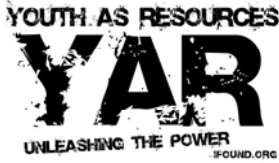




**INITIATIVE
FOUNDATION**

Children, Youth & Families News You Can Use



Somali Child Care Project

The Somali Child Care Project started as a conversation between Child Care Resource and Referral, the Work Force Center in St. Cloud, the St. Cloud Area Early Childhood Coalition members and other community members who were part of the Multi-Cultural Child Care Task Force. It was identified that there is a need for Somali parents to receive assistance in finding child care and becoming child care providers themselves. A task force identified barriers that exist for those from the Somali culture engaging in the child care process. The first barrier is that the concept of child care as a system does not really exist in the Somali culture. Secondly, there is a general lack of knowledge about providing child care in a manner that lends itself to school readiness in the American culture. Other barriers include housing, language, and other cultural dynamics.

In response to these barriers, Child Care Resource and Referral in partnership with Hands Across the World decided to use the framework of their Family, Friend and Neighbor Caregiver program. They set out to find those

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YAR Funds Intergenerational Project

On May 23, 2008 some Area Learning Center (ALC) students from the St. Cloud Area School District got the opportunity to brighten the day of veterans at the St. Cloud VA Medical Center. The youth service project connects at-risk youth with area veterans. The students take pride in making holiday decorations and putting them up in areas of the VA Medical Center. They also enjoy playing bingo, doing activities, or visiting with the veterans. ALC students potted flowers for the veterans to take to their homes, in celebration of Memorial Day. Jenna Nyren, an ALC student, said, "The veterans really enjoy it, you can see it on their faces". Many of the



Pictured left to right: Jenna Nyren (ALC Student), Ross Jorgenson (WWII Veteran), Dylan Scott (ALC Student), and Chelsea

Continued on page 2...



Upcoming Events . . .

Grant Research & Writing Workshop

June 19, 2008

*Two half-day sessions: 8:30 am -
11:30 am and 1:00 - 4:00 pm*

Initiative Foundation



This is a valuable opportunity to hear professional writers and reviewers present techniques for researching funders and creating effective grant proposals. For more information, please visit www.ifound.org.

8th Annual Community Collaborative Brain Development Conference

August 12 - 14, 2008

Shooting Star Casino & Event Center, Mahnomon, MN

A national conference designed to give parents and service providers a forum to share new information, state-of-the-art techniques and strategies that have proven successful when working with children and families. This is an excellent opportunity for participants to present research findings along with hands on and "how to" information to all individuals working with children and families. This conference is for parents, foster parents, ECFE, Head Start, Child Care, School Age, School Administrators and Teachers, Health, Early Intervention, Social Services, Child Advocates, Legislators, and School Board members. For more information, <http://www.whiteearthchildcare.com/conference.htm>. ♦

Initiative Foundation Accepting Nominations for Awards Event

We are now accepting nominations for the 2009 Initiative Awards, an unforgettable springtime event recognizing outstanding leadership and community service in central Minnesota.

- Outstanding Community
- Outstanding Enterprise
- Outstanding Green Venture
- Outstanding Leadership
- Outstanding Nonprofit
- Outstanding Youth

Winners will be selected based on their leadership, innovation and community impact. Each winner will receive a specially commissioned recycled-glass sculpture, a \$1,000 grant for their favorite charity, an article in [IQ Magazine](#) and an inspirational video presentation commemorating their accomplishments.

[Click here](#) for the award descriptions and nomination forms - due by June 20th! ♦

A sleepy head lay yawning,
Quietly on my chest,
His little legs were tired
Needing a bit of rest.

Little boy face filled with dreams,
Of all he planned to do.
Games to play and trees to climb
Before this day was through.

Busy dreamer, sound asleep,
Had to find the softest lap
To be his human pillow
So he could take a nap.

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Veterans...continued from page 1

students and veterans have built great relationships through the series of visits.

"This program is absolutely fantastic, not only for the veterans but for the students also" stated Ross Jorgenson, a Veteran of WWII. The program is a bridge between generations, it exposes youth to seniors and people with disabilities. "I like the program a lot, I plan to come back after graduation and volunteer more" commented Dylan Scott, an ALC student.

This program is in its second year of being partially funded by United Way Youth as Resources (YAR) Board. YAR is supported by the Initiative Foundation and funds youth-initiated, youth-led projects. ♦



Outstanding Friend of Children, Youth & Family Showcase

Sally Nault-Maurer is leaving her dual position as Coordinator for the Cambridge-Isanti and North Branch Early Childhood Coalitions.



She will be starting a new position with the Mora School District as the Early Childhood Coordinator. Sally has worked in the field of Early Childhood for over 20 years. She has worked as a Coalition Coordinator for four years. We wish her well and bid her a fond farewell.

Thank you Sally, for your contributions to these coalitions and to the field of Early Childhood. Good luck in your new position! ♦

MN Association of Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (MAIECMH) Accepts MFBSA Award

The MAIECMH was honored in February by the Minnesota Family Based Services Association with their Jerry Lindskog "In Search of Excellence" Award. The plaque reads, *"In Recognition of Outstanding Contribution to Strengths-Based Work and Dedication to Children and Families in Minnesota"*.



The MFBSA describes the award: The Jerry Lindskog Award is awarded annually to outstanding performance by a Minnesota resident (or organization) in the human service field. It was originated as a tribute to Jerry Lindskog and his commitment to family based services. Jerry has been involved with family services since its conception and has served as the human service liaison between the state department of human services and the Minnesota Family Based Service Association. When family based workers speak of "strength-based" work with families they speak the voice of Jerry. Jerry is a noble man and the Jerry Lindskog Award is a noble award.

For more information on the MN Association of Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health, please visit the [MACMH website](#) or contact Candy Kragthorpe, MAIECMH Director at 651-644-7333 or ckragthorpe@macmh.org. ♦

Somali Child Care Project

(Continued from page 1)

in the Somali community who were providing this type of care and then provided them with support and assistance. An eight week course was developed to educate providers on nutrition, activities, CPR and first aid, SIDS and shaken baby, literacy, child development, business management, licensure, and more. The response was so good that they offered the eight week course again!

Course attendees meet twice a month to receive ongoing education and to connect with others who are either already providing child care informally or who would like to find employment in the child care field. *For more information about the Somali Child Care Project, contact Crystal at (320) 251-5081. ♦*

To submit your project or story for possible inclusion in the CYF News You Can Use, please email it to jhoward@ifound.org.
Submissions may be edited and inclusion will be at the sole discretion of the Initiative Foundation's Children, Youth & Families team.



Funding Opportunities

Call for Proposals Released to Support Faith-based Advocacy Efforts to End Childhood Obesity **Faith-based Advocacy: Galvanizing Communities to End Childhood Obesity**

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) is committed to tackling childhood obesity and the threat it poses to the health of our nation's children and families. Our goal is to reverse the epidemic of childhood obesity by 2015 by promoting healthy eating and physical activity in schools and communities throughout the United States. To assist this effort, RWJF is seeking proposals from faith-based coalitions to advance community policies or environmental changes that aim to increase access to healthy foods and/or opportunities for physical activity among children. We are particularly interested in efforts that reach children at greatest risk for obesity, including African-American, Latino, Native American, Asian American and Pacific Islander children who live in low-income communities or communities with limited access to affordable healthy foods and/or safe opportunities for physical activity. *Application Deadline: July 25, 2008.* [More details and how to apply.](#)

Avon Hello Tomorrow Fund

The goal of the Avon Hello Tomorrow Fund, an initiative of Avon Products, Inc., is to help strengthen the position of women and girls in society. The Fund provides individuals in the United States with cash awards that will allow them to pursue a project that targets the needs of women in the United States. Each week the Fund will offer one \$5,000 award to an individual who has submitted a compelling application that both advances the interests of women and ultimately improves society. Applicants must be 18 years of age or older and legal residents of the United States or its territories. Men are also eligible to apply as long as the program benefits women. *The remaining application deadlines for 2008 are June 2, September 1, and December 1.* Visit the website listed above to submit an online application.

Drug Policy Alliance Advocacy Grants Program

Drug Policy Alliance works to broaden the public debate on drug policy and to promote realistic alternatives to the war on drugs based on science, health, and human rights. The Drug Policy Alliance Advocacy Grants Program promotes drug policy reform at the local, state, and national levels by funding smaller, geographically limited, or single-issue projects. The program provides support through the following two components: Promoting Policy Change grants of up to \$50,000 support organizations working to advance drug policy through advocacy, grassroots organizing, and education, with emphasis on state-based activity. The application deadline is June 16, 2008. Rapid Response/Special Opportunities grants support time-sensitive projects intended to respond to opportunities to block drug war initiatives or advance drug policy reform. Letters of intent are due on the first business day of the month throughout the year. Visit the website listed above for application deadlines for both grant programs.

Support for Children in Need

Mattel Children's Foundation: Domestic Grantmaking Program

The Mattel Children's Foundation's mission is to better the lives of children in need. Through the Domestic Grantmaking Program, support is provided to nonprofit organizations throughout the United States that directly serve children. Grants are available to local organizations that use creative methods to address the needs of children from birth to 12 years of age. Funded programs must address one of the following issues: the health and well-being of children, with emphasis on promoting healthy, active lifestyles; increased access to education for underserved children, in particular, innovative strategies to promote literacy; and the self-esteem of girls up to age 12. Online applications must be submitted by July 15, 2008. Visit http://www.mattel.com/About_Us/Philanthropy/ci_mcf_philanthropy_grantmaking.asp to take the eligibility quiz.



Funding Opportunities

Foundations Partner to Award Rural Poverty Grants

St. Cloud & Little Falls, Minn.—The Central Minnesota Community Foundation and the Initiative Foundation have partnered to make available \$12,000 in grant dollars from the Central Minnesota Rural Poverty Fund. Applications are due June 30.

The Rural Poverty Fund seeks applications from agencies that serve rural populations in the 14 surrounding counties. Grants are available for planning and implementation of projects or programs that address rural poverty.

Poverty continues to affect our local communities, particularly in the face cost of consumer goods. About 8.1 percent of Minnesotans fall below the poverty line, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. At the common threshold of 200 percent, that soars to 26.1 percent of the state’s population living in poverty. In Central Minnesota, eight of the 14 counties have a higher percentage of people living below 200 percent of the poverty line than the state average.

Grants may establish or supplement existing emergency and transitional activities, which directly address specific, immediate needs that people have due to poverty. Grants may be used to assess community needs and assets, develop action plans or provide for project implementation. Grants must relate to a variety of identified programs or agency needs. Agencies are encouraged to apply for smaller grants of \$1,000-\$5,000.

Eligible applicants include 501 (c) (3) non-profits, and local units of government located in the 14 counties of Central Minnesota including: Benton, Cass, Chisago, Crow Wing, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Pine, Sherburne, Stearns, Todd, Wadena, and Wright. Individuals are not eligible to apply.

Grant guidelines are available through the Central Minnesota Community Foundation and the Initiative Foundation. For more information about the grant fund, visit www.communitygiving.org, or contact Susan Lorenz at the Community Foundation (320) 253-4380 or Cathy Hartle at the Initiative Foundation (320) 632-9255. Completed applications must be mailed to the Central Minnesota Community Foundation, 101 South 7th Ave, Suite 100, St. Cloud, MN 56301 by June 30, 2008.

Educational Opportunities

Center for Early Education and Development (CEED) College of Education and Human Development University of Minnesota

Bridging Education and Mental Health

June 16 to August 18, 2008

Earn a Continuing Education Certificate for 24 clock hours.

Instructor: Leah Hjelseth, M.A., Doctoral Candidate, Educational Psychology



The goal of this course is to find common ground between behavioral and therapeutic approaches to supporting children who engage in challenging behavior. This course material expands on both the functional behavioral assessment and relationship-based teaching to explore what causes and sustains maladaptive behavioral patters in children’s actions and interactions and how early childhood professionals can support the healthy social and emotional development of children.

A continuum of intervention strategies are offered to address the needs of children with varying needs: typically developing children, children with disabilities, and children with and without disabilities who have experienced trauma, neglect, and other environmental and relationships issues. For more information / how to register, please visit <http://cehd.umn.edu/ceed/profdev/onlinecourses/beam/htm>.