



Connecting for kids

Forward!

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Welcome!

The Child Abuse Prevention Fund of Children's Hospital and Health System is proud to introduce the first edition of the *Connecting for Kids* e-newsletter. This electronic newsletter will replace the printed newsletter you normally receive by mail. We hope you enjoy this quarterly publication.

If you prefer not to receive it, you can unsubscribe at any time by clicking the Unsubscribe link at the bottom of each issue. To share it with others who care about Wisconsin's children, click the "Forward" icon. Thanks for all you do for children!

New Blue Ribbons for Kids Web site - order your materials today

Over the past several years, the Blue Ribbons for Kids awareness initiative has gone from reaching a few communities in Wisconsin to touching nearly 96 percent of all counties in Wisconsin, distributing an average of 150,000 blue ribbon pins and informational cards, media information and other educational materials each year.

Blueribbonsonline.org is the new central information source for Blue Ribbons for Kids. Organizations can visit this Web site to order child abuse prevention awareness materials such as blue ribbon pins and stickers. In addition, the Web site has resources for coordinating and implementing an awareness campaign.

In 2006, a small fee will be charged for Blue Ribbons for Kids materials to cover the production costs. Materials available include blue ribbon stickers, plastic and metal blue ribbon pins, bookmarks, posters, awareness wristbands and a CD tool kit. Materials can be ordered as a complete Blue Ribbon Community Kit or individually. Place your order for materials online today. Materials will be mailed at the end of February.



Congratulations 2005 Beyond the Blue Ribbon Award winners

The 2005 Beyond the Blue Ribbon Award Committee is pleased to announce this year's winners:

- Most Creative - Mosinee Family Resource Center and Mosinee Area Chamber of Commerce.
- Most Potential - The Family Resource Center of Sherman Park, Milwaukee.
- Most Community Participation - Child Abuse Prevention Task Force, Manitowoc.

The Beyond the Blue Ribbon Award was created in 2001 by three statewide agencies whose missions focus on preventing child abuse and neglect: [Children's Hospital and Health System's Child Abuse Prevention Fund](#), [Children's Trust Fund](#), and [Prevent Child Abuse Wisconsin](#). The organizations present three cash awards for the most potential, most community participation and most creative child abuse prevention public awareness campaigns.

"The Beyond the Blue Ribbon Award is a way for communities to think about promoting and educating community members about child abuse prevention. The symbol for prevention is the blue ribbon, and we want communities to think about child abuse prevention beyond the blue ribbon concept," says Jennifer Hammel, director of the Child Abuse Prevention Fund.

More than 20 Beyond the Blue Ribbon Award applications were received this year. "Competition was first-rate. Many Wisconsin communities are working hard to educate people about child abuse prevention and parenting," said Hammel. "The Beyond the Blue Ribbon Award Committee was amazed by the many creative ideas, collaboration and hard work done by all applicants."

Developmental Assets

This is the first in a series of 40 Developmental Assets that will be featured in each issue of *Connecting for Kids*. According to the Search Institute, the "40 Developmental Assets are concrete, common sense, positive experiences and qualities essential to raising successful young people. These assets have the power during critical adolescent years to influence choices young people make and help them become caring, responsible adults." The Child Abuse Prevention Fund is promoting these Developmental Assets and encourages you as professionals to read about each of the 40 Developmental Assets and see how you can incorporate them into your parent education programs.

Restraint

Kids who have this asset believe it's important not to be sexually active or to use drugs and alcohol.

- Talk openly with the families you work about the dangers of sex, drugs and alcohol.
- Make age-appropriate books available and provide accurate knowledge of the results of risky behavior.
- Contact your county's local Health Department for helpful resources about tobacco use or visit [The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Web site](#).
- Teach and model appropriate behavior and healthy choices.
- Provide factual information and explain how and why the choices made today have long-term implications.

For more information on the Developmental Assets, contact [Jeff Sargent](#), area supervisor for Children's Service Society of Wisconsin, [the Search Institute](#), [Abundant Assets](#), and the book, [Why Do They Act That Way?: A Survival Guide to the Adolescent Brain for You and Your Teen](#), by David Walsh.



Programs that work: Building Humane Families

Each year, more than three million children in the United States are exposed to domestic violence in their homes. In Wisconsin alone, more than 25,000 incidents of domestic abuse were reported in 2000. When domestic violence occurs, children and household pets are often in harm's way, and studies show there is a link between animal abuse and violence towards humans. The [Task Force on Family Violence](#) is working to end the cycle of violence through its Building Humane Families program.

Created in collaboration with the [Wisconsin Humane Society](#), Building Humane Families is an education program for the entire family. The seven-week program is divided into three groups: preschoolers, school-aged children, and parents and

caregivers. The preschool group learns how to identify feelings and problem solve without the use of violence. They also learn about protective behaviors. School-aged children work directly with animals at the Wisconsin Human Society and learn altruistic behavior. They also learn how to prevent animal abuse and identify animal feelings. Parents and caregivers work with a parent educator and learn how to prevent conflicts and manage anger. In addition, parents are taught about age-appropriate child development and ways to strengthen family relationships.

"Building Humane Families is a proactive effort to promote positive parenting and educate children about developing healthy relationships with others," said Cyrus A. Behroozi, director of child advocacy for the Task Force on Family Violence. "Program participants learn tools for non-violent conflict resolution."

At the end of each class, participants in all groups get together to share their experiences and discuss what they learned. After the session, everyone participates in a graduation celebration and receives a T-shirt and graduation certificate.

"As valued members of the family, animals play a vital role in the program by helping to promote important messages of empathy and kindness," said Behroozi. "The Building Humane Families program is working to end the cycle of violence in Milwaukee by stopping violence before it starts."

The Task Force on Family Violence in Milwaukee provides education, advocacy and access to services to empower people to lead lives free from violence. The Task Force served nearly 6,500 people in 2004.

Grantseeker's Corner: Is your language exclusive or inclusive?

By Jeremy Miner

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Most grant manuals and technical writing handbooks advise writers to avoid language that may exclude certain individuals or groups. This means, when writing your proposal, you need to be aware of your language choices and you need strategies for correcting potential problems.

Perhaps the most noticeable form of bias is sexist language-using "man" to refer to all human beings. Even without the "he/she" construction, many gender-bias problems are easy to fix by:

Using the plural forms of nouns and pronouns.

Problematic: Through this program, each child will improve his reading score by 10 percent.

Preferred: Through this program, children will improve their reading scores by 10 percent.

Omitting the pronoun altogether.

Problematic: The program director will send one of his staff members to the conference.

Preferred: The program director will send a staff member to the conference.

Replacing sexist nouns with more neutral ones.

Problematic: The chairman of our board will ensure that fiscal and human resources are available to support this project beyond the granting period.

Preferred: The chair of our board will ensure that fiscal and human resources are available to support this project beyond the granting period.

A less frequently recognized form of bias can occur when referring to people with disabilities. Typically, these individuals are identified by their disability first and as persons second, implying that they are not fully participating members of the community. This can be fixed by:

Emphasizing individuals over disabilities.

Problematic: This program will serve 125 physically disabled children.

Preferred: This program will serve 125 children with physical disabilities.

Avoiding negative overtones.

Problematic: Children afflicted with Cerebral Palsy are not able to play in the same ways as most other kids.

Preferred: Children with Cerebral Palsy are not able to play in the same ways as most other kids.

Whether used intentionally or unintentionally, subtle word choices can make the difference between being inclusionary and exclusionary, and between winning and losing a grant award. Biased language in proposals may cause reviewers to focus on how your ideas are presented rather than the merit of your ideas. Write with a sense of dignity and equality for all people.

© Jeremy T. Miner, 2005. Grantseeker's Corner is a column in Connecting for Kids, a publication of the Child Abuse Prevention Fund. Grantseeker's Corner is intended to inform, inspire, motivate and otherwise help sustain your grant-seeking activities. Jeremy T. Miner is the co-author of "[Proposal Planning and Writing](#)."

Stay informed!

Keeping up to date with the latest information on child welfare, adoption, prevention and administration can be difficult. The National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information and the National Adoption Information Clearinghouse offers a new service that helps people stay current and up-to-date on the latest news and research. This free resource provides monthly e-mails with recent publications from the Clearinghouse Library based on your topics of interest. [Subscribe now!](#)

Upcoming conferences

[Children 2006: Securing Brighter Futures](#)

Feb. 27 - March 1, 2006
Washington, DC

[The 22nd National Symposium on Child Abuse Honoring "Everyday Heroes"](#)

March 14-17, 2006

Huntsville, Ala.

[Fulfilling the Promise: Strengthening Families with Education and Support](#)

March 14-15, 2006

Appleton, Wis.

[19th Annual Wisconsin Conference on Child Abuse & Neglect](#)

April 5-7, 2006

Stevens Point, Wis.

[Prevent Child Abuse America's national conference](#)

May 21-24, 2006

San Diego, Calif.

We would like to hear from you!

1. Did you find the Connecting for Kids electronic newsletter user friendly?

Yes

No

2. What topics would you like to see covered in future editions of Connecting for Kids?

Programs that work

Grantwriting information

Upcoming conferences

Developmental Assets

Current research

Other

3. If you selected "other," please tell us what topics you would like to see included in Connecting for Kids?

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