



The next Full Collaborative Meeting will be held  
Wednesday, January 14 at the  
Kandiyohi County Health and Human Services Building, Willmar  
12:00 pm to 2:00 pm; Cost: \$5.00  
**PLEASE RSVP** to Shawna (320)235-8938 or email  
[shawna.steffen@co.kandiyohi.mn.us](mailto:shawna.steffen@co.kandiyohi.mn.us)  
(Minutes of past meetings are available at [www.pact4.org](http://www.pact4.org))

# PACT 4 NEWSLETTER

## Attention LCTS Grant applicants

Thanks to the planning and foresight of PACT 4's Executive Board, we will be offering \$600,000 in LCTS grants for programs over the next biennium: July 2009 to June 2011.

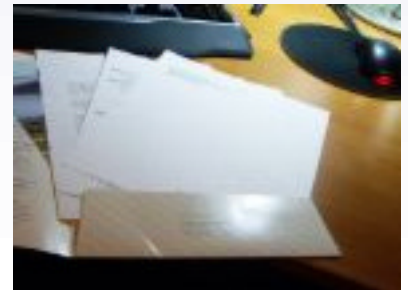
Grant requests up to \$30,000 per grant year will be accepted. Priority will be given to programs that show evidence of strong collaboration among agencies. **Final applications are due Friday, February 6, 2009.**

If you plan to apply for an LCTS grant for the 2009-2011 grant cycle, a **Letter of Intent** is due in the PACT 4 office by **4:30 pm, Friday, January 9, 2009.**

**The Letter of Intent is required if you plan to submit a grant application.**

- ? The Letter of Intent should include:
  - ? the name of applicant organization
  - ? a contact person's email address and phone number
  - ? the approximate requested amount for the two-year period of July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2011
  - ? a one or two paragraph description of the proposed project
- ? Please limit the length to one page.
- ? Submission of a Letter of Intent does not obligate an agency to submit a final application.
- ? The letter may be sent by email or by US postal service. Receipt of the letter will be acknowledged by email.

All application materials are available on the PACT 4 website at [www.pact4.org](http://www.pact4.org).



## 2009 Executive

### Board

**Arliss Stenger, Parent (Meeker Co)**  
(Vice-Chair)  
Serves through 2010 - 3rd Term  
(320) 453-8153/ arliss\_stenger@yahoo.com

**Becky Romosz, Parent (Kandiyohi Co)**  
Serves through 2009 - 2nd Term  
(320) 235-2204 /  
becromosz@yahoo.com

**Debi Brandt, Heartland CA Agency**  
Serves through 2009-1st Term  
(320) 235-0850 /  
debib@heartlandcaa.org

**George Dubie, Greater MN Family Svcs.**  
Serves through 2010 - 1st Term  
(320) 235-3664/  
gdubie@greaterminnesota.org

**Gerald Brustuen, RC Human Services**  
Serves through 2009 - 2nd Term  
(320) 523-2202 /  
jerry\_b@co.renville.mn.us

**Greg Schmidt, MACCRAY School Dst.**  
Serves through 2011 - 1st Term  
(320) 847-2154  
schmidtg@maccray.k12.mn.us

**Jill Bruns, RC Public Health (Chair)**  
Serves through 2008 - 2nd Term  
(320) 523-3723 /  
jill\_bruns@co.renville.mn.us

**Loren Hacker, Canby School District**  
Serves through 2010-3rd Term  
(507) 223-7226 /lhacker@canby.mntm.org

**Tammy Thompson, MC Corrections**  
Serves through 2011 - 1st Term  
(320) 693-5260  
tammy.thompson@co.meeker.mn.us

**Val Mersch, Fiscal Agent (non-voting)**  
val\_m@co.renville.mn.us

**Debb Sheehan, Director**  
(non-voting) (320) 231-7036 /  
debb\_s@co.kandiyohi.mn.us

#### Chief Elected Officials

**Dick Larson, Kandiyohi County**  
**Amy Wilde, Meeker County**  
**Jane Remiger, Yellow Medicine County**  
**Bob Fox, Renville County**

#### PACT 4 Families Mission

*“As a collaborative we will work together to reduce duplication and provide a family-driven continuum of quality, innovative, and cost-effective services for children and their families. These services will be culturally sensitive and strength-based.”*



## Director's Corner

Recently, PACT 4 was awarded a grant by the State of Minnesota Department of Human Services/Chemical Health Division to serve Hispanic/Latino youth with chemical health concerns. We welcomed the chance to serve this important group of adolescents and the opportunity to work with a large minority group in our communities. As many of you know, this is the program we call Guía, meaning “Guide” in Spanish.

Part of the application process required an assessment of “Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services” (CLAS) for our organization as a whole. Examples of CLAS standards include promoting diversity in staff composition, providing materials in more than one language, and culturally appropriate trainings that will improve service delivery. Over the years, PACT 4 has worked to be responsive to diversity issues. In fact, our mission statement includes the words, “culturally sensitive,” but often, implementation of competence strategies have been driven by grant requirements. Now we have the opportunity to look at our organization beyond grant requirements to assure we are leading the way in exemplifying cultural competence.

According to King, Sims, & Osher, “There are five essential elements that contribute to a system's ability to become more culturally competent. The system should (1) value diversity, (2) have the capacity for cultural self-assessment, (3) be conscious of the “dynamics” inherent when cultures interact, (4) institutionalize cultural knowledge, and (5) develop adaptations to service delivery reflecting an understanding of diversity between and within cultures. Further, these five elements must be manifested in every level of the service delivery system. They should be reflected in attitudes, structures, policies, and services.”

Working with the West Central Integration Collaborative, PACT 4 is making plans to do a complete Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) and to set up plans to meet the competency elements, including those outlined by King et. al. As part of the Guía grant, we agreed to set up a plan for assessing all of our services including hiring, programs and policies to assure we are culturally competent and to notify our partners about our scheduled efforts. Below is a list of the plans we have in place so far to begin in January, 2009:

- ? Inventory all PACT 4 programs and translate to Spanish and Somali signage in the PACT 4 office and other written materials
- ? Make available Rosetta Stone curriculum for staff to learn Spanish
- ? Develop client satisfaction surveys for the Guía Program
- ? Regularly make available public information about progress and successful innovations in implementing CLAS Standards
- ? Guía staff attend monthly meetings of Latino Service Providers
- ? PACT 4 staff will attend a presentation about Somali culture
- ? Begin the IDI to regularly assess CLAS activities

By the end of July 2009, PACT 4 will have a strategic plan that addresses cultural responsiveness to ensure “Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services” are developed and provided.

Again quoting King et.al., “Developing cultural competence means improving cross-cultural capabilities by adapting services to the cultural context of families and children. While many resources are available to guide that process, developing cultural competence continues to challenge our creativity. However, the dire situation facing our children today, and therefore our nation tomorrow, demands that we embrace this challenge.”

King, Mark A., Sims, Anthony, & Osher, David. Defining Cultural Competence. Retrieved December 29, 2008, in How is Cultural Competence Integrated in Education? [http://cecp.air.org/cultural/Q\\_integrated.htm#def](http://cecp.air.org/cultural/Q_integrated.htm#def).

*Debb Sheehan*  
debb\_s@co.kandiyohi.mn.us

# Chemical Health Coalitions

The Yellow Medicine County and RAPAD coalitions are using the Positive Community Norms Marketing to produce new posters and newspaper ads to explain the results of the Most of Us® survey that was conducted at YME and RCW.

The card below is an example of one being sent to parents of 6th graders to reduce the use of alcohol, the age of first experimentation with alcohol and to help parents start the conversation about underage drinking with their children.

## PROJECT NORTHLAND – SLICK TRACY TALK TO YOUR 6TH GRADER ABOUT SUBSTANCE USE

Your sixth grader is learning about the advantages of abstaining from alcohol use. Most adults think children this age should not drink alcohol, or have access to alcohol.

When young people delay the use of alcohol or choose to abstain completely they achieve more academically, they have fewer encounters with the law, they attend school more regularly and they have a sense of self control that leads them into adulthood. As parents, do your part to help youth make healthy decisions about alcohol.

Home life provides a social environment that influences children. Consider the following:

- ?? Who do your children spend time with?
- ?? Are the adults in their life drinking alcohol?
- ?? What barriers are in the social environment that will make it harder for your child to get access to alcohol?
- ?? Is any beer or liquor at home in a locked cabinet?
- ?? Do adults only drink when they are not in the home or with their children?

You can be a positive role model. Project Northland educates youth about the opportunity to abstain from drinking alcohol, but your words and actions will help your child integrate healthy behaviors into their life.

## Restorative Justice/Circle Sentencing

Last fall I was asked to speak to the seventh grade at the KMS high school in Kerkhoven, MN about the Circle Sentencing program. The students were reading the book, *Touching Spirit Bear*, by Ben Mikaelson. I had never heard of the book but found a review online. The review stated that it is a fictional book based on Circle Sentencing. Although I had not read the book I felt confident speaking about Circle Sentencing and how the process is being used locally.

After this presentation, I began to think more about this book, wondering if our Circle youth would benefit from reading it. I ordered the book and planned to read it in the future when I had extra time. The day that the book arrived another call came in, this time the Willmar Junior High asked me to give a presentation on Circle Sentencing. They were having a “read together” kick-off event in December for the students and their families. The families were being asked to read the same book by Ben Mikaelson. For this event the teachers at the Willmar Junior High wanted a keynote speaker talk about how Circle Sentencing is being used in their own community. I went home that night and read the book. I needed to find out why this book was gaining popularity with English teachers. Additionally, I thought I may have to dispel any wrong information that the book might give in regards to the Circle Sentencing process when I gave my presentation.

The book is about a youth, Cole, who committed a horrendous attack against another youth. Cole was offered Circle Sentencing as an alternative to spending time in jail and he reluctantly agreed to participate, only to avoid jail time. Although the story is fictional and has an exaggerated storyline of the youth being banished to a deserted island it also has a powerful underlying messages and speaks to the creativity of Circles in addressing each crime. It describes the youth’s internal struggle to make behavioral changes needed to be successful in Circle. It also talks about how Circle members know when the youth has made those changes versus using manipulation to get through a program. Finally, it describes how Circle members truly want youth to succeed and how they are willing to invest their time and effort in an individual.

I encourage you to read *Touching Spirit Bear*. Not only will you enjoy the book, but you will gain a better perspective of Circle Sentencing. As an added bonus, the author is scheduled to sign books and speak at the Willmar Junior High School this March. The public is welcome to attend. A positive outcome from the presentation at Willmar Junior High was that one father contacted me after he saw the presentation and read the book and is now a community volunteer in our Circles. Help our youth by spreading the word. Circle Sentencing is aimed at restoring our youth, it is not designed to be punitive. We are doing what is right if we are being restorative.

**If you would like to learn more or become an active community volunteer for the program please contact Tricia at 320-235-8939.**

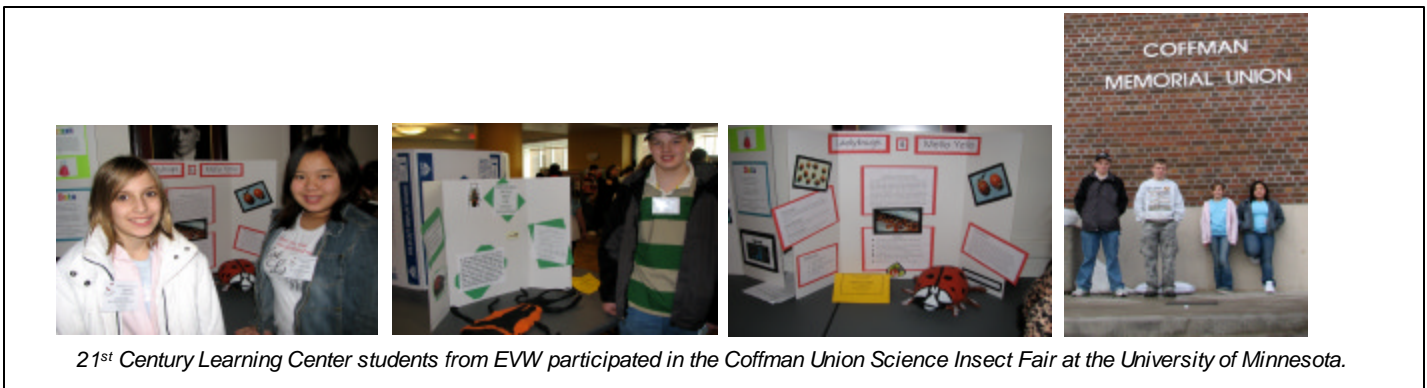
Year Two of Eden Valley-Watkins' 21<sup>st</sup> Century after-school program "Hands On Learning Expands Our World" is up and running and has had a busy fall. Since our kick-off date on September 15, 7<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> grade student participants researched the art of Origami and created their own artwork; planned, designed, and created a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center float for the Homecoming Parade; and designed their own program t-shirts.

This October through December, students created science projects for competition at the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Coffman Union Science "Insect Fair" held at the University of Minnesota on December 13.

Eight groups of two were busy developing and collecting data on insects such as beetles, spiders, box elder bugs, and monarch butterflies by conducting various experiments. Three groups participated at the fair, where they spent the day learning and showcasing their insect research displays for the competition.

This project and all 21<sup>st</sup> Century events have no cost to families or the school and are completely funded through the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Center grant.

*Denise DeJuliannie,  
EVW Site Coordinator*



21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Center students from EVW participated in the Coffman Union Science Insect Fair at the University of Minnesota.

*Funding for the PACT 4 Families Collaborative 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers grant program is provided by the federal government through the No Child Left Behind Act and is administered by the Minnesota Department of Education.*

## The Guía Program

*Chemical Health Intervention for Hispanic/Latino Youth—Working with one youth at a time to positively impact our communities.*

Guía is off to an excellent start with numerous referrals from three of the four counties served by PACT 4. The youth that have entered the program have responded positively and have shown an increase in responsible behaviors. Families have demonstrated their support by encouraging program participation, participating in the program themselves, and are looking forward to the upcoming "Creating Lasting Family Connection" (CLFC) curriculum.

We continue to search for more steering committee members from all of the PACT 4 counties. For more information, please contact the PACT 4 office and ask for Alex or Gwenn.

Help us support this progress by attending these upcoming meetings (lunch will be provided for those who RSVP):

?? January 8, 12:00 pm, located at the Health and Human Services Building, Room 2045

?? February 19, 12:00 pm, located at the Health and Human Services Building, Room 2045

*Alex Espinoza, alex\_e@co.kandiyohi.mn.us  
Gwenn Garcia, gwenn.garcia@swsc.org*

# Evaluation

Since 2006, we have reported a lot of data related to the **SHARE** program, now in its fourth and no-cost extension year. This data is collected each year from the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program survey (each fall) and from the annual **SHARE** survey (in the spring). **SHARE** stands for **S**upporting **H**ealthy **A**nd **R**espectful **E**nvironments. Oftentimes, we are most concerned with reporting the big issues surrounding students like drug and alcohol use, behavior and emotions, or student safety and bullying. Not surprisingly, these areas of concern probably hold the most interest for us but there are also aspects related to healthy and respectful environments that are included on our annual surveys and that is what I would like to write about today.

The highlights below compare 2007 **SHARE** survey data to 2008 data. 3130 students took the survey in 2007 and 2532 took it in 2008. We look for two things when we analyze data: 1) the amount of change that occurred and whether or not it is statistically significant, and 2) the actual value of each data point. As you will see in the highlights below, there is room for improvement (which can be expected because we always want to keep improving). However the items listed below are all statistically significant, meaning that the improvement since last year is not a random occurrence but happened at a 95% confidence level. Here are the statistically significant improvements made in students' perceptions of their **school experiences** and **respectful school environments** since last year:

- ✍ The percent of students who strongly agreed or agreed to the statement, “the **opinions** of the students are listened to” increased from 63.8% in 2007 to 66.9% in 2008.
- ✍ The percent of students who said they did not have any adult at school **to talk to** about their problems decreased from 32.7% in 2007 to 26.7% in 2008.
- ✍ The percent of students who said they have gone to school, and have **not skipped a class** when they weren't supposed to in the past 30 days increased from 83.6% in 2007 to 85.8% in 2008.
- ✍ The percent of students who said they have **not skipped or cut full days** of school in the past 30 days increased from 83.4% in 2007 to 85.0% in 2008.
- ✍ The percent of students who have **participated** in school clubs or activities since the beginning of the school year increased from 67.9% in 2007 to 71.9% in 2008.
- ✍ The percent of students who strongly agree or agree with the statement, “there are **opportunities** for students in my school to talk with a teacher one-on-one” increased from 86.7% in 2007 to 88.6% in 2008.

It is important to note that we have seen **steady improvement** in most of the survey items since 2005. Also worth noting are other pieces of the **SHARE** grant that partners do not readily see:

- ✍ The number of **parents** involved in school activities for the 2007-08 school year was 1589. Our goal was 140 for the entire **SHARE** consortium.
- ✍ The number of **mental health referrals** made to county/private mental health agencies was 157, up from 63 in the 2006-07 school year. This figure suggests that coordination of services between schools and mental health agencies has been established and continues to improve.
- ✍ As a result of mental health screenings being included in **preschool screenings**, we have seen a number of children identified as having potential concerns and referred for additional services. During the 2007-08 school year, 115 preschoolers were identified out of a total of 1019 screenings.

Congratulations to all of the people who have contributed to the success of **SHARE**. Since the start of the grant, there has been much discussion about **sustainability** of many of the components of **SHARE**. I hope that this data presentation, a mere scratch at the surface of all the improvements that have occurred as a result of **SHARE**, shows that sustainability is important and will be effective in making our schools **safe, healthy, and respectful environments** for our students.

**Elections** for three seats on the Executive Board were held. After all votes were tallied, elected were Jill Bruns (public health representative-Renville County); Tammy Thompson (corrections representative-Meeker County); and Greg Schmidt (member-at-large representative-MACCRAV School District).

Cheryl Loge from Litchfield Schools spoke about SHARE-sponsored activities in the district. Sarah Wennerberg, Evaluation Specialist from PACT 4, shared data results gleaned over the years through SHARE surveys (*see Page 5 for more information*). Janice Madden, SHARE Project Director, gave a summary of the budget for the Year Four no-cost extension.

Debb Sheehan presented information for the 2009/2011 LCTS grant cycle. \$300,000 per year for the next two years will be available for grants. Letters of Intent are required this time. All information and materials will be on the PACT 4 website beginning December 23rd.

## **Committee Reports:**

- ?? Executive Board – spent much of the meeting reviewing and approving the plan for the next round of LCTS grant process. Also learned about more federal changes impacting our LCTS dollars and heard committee reports.
- ?? Adolescent Services – continued to work on resource lists for Meeker, Renville, and Yellow Medicine counties to put on the PACT 4 website.
- ?? Early Childhood – spent a lot of time pondering kindergarten transition and spent remainder of the time discussing a grant from the MN Department of Human Services on mental health services for children birth to five.
- ?? Elementary/Middle School-Age – continued to prepare for the Dr. Blum workshop next August.
- ?? Mentors – worked on invitations to January’s mentor/mentee activity at the YMCA. Discussed what, if any, door prizes should be given. Also outlined January’s presentation for the Full Collaborative meeting.
- ?? Wraparound – discussed options and focus for the coming year. Changed meeting start time to 11:00, beginning in January.
- ?? Parent Advisory – changed the time of monthly meetings from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm, continuing to meet the second Monday of every month. In January, officers will be elected. Committee has developed a flyer and a welcome packet for new parents that explains the committee’s purpose.

## **Grant Reports:**

**Restorative Justice** – on December 8, there was a meeting of all Minnesota Restorative Justice Programs to discuss how to influence the legislature on how to support Restorative Justice Initiatives across the state. A three-day training was held last week on the Circle process for new volunteers and for staff of the Guía grant.

**SHARE** – the Coordinating Council met last month. Contracts were signed and allocations for the coming fiscal year were distributed. Mental health contracts for six of the seven districts not a part of the Woodlands School-Based grant have been approved. The next meeting will be on February 11th, following the Full Collaborative meeting. The next meeting for Advisors/Liaisons will be on January 14th at 9:00 am.

**21st Century CLC** – on a rotating basis, all site coordinators write an update of their activities for the PACT 4 newsletter each month. This is a great spot to read about updates for each site, and the articles usually include pictures.

**Guía** – staffing changes: Alvaro Patino is no longer with the program. Alex Espinoza and Gwenn Garcia will be taking on coordinator duties as a team. Two staff have been added: Danielle Aasen, a former coach for the PRIDE-4 grant has been hired as a coach; Rosa Eddy, a former liaison with the Early Risers grant, has been hired as a part-time family liaison. There is one position yet to be filled – a full-time coach/liaison position. There are currently sixteen active cases – fourteen in Kandiyohi County, one in Renville and one in Yellow Medicine County – and are still actively taking referrals. The steering committee has begun meeting and is looking for more members, especially from counties other than Kandiyohi.

**Chemical Health Coalitions** – Renville County youth are developing environmental projects to implement in their districts using lessons learned in an October training. Annie Tepfer, Coordinator, has been meeting with youth from GFW, Morton and Cedar Mountain who are interested in doing positive community norms in their districts. Yellow Medicine County had youth leadership training this week. They will be using positive community norms messages on posters, radio ads, school screensavers, and on pizza boxes.

## January 2009

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
			<b>1</b>   New Years Day <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>2</b> <b>Office Closed</b>
<b>5</b>   Willmar RJ Circle #2; 5:30-8:00; Lakeland Ctr	<b>6</b>   Executive Board; 11:30-2:00; #2055   Bi Lingual Circle; 4:00-6:00; Lakeland Ctr	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>   Restorative Justice Steering Comm; 12:00; The Oaks at Eagle Creek   Guía Steering Comm; 12:00; #2045	<b>9</b>
<b>12</b>   Parent Advisory Mtg; 5:30-7:30; YMCA	<b>13</b>   New London RJ Circle; 5:30-7:30; Peace Lutheran Church	<b>14</b>   SHARE & Committee meetings and Full Collaborative Meeting; Willmar (see website for full list including times and locations)   LCTS Grant Writing Workshop; 2:00; #2055	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>19</b>   Martin Luther King Jr Holiday— <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>20</b>   Bi Lingual Circle; 4:00-6:00; Lakeland Ctr	<b>21</b>   PACT 4 Staff Meeting; Office closed until 1:00	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>   New London RJ Circle; 5:30-7:30; Peace Lutheran Church	<b>28</b>   21st CCLC Site Coordinators Mtg; 9:00-11:00; #2057	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>

## February 2009

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
<b>2</b>   Willmar RJ Circle #2; 5:30-8:00; Lakeland Ctr	<b>3</b>   Executive Board; 11:30-2:00; #2055   Bi Lingual Circle; 4:00-6:00; Lakeland Ctr	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>9</b>   Parent Advisory Mtg; 5:30-7:30; YMCA	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Committee meetings and Full Collaborative Meeting; Olivia (see website for full list including times and locations)	<b>12</b>   Restorative Justice Steering Committee; 12:00; The Oaks at Eagle Creek in Willmar   PACER: A Fitting Idea: Mtg the MH Needs of Children w/Disabilities; 6:00-9:30pm; MPR	<b>13</b>
<b>16</b>   Willmar RJ Circle #2; 5:30-8:00; Lakeland Ctr	<b>17</b>   Bi Lingual Circle; 4:00-6:00; Lakeland Ctr	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>   Guía Steering Comm; 12:00; #2045	<b>20</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>

PROJECT NORTHLAND –  
SLICK TRACY  
TALK TO YOUR 6TH

If you have any questions regarding the content of this newsletter or would like to be included on the mailing list, please call (320) 231-7030.

If you would like to receive this newsletter electronically, please contact [shawna.steffen@co.kandiyohi.mn.us](mailto:shawna.steffen@co.kandiyohi.mn.us)

*It is the policy of PACT 4 Families to provide equal employment opportunity for all, without discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, disability, sexual orientation, or age.*



*Improving Students' Lives*

“Schools need to help parents create a home environment that supports education and involve parents in school decision-making.” Dr. Robert Blum suggests these strategies:

- ?? Maintain timely and informative websites
- ?? Call or email parents regularly
- ?? Provide bilingual assistance to non-English speaking families

**SAVE THE DATE: Tuesday, August 18, 2009! Dr. Robert Blum, John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, will present a one-day School Connectedness Conference in Willmar.**

PACT 4 Families Collaborative  
2200 23rd St NE Ste 2030  
Willmar, MN 56201

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**