

POMP IN THE NEWS

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Facts About Father Involvement (Continued from April issue)

The following are some facts about father involvement that are found in the book *Father Facts* published by the National Fatherhood Initiative:

- Marital status is the strongest predictor of father presence/absence.
- When asked to name the "adults you look up to and admire", only 20 percent of children in single-parent families named their fathers, as compared with 52 percent of children in two-parent families.
- In 1999, 72.2% of those polled in a national survey agreed that "the physical absence of the father from the home is the most significant problem facing America."
- In a study of 799 families from the National Survey of Families and Households, fathers in two-parent biological families reported spending more time with their children and having higher family cohesion than did fathers in all other types of family structures.

(cont. pg2.)

POMP 2005 Staff Recognition Award

Ms. **Denise Wright**, has been a member of the Episcopal Community Services Foster/Kinship care program since May of 1999. She has been nominated by her supervisor, **Ms. Neibert Richards** for her exemplary work ethic. Her supervisor noted that Ms. Wright always works diligently on behalf of her clients, however one recent case profoundly details Ms. Wright's exceptional work.

Ms. Wright was recently successful in obtaining adoption status for a medically fragile toddler who was born addicted to cocaine and subsequently placed in foster care.

Once reunification was no longer a viable option for the natural parents and their rights were terminated, the doors were opened for the foster parents to obtain adoption rights for the child. Just weeks before the finalization date, the child began to exhibit behavioral issues, which caused the foster parents to begin to worry and show signs of wanting to rescind their wish to adopt. Ms. Wright immediately sensed their concerns and began to engage them in sessions to focus their fears. Bi-weekly visits became weekly visits, DHS and the adoption agency were alerted and the adoption process was put on hold. This allowed Ms. Wright time to help the family move to a more comfortable place regarding their decision to adopt. She made appointments with a team of specialists and collaborated with the child's school to obtain assessments on her behavior and recommendations on how to address the behaviors. Ms. Wright contacted Community Behavioral Health (CBH) to get the appropriate psychiatric evaluation for the child and ensured all necessary

information was relayed so there was no break in communication on any level.

Ms. Wright kept in constant contact with the foster parents and made sure they were a consistent presence in the planning process and in scheduling and maintaining all appointments. As the foster parents began to feel more confident and self assured in their role as adoptive parents. Ms. Wright slowly began to remove herself from the day to day contact and allowed the parents to realize their own strengths. During this intervention phase, the foster parents were given the opportunity to collaborate with their social worker in learning to navigate the system of services with confidence. The foster parents have adopted the toddler and she is now living in a safe, secure, and permanent home.

Ms. Wright's story is just one example of the extraordinary work done on behalf of children and families in Philadelphia.

Mrs. **Carole A. Harmon** has been an employee of Supportive Child/Adult Network (SCAN) for seventeen years. She was nominated by her supervisor **Ms. Brenda Rivera**, for her excellent work at the agency. Mrs. Harmon is the Director of Intake services, where her assessment and administrative skills are challenged on a daily basis. She serves as chairperson of the agency's multi-disciplinary team and acts as a guide for social work students and new staff. Her supervisor notes that her willingness to share her skills and knowledge ensures that social work services at SCAN will continue to flourish and grow.

Congratulations to all of the POMP 2005 Award Nominees!!

**THE PHILADELPHIA OUTCOME MEASUREMENT PROJECT
JUNE 2005 TRAINING CALENDAR**

**Temple University
Institute for Public
Affairs**

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How is the process? How are things going? We encourage you to contact us with your suggestions, comments, or concerns.

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**Editors: Phyllis M. Randall
and Sharon A. Barkley-Samuels**

- Children whose parents divorced before they are 21 years old have shorter average life spans than children whose parents do not divorce.
- Children in father-absent homes are five times more likely to be poor. In 1999, 8 percent of children in married-couple families were living in poverty, compared to 42 percent of children in female-householder families.
- In a study of African-American male adolescents, boys living with both biological parents were more likely to cite their fathers as role models (96%), compared to only 44 percent of those not living with their fathers, and were more likely to stay in school.
- A survey of African American men revealed that men who had experienced a positive relationship with a father who cared and sacrificed for them are more likely to be responsible fathers themselves.

DATE & TIME	EVENT	FACILITATOR
Thursday, June 2, 2005 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (SCOH and FFC Staff) Limit 20	"Engaging Fathers" Location: TBA	Phyllis M. Randall
Thursday, June 9, 2005 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. (SCOH and FFC Liaisons ONLY)	"POMP 2005 Annual Awards Celebration" Location: Temple University Diamond Club- President's Room 1913 North Broad Street-Lower level	Phyllis M. Randall Patrick Kutzler Myles Edwards
Monday, June 13, 2005 8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m. (SCOH Staff Only) Limit 25	"Interactive Training" Location: TBA	Odile Robinson
Wednesday June 15, 2005 8:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m. (SCOH Staff Only) Limit 30	"SCOH Date Report Training" Mandatory for SCOH Supervisors Location: TBA	Raymond Hahn Patrick Kutzler Michael Hagen Nashe Scott
Wednesday, June 15, 2005 8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m. (FFC Staff Only) Limit 25	"Interactive Training" Location: TBA	Lynn Moore
Monday, June 20, 2005 8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m. (SCOH and FFC Staff) Limit 25	"Understanding Child Development" Location: TBA	Robin Glasgow-Jones
Tuesday, June 21, 2005 1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. (SCOH Staff Only) Limit 20	"Let's Make Your Tracking System Work" Location: TBA	Sharon A.B. Samuels
Wednesday, June 22, 2005 1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. (FFC Staff Only) Limit 20	"Let's Make Your Tracking System Work" Location: TBA	Nashe Scott

Congratulations!

- **Mrs. Phyllis M. Randall**, POMP Projector Director will be receiving the **National Congress of Black Women's 2005 Chisholm Award**, on Friday, May 13, 2005. The Chisholm Awards are presented annually to women who provide invaluable services to the community and are often overlooked. This year the organization is honoring **Social Workers**, those who have chosen a profession of caring and helping others.
- On April 27, 2005 **Supportive Child/Adult Network (SCAN)** celebrated the open house of their new facility located at 520 N. Columbus Boulevard Suite 305, Philadelphia, PA 19123! *Kudos Mrs. Vivian Drayton and SCAN Staff!*
- On April 26, 2005, Community Advocate Association of Children and Youth (CAACY) was awarded the 6th Annual "**Children's Crusader Award**". The awards' celebration was held in the Mayor's Reception Room at City Hall. **Mr. Gary Hall**, founder and CEO of CAACY has been diligent in serving Children and Families for over twenty-six years. *Congratulations Mr. Gary Hall and CAACY Staff!*