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# FSNH Weekly Newsletter

May 27, 2010



First, I'd like to wish everyone a safe and happy Memorial Day! Let's all take a moment to remember, honor, and thank those who fought in the armed forces and did their part to protect children and families across New Hampshire, throughout the United States, and around the world!

Here is a website that has a list of Memorial Day poems that can be read to and discussed with children: <http://www.apples4theteacher.com/holidays/memorial-day/kids-poems-rhymes/>

Remember, **May is National Foster Care Month!** As explained in the previous newsletter, each will contain the story of a person making a difference in the lives of children by becoming a foster parent. Please follow the link to read about this week's Person Making a Difference, (And they are from **DOVER, NH**). © [Mary Pat and Dan Rowland](#)

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## Upcoming Events & Training Opportunities

- The 18<sup>th</sup> IPSCAN International Congress on Child Abuse and Neglect will be held in Hawaii September 26-29. For more information and to register for the conference, click [Here](#). The early registration deadline is July 15!
- Every Day is Father's Day: A Conference on Responsible Fatherhood will be held on June 11<sup>th</sup> in Painted Post, NY. For more information, and to register online, click [Here](#).
- On June 15<sup>th</sup> from 2:00-3:30 PM there will be a webinar with Brooke Schewe of Families Together in NYS. This webinar will reinforce the philosophy of family driven principles. You can register online [Here](#).
- An Active Parenting Leader workshop will be held on October 11, 2010 from 8AM-4PM at The Upper Room!
- A free webinar, Respite in the Faith Community, will be held June 3 at 3PM. Click [here](#) to register online!
- This summer, there will be a three part CCF Webinar Training Series hosted by experts in the field of capacity building. Below are the three training sessions, along with their respective registration links.
  - June 15<sup>th</sup>: Peter Brinckerhoff on "Mission-based Management" [Link to Online Registration](#)
  - July 21<sup>st</sup>: Innovation Network on "Data Collection and Reporting" [Link to Online Registration](#)
  - August 18<sup>th</sup>: Kivi Leroux Miller on "Turning your whole staff and board into an effective marketing team" [Link to Online Registration](#)

## 18th ISPCAN International Congress on Child Abuse and Neglect



HONOLULU, USA

26 - 29 SEP 2010

Listed at [econference.com.au](http://econference.com.au)

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## National Water Safety Month

May is National Water Safety Month! Check out their website: <http://www.watersafetymonth.org/>

## New Swimming Guidelines from the American Academy of Pediatrics

Memorial Day weekend marks the official start of summer, and that means millions of families will begin swimming in pools and at beaches. Sadly, every summer hundreds of children drown and thousands are injured while participating in aquatic activities.

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The Centers for Disease Control's website contains numerous statistics concerning drowning and other injuries incurred by children swimming and playing in water. Those stats can be accessed [Here](#).

The AAP's new guidelines recommend, for the first time, swimming lessons for children ages 1-4 years old. The findings of the doctor's study cited by the AAP stipulated that such lessons should only be provided if the parents of the children believe them to be emotionally ready to learn. The group has long recommended swimming lessons for children over the age of four, and it still says no studies support swimming lessons for babies under 1 year old. To read the entire article discussing the AAP's new guidelines, click [Here](#).

### **Pool Safety Campaign**

In addition to the AAP's revamped guidelines, the Consumer Products Safety Commission recently launched a new pool safety campaign in order to help prevent childhood water injuries and deaths. Their website, [www.poolsafety.gov](http://www.poolsafety.gov), contains numerous resources and links including an online form to report an injury and/or file a complaint about a product, news and recalls, safety tips for parents, and information on the availability of state grants on pool and water safety.

### **New Tax Incentive for Nonprofits to Hire Employees**

In March, President Obama signed into law the **Hiring Incentives to Restore**



**Employment Act (HIRE)**. This \$17 billion jobs package includes temporary tax incentives to encourage nonprofit employers to hire new workers. Nonprofit employers can qualify for a 6.2 percent payroll tax incentive on certain new hires. This program is only in effect through the end of 2010. All 501(c) nonprofits are eligible to participate.

To learn more about the new incentives, visit the National Council on Nonprofits [website](#).

### **YouthSense Summer Learning Tools**

In their most recent issue, YouthSense provided numerous tools to keep children in grades K-3 engaged this summer. [Click here to download some of the activities!](#) The activities available for free download are a sample from the book *Building Character from the Start*:

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*201 Activities to Foster Creativity, Literacy, and Play in K-3.* [Click here to purchase the entire book and read its reviews!](#)

## Did You Know? Some Statistics on Summer Reading...

- Effective summer programs can help young people improve their reading, develop math skills, increase high school graduation rates, make kids more likely to go to (and stay in) college, and increase their college employment rate.
- The average student reads only 10 minutes a day outside of school.
- Every summer, the annual reading achievement gap between students from low-income families and middle-income families widens by three months. During the summer, the reading development of low-income students tends to drop while that of middle- and high-income kids tends to go up slightly.
- Between kindergarten and sixth grade, the annual three-month summer loss means that the reading gap between low-income and middle-income students grows to 18 months. By the end of middle school, the cumulative loss has expanded to two or more years.
- Eighty percent of the achievement differences between low-income and middle- to high-income students may occur because of summer reading loss.



No matter your economic status, encouraging your kids to participate in summer learning activities is an effective way to support academic success. Kids don't have to study textbooks to learn! Let's all prepare for the fast approaching summer season by thinking of creative ways to keep children academically stimulated!

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Libraries across NH are participating in the national summer reading program "Make a Splash! Read!" To sign up, go to your local public library!

Don't forget, summer learning is not just for children! [This website](#) includes a list of various trainings offered this summer by the Search Institute.



### **Bored Kids: Tips for all Parents and Caregivers**

One of the biggest tensions between parents and kids is that sometimes kids don't have enough to do, while parents have too much to do. It's difficult not to cringe when your child complains about being bored when you wish your life didn't have so much responsibility and activity. Instead of getting exasperated, consider these [creative ideas!](#)

The ideas listed in this website provide suggestions to all parents (create a "beat boredom" box), parents of children ages birth to 5 (pull out household items like pots and pans), parents of children ages 6-9 (invite them to help you with household chores), parents of children ages 10-15 (introduce them to new books and movies that may capture their interest), and parents of teenagers ages 16-18 (encourage them to develop healthy relationships with their peers).

### **NH CARES Alert (written by Jack Lightfoot)**

As most of you know by now, SB 450 was killed summarily by the Senate on its arrival. Nonetheless, most of what the House created to respond to the Governor's/DHHS's cuts was amended by the Senate onto HB 1128. Much of what NH CARES accomplished in SB 450 remains in the HB 1128. What has changed are the sources of revenue.

These new sources of revenue are the biggest differences and where the focus of the debate between the Senate and the House is likely to be. Our goal must be to move the process along and get to a committee of conference on the budget. The alternatives are simply unacceptable: no new revenue and the Governor left to make further and deeper cuts to balance the budget over the next 13 months.

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The following messages are critical:

1. We are all in this together. Legislators are to be thanked for the grueling days and nights they have worked to address the budget deficits and create a much better response to these hard times and future recovery than what they received from the Governor & DHHS. Both Houses found common ground on the needs of the people in these very stormy economic times. Sacrifices are being made to balance our families' and communities' needs with our resources. This has been and will continue to be intense and grueling work that is much appreciated by us.
2. We are better together: No one can be entirely happy with HB 1128, but without it, we are left with the only tool the Governor and DHHS have: making further and deeper cuts. We have seen what some of those proposals entail and it is not good. Furthermore, the Governor and DHHS do not have any mechanism available to formally obtain input from the public on their proposals. This encourages these cuts being made without understanding their full impact. The House and Senate have been responsive to public input, made very difficult but informed decisions on how to meet the needs and raise the revenue, and have accomplished a great deal over these 4 1/2 months. We are committed to working together to complete the foundation for recover over the next few weeks.
3. Keep the process moving forward: HB 1128 can and must lay a strong foundation now and for the next biennium by creating a far better budget response than was handed to the House and Senate by the Governor and DHHS. The revenue issues must be worked out to balance the long term needs with reliable and sustainable revenue sources.

### **Grant Opportunity for Young Adults**

With nearly one in three students not finishing high school on time, America's Promise Alliance (the Alliance) and AT&T are looking for the energy, enthusiasm, creativity and commitment to help make this country a Grad Nation through the **My Idea grants program**. "My Idea," will empower high school-aged young people to examine the dropout crisis and take action to help more of their peers to graduate on time.

National grants of **\$10,000-\$20,000** will be awarded to 20 - 25 youth for the best ideas submitted to help increase their community's graduation rate. The application and more information is available at <http://www.americaspromise.org/myideagrants> The deadline for the application is June 11, 2010.

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## NH Teen Institute Summer Programs

Again this summer, the NH Teen Institute will be hosting its Summer Leadership Program July 18-23 at the Lions Camp Pride in New Durham, NH. [Click here to view the brochure!](#) Online registration is also available, [click here to register!](#)



The total cost to register and attend the 5 day leadership camp is \$815. **Scholarships are available to students;** please contact Kristie at 889-1090 for more information!

## Study: Building Strong Families Evaluation Suggests Stronger Approach is Needed

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recently released findings from a study assessing the effectiveness of programs designed to help low-income unmarried parents build and sustain healthy relationships in order to provide their children with stable family lives and the support and involvement of both parents.

In the **Building Strong Families Initiative**, programs provided relationship and marriage education, case management, and referrals to other services. Seven of the eight programs evaluated in the initiative failed to yield better outcomes for participants than for a control group that did not have access to the program. The study measured the living arrangements, relationship status, relationship quality, extent of father involvement with his child, domestic violence and economic well-being of approximately five thousand couples who were randomly assigned to either a control group or a group that had access to a Building Strong Families program.

"These findings are very timely as Congress considers the more comprehensive Fatherhood, Marriage and Families Innovation Fund, proposed in the President's 2011 budget," said Carmen R. Nazario, HHS' assistant secretary for children and families. "The results of this study show that it is possible to positively influence and strengthen families with support programs, but also suggest that the current approach isn't adequate."

The Fund, proposed in the President's 2011 budget, would focus on comprehensive responsible fatherhood programs, including those with relationship and marriage components. The current Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood program, through

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which the Building Strong Families programs were funded, would be redirected to this more comprehensive effort.

For the report on Building Strong Families, mothers and fathers were interviewed about 15 months after they volunteered for the program. The status of these couples and the well-being of their children will be measured again 36 months after they signed up for the program. The longer-term results are expected in 2012.

The full report "Strengthening Unmarried Parents' Relationships: The Early Impacts of Building Strong Families," along with a report on implementation of the programs, is available [here](#).