

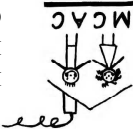
WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF CHILDREN?

MCAC is looking for motivated volunteers to help in the advocacy efforts for children and families. There are several committees who need your help, so now's the time to become an active member of our team. If you are interested in helping out contact the MCAC Chair, Ivy Riveland or check out our website at www.mcacomaha.org and contact us at mcacomaha@gmail.com.



We're on the Web!
www.mcacomaha.org

Metropolitan Child Advocacy Coalition
 PO Box 6646, Elmwood Station
 Omaha, NE 68106



M.C.A.C. NEWS

METROPOLITAN CHILD ADVOCACY COALITION



VOLUME 17 - ISSUE 6

DECEMBER 2007

2008 M.C.A.C. Kick-Off Breakfast

Featuring Rainbow Rowell You Make The Difference!

Even when you don't mean to. Even when it seems like no one is listening or paying attention...The impact you have on the children you meet is profound.



Former World-Herald columnist Rainbow Rowell talks about growing up on an at-risk household and how a long string of teachers and counselors ultimately helped her find success.

Friday, January 11, 2008

- 8:00—8:30 a.m.—Registration and Buffet Breakfast
- 8:30—9:00 a.m.—Business Meeting & Annual Awards
- 9:00—10:30 a.m.—Featured Program

Program will take place at:
Westside Community Center
 3434 South 108th Street

Registration Form on Page 7!

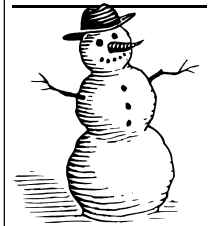
For Questions about this free program, please contact April Anderson at 595-1326 or aanderson@projectharmony.com

Continuing Education:

This program meets the criteria of an approved continuing education for Social Work, Mental Health Practitioners, and Marriage and Family Therapists for 1.5 contact hours.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

From the Chair Let's Get Involved	2
Holiday Helping Programs	3
Alternative Gift Giving	4
Agency Spotlight	5
Board Member Spotlight Save The Date	6
Kick Off Breakfast Registration Form Therapist Resource List Form	7
Make A Difference	8
2008 Membership Application	



Even a small star shines in the darkness
 •Finnish Proverb

From the Chair...

The days are slowly getting shorter and the smell of snow is in the air as the holiday season approaches. With this last letter as the Chair I would like to thank everyone for their time and commitment this past year. Being a volunteer coalition it is only with the tireless efforts of those willing to give of their precious time, that we are able to be this strong. Our lives seem to be getting busier each passing day and our priorities are what reap the benefits of our time, and I want to thank everyone for making MCAC one of their priorities. It is with everyone's time and commitment that we can make a difference.

During the holiday season I think of what I'm most thankful for and this year I'm thankful for the opportunity I've had as Chair for MCAC. I've had the opportunity to learn from so many inspiring professionals in the community and grow in my experiences with the coalition. It truly has been another great year of exemplary commitment from those involved with MCAC.

I would also like to welcome Ivy Riveland, from Project Harmony, as the 2008 MCAC Chair. I know Ivy will continue the growth of MCAC in the next year with all the knowledge and experience she brings to the position. I wish everyone the most wonderful holiday season and a hopeful new year!

Sincerely,

Shelli Wolventan



Let's Get Involved!

United Way

For 60 years, the Marine Corps Reserve has helped the Omaha-Council Bluffs community rally its resources for needy children, making sure they have gifts under the tree at Christmas. At the request of the U.S. Marine Corps, United Way and the 2-1-1 call center coordinate the involvement of nonprofit agencies in Pottawattamie County in Iowa, and Douglas and Sarpy Counties in Nebraska. United Way manages the database of family applications, to make sure donors' toys reach as many local kids as possible. Families that want to apply for toys should call 2-1-1 to find the application site closest to them. (Dial 444-6666 if you do not have access to 2-1-1)



Siena Francis House

Holiday Gifts- For further information, please contact Kathy Gaines by phone, 402-677-6376, or by email, kathygaines@sienafancis.omhcoxmail.com

Open Door Mission:

Operation Santa, Adopt-A-Family, Christmas Bells: Email Trudi or call her at (402) 422-1111 ext 1529 if you have any questions.

JANUARY KICK-OFF BREAKFAST REGISTRATION FORM

PLEASE REGISTER BY JANUARY 4, 2008

Name: _____ Organization: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Yes, I will attend the 2008 Annual Kick-off Breakfast

Enclosed is my check for \$8 for the Program and Breakfast

Checks payable to M.C.A.C. and mail to: Project Harmony, 7110 F Street, Omaha, NE 68117
For more information contact April Anderson at 595-1326

FREE ADVERTISEMENT FOR YOU!!

M.C.A.C.'s THERAPIST RESOURCE LIST

Every year the Metropolitan Child Advocacy Coalition provides a Therapists Resource booklet to our members and in support of our members. Your input is very important to us. As professionals, please take a moment to complete this form if you wish to be listed in the resource book. Also, please let us know if individuals need to be taken off the list who are no longer with your agency. Additional information is always welcome.

NAME: _____ AGENCY: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ FAX: _____ E-MAIL: _____

SPECIALIZATION: _____

PSYCHIATRIC CONSULT: _____

FEE: _____ HOURS: _____

Return to: M.C.A.C.— PO Box 6646, Elmwood Station—Omaha, NE 68106

MCAC Board Member Spotlight

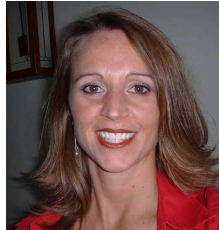
Ivy Riveland—MCAC Chair

Agency: NE Alliance of Child Advocacy Centers

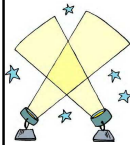
Position: Education & Training Coordinator

What I do: I work with the Child Advocacy Centers to ensure training on child abuse and neglect is identified, promoted, collaborated, conducted, evaluated, and expanded on throughout the state. I also provide technical assistance and prepare financial and activity reports for the state Alliance.

Educational/Career Background: I received my Bachelor's and Master's degrees at the University of Kansas in the Social Welfare program. I have worked both in the clinical and administrative areas with children and families as my main focus.



Family/Pets: I have an almost 4 year old son, named Cutter, who always keeps things moving. He's not too shy and likes to ham things up.



Favorite Vacation Destination: I enjoy vacationing anywhere in good company. With winter months ahead, I reminisce about the sandy beaches of Mexico, Jamaica, and Myrtle Beach.

Favorite Quote: *A life without problems is living without challenge, without accomplishment and without promise. ~ Unknown*



The G.U.I.D.E.ing Philosophy Leadership & Bridging The Generation Gap. January 24, 2008, 9:00 AM—4:00 PM, Omaha Home for Boys' Youth Service Worker Certificate Program. Contact Kim Marsh at kimm@omahahomeforboys.org or (402)457-7032.

Anxiety Disorders in Children & Adolescents; Recognizing and Treating the Emerging Epidemic. February 7, 2008, 8AM-4PM, Omaha Marriott (\$177). To register online: www.meds-pdn.com or call (715)836-9770.

Maximizing Your Effectiveness In Your Work With Families. February 21, 2008, 9:00 AM—4:00 PM, Omaha Home for Boys' Youth Service Worker Certificate Program. Contact Kim Marsh at kimm@omahahomeforboys.org or (402)457-7032.

Speaking Of Children. March 5, 2008, 11:30AM-1:00PM, Omaha Quest Center, Featured Luncheon Speaker—John Walsh! For more information visit www.projectharmony.com or call (402)595-1326.

Holiday Helping Programs

Omaha World Herald:

Goodfellows' emergency fund is designed to assist people with one-time, urgent needs that cannot be met through other sources. Goodfellows works with four agencies that screen applicants for the emergency assistance program.

To apply for assistance, please call:

Catholic Charities (South Omaha residents), 731-5413
Heartland Family Service (Sarpy and Cass County), 291-6065
Heartland Family Service (Douglas County), 451-6244
United Way, 2-1-1 or 444-6666

To contact Goodfellows, call (402) 444-1388.

Heartland Family Service:

Holiday Assistance Programs: *(North Omaha & Sarpy Counties)*

This program provides extra assistance to Heartland Family Service clients during the holidays. Clients must sign up for these services.

Adopt-A-Family Distributions: Heartland Family Service client families are matched with holiday donors of food and gifts. Call 451-6244 for more information on adopting a family.

General Distributions: Other Heartland Family Service clients who are in need of holiday assistance are eligible for civic and religious donation programs through our association with Goodfellows, Toys for Tots and community churches. Call 451-6244 in North Omaha, & 322-1407 in Council Bluffs.

Sarpy County Holiday Assistance: Toys are made available through the cooperation of various Sarpy County agencies in a mass distribution on one day in December. Call 291-6065 in Bellevue or 339-2544 in Papillion.

Salvation Army:

Social Service Programs including: Transitional Housing, 37th Street Residential Readiness program, Material Assistance and Seasonal Services (Winter Night Watch, heat aid, summer fans, back-to-school, food pantry and holiday assistance), Transitional Residential Program, Community Assisted Supportive Services, WELLSRING, Comprehensive Adolescent Residential & Educational Services, Early Head Start/Even Start/Head Start, Durham Booth Manor Senior Housing, Dora Bingel Senior Center, Omaha Area Service Institute for Seniors, Stepping Stones Child Development Center. Call 402-898-5900 for more information.

Catholic Charities:

Family Enrichment/Christmas Assistance: Parents are helped to build their own personal plan for how they want to develop their family's growth; and then assisted to bring that plan to reality by the activities they undertake (commit to) over the course of several months. With successful action on their plan, they become eligible for entry into the Christmas Assistance program, which matches them with a sponsor who helps them make Christmas more special for their children by providing gifts and clothing. Call for more information -- St. Martin de Porres Center at 402-341-4004 or Juan Diego Center at 402-731-5413.

Alternative Gift Giving



The Box Project: This program matches sponsor families from across the United States with families in poor rural areas. They pack a box of new and used items and mail it to a Box Project Family. In addition, this agency works to break the cycle of poverty by offering financial aid for college. So far, more than 4,000 families have been linked through the program. Call (860)747-8182 or go to www.boxproject.org.

World Vision: This group produces a gift catalog each year that allows kids and their parents to choose specific items to donate to people in need around the world. For example, \$35 buys ten fruit trees for a family in Kenya and \$25 immunizes a child in Mexico against several deadly diseases. Established in 1950, this international Christian relief agency works to improve health education, address hunger issues, and spur economic development by giving people access to training and small business projects. Call (888)511-6511 or go to www.worldvisiongifts.org.

Heifer International: This program provides livestock and agricultural training to some of the most impoverished people in the world. Look through its catalog to learn about the gifts available and how the recipients will use them. For example, a \$30 gift provides a poor family with a package of bees and a hive. The hive will supply the family with honey to eat and sell, and with beeswax for candles and cloth printing. Call (800)696-1918 or go to www.heifer.org.

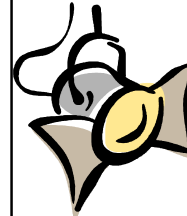
Alternative Gift Market: You can purchase alternative gifts such as food for Nicaraguan children and books that will help train teachers in Haiti. For example, \$10 will buy one week of care and education for a homeless child living in the streets of India. For \$40, you can pay to plant an acre of cacao seeds in Belize, helping farmers restore ecological balance in the tropical forest. For more information, visit www.altgifts.org.

→ DON'T FORGET!

The next Board Meetings will be held:
 Tuesday, January 15, 2008 &
 February 19, 2008
 From 11:45-1:00 at
 Project Harmony
 (7110 F Street)



AGENCY SPOTLIGHT



Common Sense Parenting Classes: The Omaha Home for Boys offers several classes throughout the year both regular classes which contains information and techniques to work with children ages 6 - 18 as well as toddler classes. Regular classes are six weeks long and Toddler classes are seven weeks long both meeting once each week for two hours.

Class include topics such as Effective Discipline, Effective Praise, Setting Children Up For Success, Responding to Behavior Problems, Teaching Self Control, Developing Parenting Plans, etc. The cost for the class is only \$15 per participant and each participant will receive the Common Sense Parenting book as well.

Advanced Parenting: Omaha Home for Boys offers Advanced Parenting to all parents who have completed the Common Sense Parenting Class. It's a time to come together and discuss issues families are facing, learn how to implement what was learned so it works within their own families and to receive support from other parents facing the same problems. This is an education based group which includes guest speakers who are the experts in their area to work with parents on topics such as; ADHD, Depression, Sexuality, Blended Families, etc. The Advanced Parenting group meets every other Tuesday evening throughout the year from 6:00 PM—7:30 PM. There is no cost to attend Advanced Parenting and also included are; babysitting, dinner, refreshments and prizes!

Contact: Kim Marsh at (402)457-7032 or kimm@omahahomeforboys.org
 4343 N 52nd Street, www.omahahomeforboys.org



Omaha Home for Boys
Training Institute
 STRENGTHENING YOUTH AND FAMILIES

*Winter is the time
 for comfort—it is
 the time for home.*
 - Edith Sitwell