

Every child has the right to an alcohol-free fetal development!

Healthy Brains for Children

February 2010 Newsletter

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Jody Allen Crowe



“Beginning the Journey”

The first six months of our Chapter Initiative has been astounding. Healthy Brains for Children announced the Chapter Initiative on July 24th with an email to less than 100 people. Since that time, the Initiative has been growing organically. Four chapters are functioning in two states, with five more chapters in various stages of forming. People in several other states and Canada have expressed interest in forming chapters. We have been receiving calls and emails from people who are hearing about our efforts. Bottom line, just think of the difference if one child per year in each of the chapter communities is given an alcohol-free fetal development because of our efforts.

Two chapters are holding one day **“Beginning the Journey”** seminars in April. The Brainerd (MN) Lakes Sunrise Rotary and the Brainerd Rotary, along with the Rotary District 5580, have raised \$12,000 for the first-of-its-kind, grassroots, community-wide prevention effort to be led by the Brainerd Lakes Area Chapter of Healthy Brains for Children. The chapter is gathering a

“Blue Ribbon Panel” of people from the fields of medicine, psychiatry, mental health, chemical dependency, law enforcement, alcohol industry, social services, ministerial, and community to develop a plan of action for prevention in the Brainerd Lakes area.

Upon hearing of the Brainerd chapter’s event, the Blandin Foundation in Grand Rapids, MN, suggested we write a grant and coordinate a Grand Rapids Chapter event immediately following the Brainerd Rotary event to save costs. We are now planning a similar event in Grand Rapids on April 23. We will be sending out event announcements within a couple of weeks. You can register for either event on our website at www.healthybrainsforchildren.org. Click on the calendar on the right side of the page to find the link to the registration form.

Facebook

You can follow our progress as a fan of Healthy Brains for Children in Facebook and by joining the Cause of Healthy Brains for Children as well on Facebook.

Donations

You can now donate to Healthy Brains for Children through our website using your credit or debit card. Your donations are tax deductible. Donations will be used to support our mission of stopping prenatal exposure to alcohol by working with every community that requests our help in developing a chapter. We need your help. Up to this time, our expenses have partially been covered, with much of the expenses and all of the time being donated to the cause.

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Events

Our calendar is filling up. Here is the scheduled chapter and organizational event, including keynotes and training, in the upcoming months.

Feb. 16-17 -Grand Rapids, MN Kiwanis, Sheriff's Department, "Nuts and Bolts of Prenatal Exposure to Alcohol" training – Grand Rapids Library

Feb. 22-25 - Fargo/Moorhead Chapter Initiative Week Presentations at five Rotary and Kiwanis Clubs, meet with Cass and Clay County Public Health, meet with other stakeholders, two public stakeholder meetings

Feb. 27 - Grand Rapids, MN - Women's Expo at Itasca Community College- The first public awareness event for the Grand Rapids Chapter

March 8 – Mankato, MN - The Greater Mankato Area United Way is sponsoring the start-up of the Greater Mankato Area Healthy Brains for Children Chapter starting with a meeting on March 8 with the Early Childhood groups.

March 9 – FASD on the Hill sponsored by MOFAS (Minnesota Organization for Fetal Alcohol Syndrome). Everyone is encouraged to attend this advocacy day at the Minnesota State Capital. People in states other than Minnesota are encouraged to look for a similar event in your state or start this effort in your state.

March 19 - Cass Lake Bena School District, Cass Lake, MN – Teacher training in prenatal exposure to alcohol.

March 23 – Chapter start-up meeting in Crookston, MN

March 24-25 – Healthy Brains for Children will have a booth at the Minnesota Social Services Association Conference in Minneapolis, MN

March 26 – Keynote speaker for the Evergreen Conference in Bemidji, MN

March 27 – Presentation for the SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) conference in Anoka, MN

April 22 – "Beginning the Journey" with the Blue Ribbon Panel seminar in Brainerd, MN

April 23 – "Beginning the Journey" event in Grand Rapids, MN

May 26-27 - Keynote for the Minnesota Probation Officers Conference

**Please consider a donation to
Healthy Brains for Children, Inc.**

**Online donations can be made at
www.healthybrainsforchildren.org.**

Checks can be sent to:

**Healthy Brains for Children, Inc
14412 Laurian Lane
Brainerd, MN 56401**

Every child has the right to an alcohol-free fetal development!

Don't let alcohol steal your baby's brain!

Be the change agent in your community. Contact me to find you how YOU can start a chapter of Healthy Brains for Children in YOUR community!

Healthy Brains for Children will send you

"The Fatal Link"

when you donate \$20 or more.

