on resilience as one’s personal journey; people do not all react to trauma or stress the same. This approach focuses around building resilience through a personal strategy plan using a variety of strategies that work for the particular person you are working with.

1D: Building Strong Families to Prevent Child Neglect: The Colorado Community Response Program

Clearwater

Kendra Dunn

Colorado Community Response (CCR) is an innovative and promising practice working with families who have been deflected from the child welfare system without the provision of formalized services. CCR is a voluntary program working with families to mitigate risk and build protective capacities utilizing the Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework. In this workshop, participants will gain a better understanding of the goals for reducing child neglect, the necessary components for successful implementation, and review current evaluation data of the program. The intended audience is agency and program administrators, program supervisors, policy makers, researchers, and funders.

Workshop Session 2 Tuesday, 2:45 – 4:15

2A: Protective Factors for Families Dealing with Mental Illness

North Star

Sally Goodell Oberlindacher and Liza Long, Ed.D

The workshop will provide information about mental illnesses and will explore how the protective factors can help families dealing with these potentially disabling conditions. We will consider both children living in families where a parent or sibling is living with a mental health condition and children who are suffering from such conditions themselves. Many individuals become symptomatic during the teens and early 20's, so we will discuss the protective factors for this group as well.

2B: Parenting and Culture

Liberty

Kate Nelson-Shue, MA

Boise has been resettling refugees since the 1970s, and as Boise continues to grow, so does its diversity. With so much diversity among families, it is impossible to know about each family's value system. It can be difficult for people to explain to others their own value systems or culture, so simply asking them doesn't always work. Instead, we must depend on general guidelines about cultures to help lead our efforts to support families. This presentation covers variations among some cultures, such as sleeping, discipline and communication, which can help assess the cultural sensitivity of your program.

2C: The Protective Factors and Practical Practice

Delamar

Jane Zink, MA and Holly Whitworth

Come join an active learning class that will provide concrete, creative ways to translate the protective factors into practical practice in your program. The workshop will cover hands on ideas for using the protective factors in your work with families in home visiting, in the classroom, and in your organization - using the protective factors in staff meetings, employee evaluations and paperwork. Finally, we will explore imbedding the protective factors in your program for an inside out transformation.

2D: Social Media: It's essential!

Clearwater

Don Day, CLM Marketing and Advertising

With two billion active social media users globally, it is becoming the medium of choice for news, advertising and marketing. It is an important way to shape social norms around safe, stable, nurturing environments for children. Don will walk attendees through the various social media channels identifying the strengths and shortcomings of each along the way to help attendees make informed decisions about their social media efforts.



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Workshop Session 3 Wednesday, 9 – 10:30

3A: Protecting against Neglect Part 1 (of 2)

Liberty

Heather Kemp, Katie Simmons, and Taryn Yates, MSW

Part One: This workshop is designed to establish foundational knowledge of neglect including, the definition and different types as well as how neglect affects the developing brain as well as lays the groundwork for behavioral and emotional consequences down the road. Participants will need to have a working understanding of the Strengthening Family approach including the five Protective Factors. This is part 1 of a two part workshop. Please plan to attend both sessions.

3B: Nurturing Healthy Sexual Development /Colorado

Cinnabar

Kendra Dunn

The Nurturing Healthy Sexual Development (NHSD) community training helps participants better understand the sexual development of children, and how to respond to children's sexual behaviors and question in ways that promote healthy development. Participants will gain an understanding of the relationship between healthy sexuality and child sexual abuse prevention. Participants will learn to:

- Identify developmentally expected sexual behaviors of children;
- Respond to children's sexual behaviors;
- Respond to children's questions about sexuality;
- Discuss children's sexual behavior with other adults.

3C: Proactive Media Relations: Taking Control of Your Story

Clearwater

Brenda Stanley, MBA

Learn how to become the media's information resource and get your "good news" stories out there. Become the one they turn to when news happens and utilize those relationships to your advantage in both good times and bad. Learn story structure and how to prepare for the on-camera interview. Knowing what they need and want will put you in control of your story.

3D: Self Care

North Star

Julie Meek, LCSW

Learn about the crucial benefits of self-care for your professional and personal life as well as its importance for the populations with which you work. This workshop will be educational, engaging, relaxing, and fun!

Workshop Session 4 Wednesday, 10:45 – 12:15

4A: Protecting Against Neglect, Part 2 (of 2)

Heather Kemp, Katie Simmons, and Taryn Yates, MSW

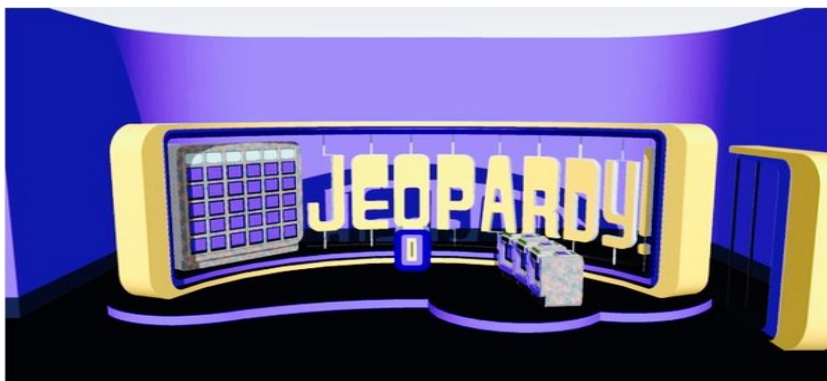
Liberty

Part Two: This workshop expands upon the first to discuss neglect in the ecological context including societal and community levels of neglect. Participants will examine these factors in their own life as well as the lives of the children and families they work with. This workshop will end with a discussion of concrete ideas to prevent neglect whether individually, organizationally, or societally. Prerequisite: Part One.

4B: Protective Factor Jeopardy

Allison Demarest, Alicia Benningfield, Josie Hurley, BSW

Cinnabar



Five protective factors that keep your family strong and safe. What is...“Strengthening Families”? Learn the basics of the Strengthening Families approach to preventing child abuse and neglect through an interactive game of Jeopardy with the clever staff from Family Advocates. Learn how to use the game with your staff, volunteers and parents.

4C: Social Workers Advancing Social Change: Our Ethical Responsibility to Engage in Advocacy & Organizing

Christine Tiddens, LMSW

Clearwater

Social workers carry the torch for those who need help to succeed in our society. While only a small fraction of social workers identify their primary job duty as advocacy, all social workers are charged to protect and empower the vulnerable and disadvantaged by advancing policies and social change that promote social and economic justice. Today's social workers employ a full range of techniques for advocacy ranging from lobbying, organizing and protests to harnessing the power of the Internet to network with others. This workshop will discuss the ethical responsibility social workers have to work toward social change and social justice while also offering training on how to engage in advocacy.

4D: Raising a Child with a Disability: Real Stories about how the Protective Factors Promote Strong Families

Melissa Crist, MS and Jane Zink MA

North Star

Hear real stories from families raising a child with a disability and how the protective factors help them stay strong. Explore community supports, social/emotional communication, parenting strategies, opportunities for advocacy and resources. Identify your role in helping meet the unique needs of families with children with disabilities.

Capnote Panel Wednesday March 22, 12:15pm

Lifting up the Voices of Refugee Families

Celebrate the diversity in our community through the power of storytelling with the Idaho Office for Refugees! This panel of trained refugee storytellers will share their challenges, insights, and experiences of parenting or growing up in their home countries and now in Idaho. We will hear how parents and children have adapted and thrived,



all the while maintaining family well-being. With refugees increasingly woven into the fabric of Idaho communities, panelists will also share what it is that makes us all Idahoans. The panel is composed of Khalid Ameri, a doctor and surgeon, from Iraq, Salome (Sally) Mwangi from Kenya, who describes herself as a “cultural broker” and Abdirahim Osman from Somalia, who is currently majoring in Accounting and Finance at Boise State. The panel presentation will be followed by a moderated Q&A session with the audience.

Congratulations to the 2017 Pinwheel Award Winners

*Recognizing individuals and organizations whose work embraces the
Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect*

Janet Guerin brought a passion to helping incarcerated women change the direction of their lives during her career at the Idaho Department of Corrections. Incarceration of parents is a traumatizing experience for their children and is often a factor in a child’s own fate with regard to imprisonment. Janet shepherded the introduction of Strengthening Families Parent Workshops into her facility so that incarcerated mothers could learn valuable parenting skills and grow confidence in their abilities to be good parents. For her visionary leadership in preventing child abuse and neglect in a particularly vulnerable population, we honor Janet with the 2017 Pinwheel Award.

We are proud to present the 2017 Pinwheel Award to the following school districts that have incorporated child sexual abuse prevention efforts into their professional development systems.

**Boise School District
Buhl School District
Parma School District**

Family Services Alliance of Southeast Idaho



Winner of the 2017 Ed Van Dusen Legacy Award

Family Services Alliance of Southeast Idaho provides trauma-informed victim services to children and parents that build resilience, reduce the effects of exposure to violence, and increase confidence and self-efficacy among survivors of violence and abuse. The outcomes of their services lead to empowered survivors who are more resilient and better equipped to cope with trauma and to recognize abuse if they begin to experience it again. The survivors' sense of isolation is diminished because they know they are not alone; and they know where and how to access support in the future.

Since its inception in 1974, FSA has served tens of thousands of women, children, and men who have experienced domestic violence, sexual assault, rape, sex trafficking, and child abuse and neglect by providing emergency shelter, court advocacy, parenting classes, support groups, children's support groups (for kids exposed to domestic violence), trauma-focused counseling, and other vital services to help survivors heal from their wounds.

FSA collaborates with other victim services providers, as well as local law enforcement and the court system to participate in a multi-disciplinary approach to provide comprehensive support and services to victims of abuse and neglect.

About five years ago, FSA participated in a multi-year, national research and learning project that increased their skills and capacity to serve community members with evidence-based, trauma-informed care for children exposed to violence. FSA was recognized as a leader among project participants around the country and had the opportunity to present their service model to key stakeholders in Washington, DC.

In the past five years, over 750 children have received services from FSA. Last year, 900 children received essential information through their awareness campaigns and class-room based education efforts. Several thousand adults have benefited from FSA's trauma-focused parenting education and counseling.

For the profound quality and scope of their work, we are proud to present the 2017 Ed Van Dusen Award to Family Services Alliance of Southeast Idaho.

Presenter Biographies

Melissa Bernier, LCSW, attended the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks where she earned both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Social Work. During her career, Melissa has had the opportunity to work as a Case Manager in an adolescent psychiatric residential treatment facility, as a Case Manager in Family Support and Treatment Foster Care, and she was the Clinical Program Manager for a child and adolescent mental health agency. Currently Melissa works full-time as a Child Welfare Education Specialist with Idaho State University and part-time as a child/adolescent trauma focused therapist with About Balance Mental Health in Boise, ID.

Melissa Crist, MSW is a clinical faculty member at the University of Idaho's Center on Disabilities and Human Development. She serves as both the Inclusion Specialist and Child Care Health Consultant Program Coordinator for the IdahoSTARS Project. She has worked as a teacher in an accredited inclusive early childhood program and as an early intervention provider. Melissa has written statewide resources on infant and toddler development and early childhood inclusion, and she presents locally and nationally on topics related to high-quality early childhood inclusion, early care, education professional development, and systems that support high-quality early childhood inclusion.

Don Day is a National Edward R. Murrow award-winning and Emmy-nominated leader, dedicated to building strong teams and achieving high level results. He is skilled in content, marketing, business development and digital strategies. With 18 years of direct, hands-on experience with a wide variety of brands, he knows how to use a fusion of analytics, consumer insight, research, knowledge and gut instinct.

Allison Demarest, Alicia Benningfield, Josie Hurley, BSW are the Directors of the Family Strengthening programs at Family Advocates. Together they run three programs that welcome families into supportive community, and work to support families in strengthening their protective factors. BabySteps, Parents Anonymous, and the Youth Enhancement Program, which function in both Ada and Canyon Counties, utilize the Protective Factors throughout each program- in development, planning, and in measuring success.

Kendra Dunn is the Child Maltreatment Prevention Director for the Colorado Department of Human Services Office of Early Childhood. Ms. Dunn oversees a unit comprised of five programs - the Colorado Children's Trust Fund, Colorado Community Response, Promoting Safe and Stable Families, SafeCare Colorado, and Family Resource Centers. She currently serves as a co-chair for the Colorado Strengthening Families Network, co-backbone for the Colorado Essentials for Childhood Project, and board member for the National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds. Ms. Dunn has worked in the child maltreatment prevention field for 20 years. She has a special interest in building the public will necessary to ensure healthy child development for all children. Ms. Dunn studied psychology at American University in Washington, DC.

Casandra Firman, MS, provides training and technical assistance for the FRIENDS National Center for Community Based Child Abuse Prevention. She led FRIENDS' efforts to develop its evaluation toolkit; collaborated with the Child Welfare Information Gateway on the Logic Model Builder, a web-based program for creating logic models; was lead staff in the national effort to develop the Protective Factors Survey (PFS), a survey designed and tested in partnership with the University of Kansas for evaluating program effectiveness in increasing protective factors. Casandra has a degree in Early Childhood Special Education from the University of Oregon.

Heather Kemp has worked with families for 20 years in Southeastern Idaho. She is currently the Director of Bannock Youth Foundation's Family Resource Center in Pocatello, ID. Heather has a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and recently received her Master's in Business Administration. She has been a National Trainer of the Nurturing Parenting Programs since 2008, training over 200 facilitators in Idaho and Utah.

Liza Long, Ed.D., is the current NAMI Boise Chair, the author of 'The Price of Silence: A Mom's Perspective on Mental Illness', blogs as The Anarchist Soccer Mom, contributes to Psychology Today, and Huffington post and has appeared on Today Show, Good Morning, America, Anderson Cooper 360, and Idaho Public Television's Dialogue with Marcia Franklin, to name a few of her accomplishments. Liza has a close family member with a significant mental health condition.

Julie Meek, LCSW, is the Lead Counselor at Lee Pesky Learning Center (LPLC). She received her Master's degree in Social Work from Boise State University. She provides individual and group counseling for clients with learning disabilities, AD/HD, and ASD. Julie also provides field instruction for undergraduate and graduate social work students. Julie's expertise in movement and learning resulted in the incorporation of movement therapies at LPLC. Julie has presented in-house, locally, nationally, and internationally on the work and unique interventions practiced at LPLC.

Kate Nelson-Shue, MS, is the Jannus Economic Opportunity program lead on operations and liaison to the refugee community. Kate manages the services provision to refugees seeking to start their own home-based childcare business. She serves on the Neighbors United Strategic Communications working group and the Leadership Team for Girl Up Idaho. Kate has worked with refugees for 9 years and has a Master's degree from the University of Idaho.

Sally Oberlindacher is a past Board Member of the Boise affiliate of the National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI), coordinates NAMI support groups and is a Family to Family teacher. She has spent the last two years facilitating Strengthening Families Workshops for incarcerated women in Idaho.

Wyatt Schroeder, MBA serves as the Executive Director for CATCH, Inc., with the vision of "Every Family. Every Person. A Home." CATCH ends homelessness for families in the Treasure Valley by inspiring stable housing, financial independence, and resilience., Wyatt holds an M.B.A. from Villanova University and a B.A. from Allegheny College. While serving in AmeriCorps with Rebuilding Together, Wyatt found the passion of his life: ending homelessness. Since then he has worked with Doorways for Women and Families, a re-housing and domestic violence shelter organization in Arlington, VA, and Project HOME, a housing and services agency in Philadelphia, PA. Wyatt is committed to building sustainable organizations around innovative housing models, such as Housing First, while never forgetting to share the powerful stories of those we are serving.

Katie Simmons has worked with families for the past 20 years in North Idaho. She is currently the Director of the ICARE program of St. Vincent de Paul in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Katie has a degree in Child Development from North Idaho College. Katie's professional credentials include: certified Parents as Teachers parent educator and supervisor, certified Nurturing Parenting class facilitator, Love & Logic facilitator and authorized Stewards of Children Child Sexual Abuse prevention workshop facilitator. Katie is a native of Seattle, Washington and currently lives in Twin Lakes with her husband and two children.

Brenda Stanley, MBA, is a former television news anchor and reporter for the NBC affiliate in Idaho. She is an award winning journalist and best-selling author. Her writing has been recognized by Scripps Howard, The Society for Professional Journalists, and The Idaho Press Club. Brenda has also been a Public Relations and Media Director for both Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center and Portneuf Medical Center and is a media relations consultant for businesses throughout the country. She is a graduate of Dixie State University, The University of Utah, and Western Governors University, with degrees in English, Journalism, and an MBA. She is the mother of five children, including two sets of twins, and is an over the top grandma. She is married to Dave, a veterinarian, and they live in Blackfoot, Idaho.

Christine Tiddens, LMSW, is the Policy Director of the Idaho Asset Building Network. As Policy Director, Christine educates the public and elected officials on issues related to financial security in Idaho and advocates for policies that improve the overall well-being of Idaho families and communities. For over seven years, she has filled a variety of roles related to social and economic justice advocacy in Idaho, including coalition leader, community organizer, lobbyist and political strategist. Along with her work at the Idaho Asset Building Network, Christine is also an adjunct professor at Boise State University's School of Social Work. She earned her Master's in Social Work degree from Boise State University and holds B.S. degrees in Political Science and Psychology from the University of Idaho.

Holly Whitworth has worked with families and children for 25 years. She holds a bachelor's degree from Utah State University in Family and Human Development and Infancy and Early Childhood Development. She is a program manager at Eastern Idaho Public Health where she works to provide evidence based home visiting services to at risk families. Her work is focused on primarily helping families overcome barriers for parent education, prevent child abuse and neglect, family support, preventative health care, and working with teen parents. Holly is a trainer for Idaho STARS and is active across the state facilitating home visiting and programs that strengthen families.

Taryn Yates, MSW, joined the Trust Fund staff after working for several years as the Executive Director of the National Hemophilia Foundation. Taryn moved to Boise 10 years ago after receiving her Masters in Social Work from George Mason University. She started out as a community organizer working with low-income families regarding access to affordable health care and then went on to work as the Public Policy Director for the Idaho Women's Network. She was the Policy and Program Director for the National MS Society which led to her job at NHF. Taryn has always embraced her calling as an advocate for vulnerable populations and is dedicated to supporting efforts to improve the lives of children in Idaho. Taryn is married to Nick Yates, has one son and another on the way.

Jane Zink, MA, has worked to strengthen families and improve outcomes for children for 15 years. She has two related roles within the IdahoSTARS project: coordinating Steps to Quality, Idaho's quality rating and improvement system for child care programs and Strengthening Families. Her work is focused primarily on building systems that use the Strengthening Families Protective Factor Framework to promote the five protective factors in families and family-serving organizations. Jane has created nationally recognized Strengthening Families trainings for professionals and parents. She consults with partners across sectors to help them build a strengths-based organizational culture and to intentionally implement the framework in their everyday interactions with families.

A Special Thank you to...



Employee Community Service Fund

For their support of our efforts
to prevent child abuse everywhere
in the great state of Idaho!