

Center for Children and Families

Quarterly Stipend Newsletter

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A New Home for CCF

Our main office has moved! The Center for Children and Families is now located at the Swinney House on North Street. The new office makes it possible for the Center to house all of its projects, including the Title IV-E grant, Casa Esperanza and a new grant for Dr. Watkins. The Center's goal is to make this house a resource center for students and faculty. We hope to incorporate all of our books, modules and other resources into a library within the next couple of months. Mark your calendars, because on December 8 at 1:30pm, we want you to join us at the Swinney House for a student appreciation reception. Watch your email for the invitation.



New Domestic Violence Awareness Stamp



This October the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) issued the first ever *Stop Family Violence* stamp. It was issued on October 8 in Washington, DC and went on sale at post offices around the country on October 11. This is the third fundraising or "semipostal" stamp that has been offered by the USPS.

The stamps will be sold for 45 cents each and the USPS will transfer the funds raised from the sale of the stamps to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to assist domestic violence programs. The stamps are scheduled to remain on sale through December 31, 2006.

The story behind the stamp's striking design and the circumstances that led to its use are rather unusual. Art Director Carl T. Herrman selected Monique Blais, a six-year-old girl from Santa Barbara, California, to model for the stamp design. The intention was to photograph Blais erasing a domestic violence image - implying eradication of the issue. At one point during a break in the photo session, and without prompting, Blais began drawing her own picture of what she thought best-represented domestic violence. Philip Channing, a photographer based in California, photographed her work and this became the basis for the Stop Family Violence design. Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy G. Thompson said, "The drawing on this stamp is a poignant reminder that children who witness family violence are profoundly affected by it. Every time you buy one of these stamps you will be supporting federal programs that help battered women and their children."

“ To be successful is to be helpful, caring and constructive – to make everything and everyone you touch a little bit better. The best thing you have to give is yourself. ”

- Norman Vincent Peale

Dates to Remember

November 26-28
Thanksgiving break

December 8
Student Appreciation
Reception

December 8
Last class day

December 9-16
Final exams

December 17 - January 18
Christmas break

The effects of domestic violence are felt regardless of age, race or economic status. In 1999, according to a report issued by the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics, in more than 790,000 crimes of intimate violence, women accounted for 85 percent of the victims. Such cases cost the nation billions of dollars annually in medical expenses, police and court costs, shelters and foster care, sick leave, absenteeism and non-productivity. Studies suggest children who witness domestic violence are more apt to develop physical and behavioral problems including depression, anxiety and violence toward peers. They are also more likely to attempt suicide, abuse alcohol or drugs or run away from home.

National News Update

Last month on October 8, President Bush signed a proclamation announcing that October will officially be known as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Hear, read, or watch the press conference at:

 www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2003/10/20031008-5.html

Stress

In the first issue of this newsletter, there was a small write up about stress in the *Job Tip of the Quarter* section. For this issue of the newsletter, we decided to extend this section to include a bit more information because 'tis the season when stress levels tends to be the highest.

As you work with clients, many of them may be dealing with certain levels of stress. Here is a valuable tip to remember: Work to control your own stress level first. Once you take care of yourself you will be able to effectively help ease the stress of your clients.

Franklin Covey, a well-known author, has a great online stress quiz. It rates your own effectiveness in areas of life leadership, planning, balance, and information management. Covey encourages you to re-take the profiles periodically to check your progress. At the end of the quiz, your answers are evaluated and you are given results that explain your stress level and give you advice to help you decrease it.

 www.franklincovey.com/promotion/stressedout/index.html

National Adoption Week
November 23rd – 29th



Resources



The Child Abuse and Neglect User Manual Series are now up to date to reflect the current state of knowledge on child abuse and neglect. The new series provides:

- A foundation for understanding child abuse and neglect issues, as well as an understanding of the roles and responsibilities of various professionals in preventing, identifying, and responding to child maltreatment.
- Practical guidance to professionals involved in child protection, which includes promoting effective and collaborative practices in working with children and families.
- Concise and easy-to-understand information to support training and education activities.

To get a *free* copy of the manuals online or through the mail, visit:

<http://nccanch.acf.hhs.gov/profess/tools/usermanual.cfm>



World Wide Web Resources for Social Workers (WWWSW) contains over 81,585 links. The majority of the links are for full text electronic journals and scientific, technical and policy reports.

www.nyu.edu/socialwork/wwwsw/

For more links visit our website at: www.health.txstate.edu/sowk/ccf/ccf_links.htm

If you have a link to a website that you would like to share with us, email Michele at mb19@txstate.edu.