



### ***What We Do***

Circle of Parents® is a growing national network of non-profit organizations and parent leaders that offer anyone in a parenting role the opportunity to participate in weekly group meetings with other parents to exchange ideas, share information, develop and practice new parenting skills, learn about community resources, and give and receive support. Groups are parent-led with the support of a trained group facilitator, are conducted in a confidential and non-judgmental manner, are free of charge and provide developmentally-appropriate children's programs or child care concurrent with the parent group meetings. Developing leadership on the individual, family, community and societal levels is a central theme of the Circle of Parents®. A Responsible Fatherhood program component was added in January, 2008. This component will be covered during the training. Michigan currently has 22 sites, with multiple groups at these sites.

Circle of Parents® utilizes the following standards to guide groups:

- The groups utilize the mutual self-help support model.
- A trained group facilitator and parent leader facilitate the support groups.
- Open groups meet weekly and are offered at no cost to any participant.
- Driven by parent need and feasibility, a no-cost children's program is available; if not possible, then quality childcare is provided.
- The group facilitator, parent leader and other group members are available to one another between group meetings.
- Groups are ongoing, require no intake, and, with few exceptions, are open to all parents.
- Group members are assured of confidentiality in a non-judgmental environment within the limits of the law.
- Community resource information that supports healthy family development is available to all group members.

### ***Parent Leadership***

Circle of Parents® participants gain the knowledge and skills to function in meaningful leadership roles and represent a "parent voice" to help shape the direction of their families, programs and communities. Parents and professionals build effective partnerships and share responsibility, expertise and leadership decisions.

By promoting parents as leaders, participants in Circle of Parents® groups are empowered and prepared to take on leadership roles in their families and on the community, state and national levels.

Parent leadership, which is at the heart of Circle of Parents®, enables parents to contribute to the effectiveness and responsiveness of organizations as they participate in family support program and policy development.

### ***Research Based***

Focus groups and evaluation indicate that Circle of Parents® participants:

- become empowered to influence other parents and their community;
- feel supported and connected to other parents;
- learn how to parent children as they grow;

- learn about non-violent ways to discipline children and learn more about themselves and how this awareness helps them to become better parents; and
- gain knowledge about meeting family needs from resources and materials that are provided.

Throughout Michigan, Circle of Parents is being used as the catalyst for developing parent leadership and involvement throughout the community. Fully honoring principles of mutual respect, equal contribution and shared leadership, parents become empowered to influence other parents and their community-advocating on behalf of their children and families.

***Who should attend?***

- Program Managers/Coordinators
- Parent Educators
- Parent Leaders (fathers are welcome)

***What will attendees learn?***

- How to Develop, Implement and Evaluate the Circle of Parents ® Model
- The importance of promoting "parental balance," and "positive fatherhood involvement"
- The importance of creating father friendly organizations
- The importance of maintaining the Protective Factors
- Group Dynamics
- The Art of Group Facilitation
- Developing Parent Leadership
- Circle of Parent® Group Structure and Operations
- How to Apply Leadership Skills to Local and State-Wide Advocacy

***Training Information (Only 25 slots available - Register Early)***

- ***Where: Weiss Advocacy Center (formerly C/CAN and CAC)***  
 515 East Street  
 Flint, MI 48505-1946  
**Phone:** (810) 234-3680  
**Fax:** (810) 234-2265

- ***When:*** Thursday, January 20, 2011 from 8:30 a.m. - 05:00 p.m.  
 Friday, January 21, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. – 04:30 p.m.
- ***Cost:*** Training and materials will be provided to participants at no charge. Children's Trust Fund will provide training materials, breakfast and lunch. Participants will be responsible for their lodging, and their evening meal. State rates are \$16.50 for evening meal, \$65 + taxes for single occupancy, and \$75 + taxes for double occupancy. You must let the hotel know that this is a State Department of Human Services Children's Trust Fund Training at the time of your reservation.

**Where to stay, if overnight accommodations are needed:**

The closest lodging is 1.11 miles (3 minutes) from the training facility (Weiss Advocacy Center)

**HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS - FLINT-CAMPUS AREA**

1150 ROBERT T. LONGWAY BLVD.  
 FLINT, MICHIGAN 48503 UNITED STATES  
 Hotel Front Desk: 1-810-238-7744  
 Hotel Fax: 1-810-233-7444

- [Get Directions](#)
- [Print Fact Sheet](#)



REGISTRATION FORM

- Where: Weiss Advocacy Center (formerly C/CAN and CAC)
515 East Street
Flint, MI 48505-1946
Phone: (810) 234-3680
Fax: (810) 234-2265

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency/County: \_\_\_\_\_

Role/Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

THIS SITE WILL HAVE A CHILDREN'S PROGRAM [ ]

Your role with the Circle of Parents® Program (check all that apply):

\_\_\_\_\_ Group Facilitator

\_\_\_\_\_ Parent Leader

\_\_\_\_\_ Children's Program Staff/Volunteer

\_\_\_\_\_ Program Coordinator/Director/Supervisor

\_\_\_\_\_ Potential Circle of Parents site (Facilitator, Parent Leader, Program Coordinator)

Please send registration forms to:

Lena Shacks-Glover: Children's Trust Fund
235 S. Grand Avenue, Suite 1411
Lansing, MI 48933

Phone: (517) 335-2711

Fax (517) 241-7038

Email: shacksl@michigan.gov

