

# THE CLFC FAMILY REUNION NEWS

THE CREATING LASTING FAMILY CONNECTIONS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Winter Edition

February, 2011

## **COPES Selected for National Listening Lab**

COPES is excited to have been one of only six programs in the country selected to participate in a Fatherhood Listening Lab supported by the Health and Human Services Office of Family Assistance Healthy Families TA Initiative.

The 90-minute Listening Lab is a recorded interview with fathers currently participating in our *Creating Lasting Family Connections* (CLFC) program. Participation in this discussion by our fathers was completely voluntary and fathers were told that they could choose not to answer any question and/or stop participating at any time.

The cumulative data gathered from all six sites across the nation will be shared in a new report to be made available to COPES about some of the ways parenting skills have changed or improved as a result of participation in Fatherhood programs.

COPES staff is thrilled to be a part of this national initiative, and to support the fields of fatherhood and parenthood by offering our participants the opportunity to share insights into positive and healthy parenting.

## **2011 is the Year of Responsible Men (YORM)**

COPES is also thrilled to participate in and support the overarching goals and mission of the national 2011 Year of Responsible Men (YORM) campaign spearheaded by Kenneth Braswell, Executive Director of Fathers Incorporated.

YORM is a national, year-long media campaign to promote awareness of the importance of men taking responsibility for their roles as fathers. Fathers Incorporated is coordinating the national effort and has asked local agencies to work together to promote responsible manhood and fatherhood within their local communities.

COPES has already initiated and hosted two local meetings with partner agencies in the Louisville Metro area to brainstorm possible ways to promote responsible fatherhood in our community through various sources, including the media and a variety of fatherhood-related events. Agencies that attended these first two meetings along with COPES staff include the Muhammad Ali Center, Making Connections Network, Mens Work, 2not1 Fatherhood and Families, and the Center for Health Equity. We openly welcome, proactively invite and hopefully anticipate other local agencies joining this community effort as the idea and planning stages mature into focused actions and events.

We have already begun planning our next local meeting and, in the meantime, we are working on compiling a list of possible fatherhood related public events which local organizations may choose to “co-partner” with the YORM initiative by including the YORM Ties Never Broken logo, and/or any other identifying information deemed mutually beneficial.

We will continue these, and possibly other, efforts to support this important and national initiative to promote deep awareness and responsible action on the part of men and fathers in our community and across the country.

### **COPES Is Ready to Respond!**

COPES staff continues to diligently pursue the launch of direct services with our new Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) grant called Ready to Respond (RTR). The project anticipates starting direct services in late May at the very earliest.

The major focus of this new grant is to serve Black/African-American females ages 18 & older in the Louisville metro community. However, we are considering the possibility of also serving the 16-18 population if we receive permission from our federal grant officer and if a cohort of this age group is available for participation in a 20-week *Creating Lasting Family Connections* (CLFC) program run.

RTR project staff are currently planning services and pursuing possibilities of partnerships with several community stakeholders and organizations in the Louisville Metro area. Our primary partner to date is the Home of the Innocents. Other potential partners include the Park Hill, Algonquin and Old Louisville (PAL) coalition, Anthony Smith of Making Connections Network (he is also building connections through the Annie E. Casey Foundation contract), the University Of Louisville School Of Social Work, and others.

We are very excited and motivated to continue to work together with current partner organizations, and possible new ones, and the greater community to enhance and improve access to prevention services for Black/African-American women. Stay tuned for more details as they become available!

## **CLFC Implementation Trainings**

We continue to receive several calls from individuals who want to attend a CLFC Implementation Training. We need a few more slots filled before we can plan a date. If you are interested in participating in a CLFC Implementation Training or if you are interested in hosting a training at your site for your staff, please call the COPES office at 502-583-6820.

COPES, Inc

845 Barret Avenue

Louisville, Kentucky 40204

502-583-6820

Website: [www.copes.org](http://www.copes.org)

