

February is National Parent Leadership Month

We are the leaders we've been waiting for!

What is parent leadership?

All parents have strengths; they have knowledge about their families and communities and can provide valuable insight into programs and community changes to benefit children and families. Parent leadership is successful when parents and staff work together to make decisions that affect families and communities – sharing responsibility, expertise and leadership. Parent leadership is an essential and effective means of strengthening families and preventing child abuse and neglect.

We would like to invite you to assist in promoting parent leadership as a very important action in your community.

What is National Parent Leadership Month?

National Parent Leadership month highlights the many opportunities available for parents, professionals, policymakers, and other community members to engage in partnerships with the goal of building and supporting safe families. Circle of Parents® is joining forces with Parents Anonymous®, founder of the National Parent Leadership Month, and many other groups to honor parents nationwide.

What can I do?

One way to honor parents nationwide is by asking one of your elected officials to adopt a proclamation.



What is a proclamation?

A proclamation is a public act to declare something in an official or formal manner.

Why declare the work of parents in an official manner?

It is an opportunity to publicly recognize and honor parents for their leadership roles in their homes and communities and in state, national, and international arenas – to recognize Parent Leadership as an essential and effective means of strengthening families and preventing child abuse and neglect and building strong communities.

Where do I start?

Make a phone call to your elected official's office and ask what their process is for passing a proclamation. Explain what National Parent Leadership Month is.

Ask if there are guidelines to follow, make sure to ask about timelines and when and where the proclamation will be voted on. This is a wonderful opportunity to gather your friends in the community to join you and attend the meeting.

You may be asked to make a comment or two. This would be a great time to promote any activities that are going on in your community where parents are joining with others to make their families and communities stronger.

How do I find my elected official?

We each have people who represent us at each of these levels:

- National – the president, representative, and senator
- State – the governor, representative, and senator
- Local – the mayor, council persons, county commissioner, and school board members

February is National Parent Leadership Month (cont'd)

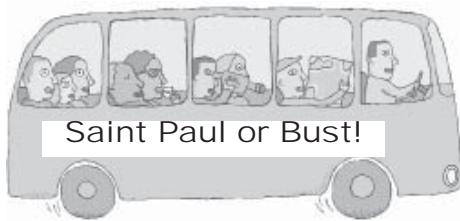
Minnesota Circle of Parents® will target mayors, county commissioners, and city council members in 2008. You can check your local phone book for their phone numbers; they are usually located in the front of the book sometimes in a different color and may be divided by sections of government. You can also go to www.state.mn.us, and when the site comes up, click Government on the top left. This will take you to Government Topics, and on this site click on Local Government to find websites for your county, to find your commissioner or, click on City to find your city council person.

If you know your elected official personally, it is best to start with them. Passing a proclamation does not cost money nor are you asking them for any money. This is something they like to do. Hopefully you will enjoy your experience also.

Everything you need is at your finger tips at www.pcamn.org.

- In this publication is a copy of the proclamation; simply copy it and send it off to your elected official
- On the www.pcamn.org website you will find:
 - ✓ a sample letter to public officials introducing the proclamation,
 - ✓ website or newsletter story,
 - ✓ press release,
 - ✓ the Parents Anonymous® Parent Leadership Month Tool Kit, and an
 - ✓ electronic copy of the proclamation.

Mark Your Calendar for April 1, 2008 and Visit the Capitol!



Prevent Child Abuse Minnesota will hold a kick-off to Child Abuse Prevention Month at the State Capitol in Saint Paul on April 1. Governor Tim Pawlenty will be asked to pass a proclamation to support the prevention of child abuse and neglect, and your voice is an important piece in this process. Gather your children, your friends, and your friends' children and head on in to Saint Paul.

Things you can do on your field trip to the Capitol:

1. Participate in the PCAMN rally in the rotunda (check out www.pcamn.org for more details closer to the event)
2. Schedule an appointment ahead of time and meet with your representative, senator, or the governor on April 1 or in your community
3. Have your Children's Program make pinwheels (go to www.wikihow.com/Make-a-Pinwheel) and bring them along
4. If you can't make the trip, write letters to your officials and send them a pinwheel

For questions or to get assistance in putting together your Parent Leadership Month proclamation or for more information about the April 1st Capitol Event, please contact, Roxy Foster (651) 523-0099 ext 118, toll free (800) 621-6322, or e-mail rfoster@pcamn.org.

The mission of Circle of Parents® is to empower parents to create healthy and loving families through positive parenting and mutual self-help.



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National Parent Leadership Month

PREAMBLE

Parents across the nation are working in partnership with professionals and policymakers to create positive changes in their lives, the lives of their children and the lives of other families. They are doing this quietly and effectively and it is important to honor these parents.

- WHEREAS, meaningful Parent Leadership occurs when parents gain the knowledge and skills necessary to function in meaningful leadership roles and present a “parent voice” to help shape the direction of their families, programs and communities: and
- WHEREAS, a parent leader may be a parent, grandparent, foster parent, or anyone else in a parenting role who speaks or acts from his or her perspective as a parent to effect change: and
- WHEREAS, Circle of Parents ® recognizes the vital importance of partnering with parents and assists public systems and private organizations, policymakers and other key stakeholders to effectively implement Parent Leadership strategies: and
- WHEREAS, parents have the power to speak and act publicly to ensure policies and institutions respond to their experiences and build capacity for communities to create equal opportunities for all families: and
- WHEREAS, Parent Leadership is an essential and effective means of strengthening families and preventing child abuse and neglect; and
- WHEREAS, National Parent Leadership Month recognizes, honors and celebrates parents for the vital leadership roles in their homes and communities and local, state, national and international arenas; now therefore be it

Resolved that I/we, _____(Name)

_____(Title)

of the Town, City, County, State of _____ do hereby declare

February 2008 as National Parent Leadership Month in the Town, City, County, State of

_____ and recommend this observance to all our citizens.