

ANNUAL REPORT 2016

Idaho Children's Trust Fund

Preventing Child Abuse In Idaho



We are all in this together. We are...

... all in this together.

I say this often. For me, it really is the story of our work at the Idaho Children's Trust Fund. ICTF is a small organization. With limited staff and funding, we act as a catalyst to integrate prevention strategies into the work of all child and family serving organizations—very broadly defined to include not only social service agencies but also schools and churches, prisons and police departments, city government and parent groups. **Protecting our children takes us all.** To do effective prevention work, we depend on an extensive network of individuals and public and private organizations throughout Idaho to provide prevention training and services based on shared goals and tools.

The Trust Fund acts as the backbone organization in support of a statewide collective impact effort to prevent child abuse and neglect. Collective Impact is one strategy for large and diverse groups of individuals and organizations to work together to solve complex social problems like child abuse and neglect. **Collective impact is jargon for "we need each other" to prevent child abuse and neglect.** The Trust Fund articulates the network's common agenda, shares strategies, facilitates communication among members of the network, helps build public support and provides and mobilizes funding in support of our collective efforts.

As we near the end of 2016, over 12,000 Idahoans are trained to prevent child sexual abuse. We are poised to distribute crying plans to the parents of all 25,000 babies born each year in Idaho so that we can help them deal with the stress that can lead to abuse. We have educated hundreds of people on the impact of toxic stress and how protective factors like resilience can reduce the impact of trauma.

Through its work as the backbone organization for the prevention movement, ICTF provides the infrastructure for collective action among its network of prevention programs who share a vision of thriving Idaho children and thriving Idaho communities. **We are truly all in this together.**

— Roger Sherman, Executive Director



...youth: nothing about us without us!

The recipient of the **2016 Ed Van Dusen Legacy Award, the Idaho Foster Youth Advisory Board (IFYAB)**, represents the most important part of child welfare practice: the children who the system seeks to protect. IFYAB members are trained in a specialized leadership curriculum designed to teach them how to use their personal story to raise awareness and impact change in child wellbeing issues.

An important piece of what this board provides is a venue for youth across the state to create a sense of belonging and family. The foster care system often unintentionally takes away that very sense of belonging to youth in care.. IFYAB provides an opportunity for youth to be with one another and share like circumstances. Their time together provides a chance to speak

from the heart with another – like a family would. This is where the healing comes and where change is developed.

IFYAB has used its collective voice to impact abuse and neglect. They have created scholarships to send foster youth to college, created college programs on campuses for foster youth, and helped educators, social workers, law enforcement, and judges understand the impact of abuse and foster care on children's well-being.

Each member of this board is changing the cycle of abuse by individual healing and working for a better future for youth in the community and for youth in foster care. With every board member comes an agent of change.



KAILAMAI HANSEN AND RICKY LEWIS FROM THE IFYAB RECEIVE THE ED FROM ICTF BOARD MEMBERS, SARAH LEEDS AND AMANDA PEÑA



...the experts

The cumulative knowledge of the people in the prevention field throughout Idaho is remarkable. Each spring we bring together leaders in the field from throughout the state for our annual Strengthening Families Training Institute (SFTI) to share best practices as well as challenges. We also bring in national experts from throughout the country to share new ideas and practices for preventing child abuse and neglect.

This year's SFTI featured Paula Sellars and Cindy McElhinney from Darkness to Light in South Carolina. Many organizations in the prevention field in Idaho are using the Stewards of Children curriculum from Darkness to Light. These two are rock stars in our world!

Shared Wisdom: *The goal is to reach a tipping point. "In the same way as a virus can spread rapidly through a population, so too can behavioral change," like we need to prevent child sexual abuse.*

Ben Tanzer from Prevent Child Abuse America in Chicago and Bart Klika from the University

of Montana shared their wisdom around social norms theory and the difference between perceived and actual norms.

Shared Wisdom: *"The combination of concern and hope provides a platform for communities to do the work of growing safe, stable nurturing relationships and environments for all children."*

We closed this year's SFTI with a panel of birth parents from the Birth Parent National Network. Three parents, Sandra Killett from New York City, Janae Moss from Salt Lake City, and Corey Best from Miami, Florida shared their experiences with the child welfare system.

Shared Wisdom: *"Men get the message to "pull yourself up by your bootstraps," Corey Best told the SFTI audience. "You put all this weight on yourself, and you're not supposed to crash or have any emotions or show any sense of fear or weakness. And I see now that's the furthest thing from the truth. Because what I need is a support network."*

prevention

...crucial partners to educate the community to prevent child sexual abuse

Three years ago, the Idaho Children's Trust Fund partnered with the Treasure Valley YMCA to build an initiative to educate the Treasure Valley on child sexual abuse and how to prevent it. Funding from St. Luke's Community Health Improvement Fund allowed us to recruit an AmeriCorps VISTA member to coordinate our efforts and we were off to the races! The original investment allowed us to leverage two more VISTA training coordinators in Coeur d'Alene and Pocatello to give us capacity to build a statewide initiative. In 2017, we will place a training coordinator in Twin Falls.

Highlights of 2016 and a story.

- To date over **12,000 adults** have been trained statewide
- The **Boise School District** has committed to training all of its new hires, coaches and non-certified personnel this year which will reach around 1000 staff.
- The **Buhl School District** recently trained its entire teaching and administrative staff.

- **Saint Alphonsus Health System** sponsored two major training events reaching over 100 community leaders from public and private education, colleges and universities, business and municipal leaders and others.
- The **Board of the Idaho Children's Trust Fund** approved grants to several organizations statewide to purchase materials and organize child sexual abuse prevention trainings
- The **College of Health Sciences at Boise State** which educates nurses, social workers and others in allied health professions, trained over 100 faculty and students and has committed to finding ways to fully integrate the curriculum into their courses.

The Stewards of Children curriculum that we use changes lives. A father at one of the trainings, who is a survivor of sexual abuse, told the workshop facilitator that had this been around when he was a child his mother wouldn't have left him with her boyfriend. He also felt confident no one would ever try to touch his child because he now knows what to do to keep him safe. He now knows that prevention is possible.



...the community

Throughout Idaho, people come together each April to proclaim their commitment to prevent child abuse and neglect. The pinwheel symbolizes our hope that all children will have the healthy and happy childhoods they deserve.

IN CALDWELL



IN BOISE



IN TWIN FALLS



AND LAPWAI

...dedicated professionals

We can prevent child abuse and neglect together when we dedicate our work and our lives to strengthening families. There are many dedicated professionals working for stellar organizations across the state, and ICTF is privileged to have the opportunity to support as many as we can. ICTF provides funding, training, technical assistance, and shares best practices with organizations that work directly with families.

In 2016, we funded a total of nine organizations. Our three-year long cohort wrapped up its last year which included: Catholic Charities Nurturing Parent Program, ICARE Stewards of Children Training in northern Idaho, and the Idaho Department of Correction parenting class for incarcerated women

We also completed an entire annual grant cycle with six amazing organizations. Highlights include:

- 291 adults trained on child sexual abuse prevention through their Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Program.
- 81 adults and 103 children participated in the parent education and support program, Parents Anonymous.
- 30 children were provided with a Big Brother or Big Sister mentor in a school setting, up from 13 last year.
- Five families affected by disabilities participated in support services including parent education.
- 56 adults and 98 children experiencing homelessness were offered strengths-based support services to help them find a stable home.

We are also excited to announce that we just began the first year of a whole new three-year grantee cohort that includes ICARE in Coeur d'Alene, Bannock Youth Foundation in Pocatello, Advocates Against Family Violence in Caldwell, and Family Advocates in Boise.

ICTF will continue to play a coordinating and convening roll to an increasingly strong prevention network across the state. We will work not only with our grantees, but with any organization interested in elevating the work they do to be part of strengthening Idaho families and helping children thrive.

...A committed board of directors

Synergy — it is a noun; meaning the combined power of a group of things, when they are working together, which is greater than the total power achieved by each working separately.

Mark Twain said this: *“Synergy – the bonus that is achieved when things work together harmoniously.”*

At the Idaho Children’s Trust Fund (ICTF), we talk a lot about collective impact because a large part of our work in Idaho is organizing and coordinating diverse groups and organizations that

touch the lives of children and families in their efforts to prevent child abuse and neglect.

ICTF knows that synergy and collective impact are so important because we know how critical primary prevention is when we are dealing with child abuse and neglect. It is vitally important that our prevention efforts result in “one plus one equals three (or more)” rather than “one plus one equals two.” We know there is a real economic cost to all of us when children are abused and neglected. There is often

a loss of potential in children who experience abuse and neglect. But most importantly, we know there is very real pain and suffering when children and families experience child abuse and neglect.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Idaho Children’s Trust, thank you for your great efforts, progress, and impact in preventing child abuse and neglect in Idaho in 2016. Here’s to our synergistic efforts and even greater impact in 2017!

– Sarah Leeds, Board Chair

Created by the Idaho Legislature in 1985, the Idaho Children’s Trust Fund is governed by a ten member board of directors appointed by the Governor and representing every region of the state as well as the offices of the State Department of Education, the Attorney General and the Department of Health and Welfare.

Trust Fund Financials by the Numbers*

Grants/Donations received:	\$265,276
Interest earned on the Fund:	\$26,898
Grants given out:	\$82,000
Special Initiatives:	\$27,301
Market Value of Trust Fund:	\$1,502,957

(50% of tax donations deposited in account each year since 1985; earned interest used for annual operations)

*as of July, 2016. Details available upon request.

Thank you
to all who made donations
to the Idaho Children’s
Trust Fund in 2016!