



### ***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 towards Local and State-Wide Advocacy

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

- ***Where:*** ***Kids-TALK Children's Advocacy Center***  
40 E. Ferry Street  
Detroit, MI 48202
- ***When:*** Thursday, March 24, 2011 from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Friday, March 25, 2011 from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- ***Cost:*** Training and materials will be provided to participants at no charge. Children's Trust Fund will provide training materials, a light 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. If overnight accommodations are needed, check for a hotel that provides state rates. 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.



## REGISTRATION FORM

- **Kids-TALK Children's Advocacy Center**  
40 E. Ferry Street  
Detroit, MI 48202

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:**

Sylvia Brown Jones: Children's Trust Fund  
235 S. Grand Avenue, Suite 1411  
Lansing, MI 48933

Phone: (517) 241-7792

Fax (517) 241-7038

Email: [brown-jones@michigan.gov](mailto:brown-jones@michigan.gov)

