

*Putting All Communities
Together in Kandiyohi,
Meeker, Renville &
Yellow Medicine Counties*

PACT 4 Bulletin

January 2005

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**Congratulations to Heartland
Community Action Agency, Inc.
for receiving a "Best Practice
Award".**

(see details on page 2)



January 31st
Brainstorming Session from
9:00am - 3:30pm
Meth Education and Curriculum
Lunch Provided
Please Register w/Shawna @ 235-8938

FULL COLLABORATIVE MEETING NOTICE

The next Full Collaborative Meeting is:

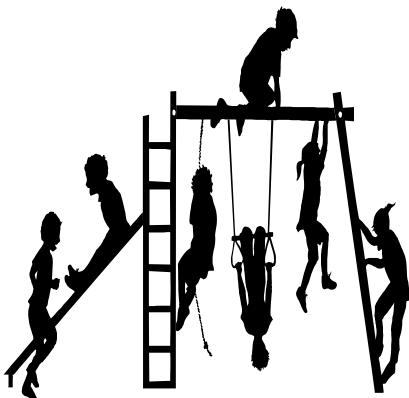
PLEASE RSVP to Shawna at (320)235-8938 or email shawna.steffen@co.kandiyohi.mn.us

Wednesday, January 12th, 2004

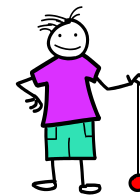
12:00 to 2:00 p.m.

**Kandiyohi County Health & Human Services Building
Willmar, MN**

(see page 11 or the Calendar of Events on pages 9 & 10 for committee dates and announcements)



PACT 4 Families Collaborative presents.....



“Who Pays? Taking the Maze Out of Funding” Workshop

Purpose:

The purpose of the Maze trainings is to inform families and professionals about a wide range of potential funding sources for families of all children, including, but not limited to, those with special health needs. The trainings include “tools” for identifying potential funding sources, an extensive resource packet, and case-studies. The trainings are provided by MN Children with Special Health Needs (MCSHN), a unit within the MN Department of Health.

Training Objectives:

- *To provide information re: major funding programs in MN (including MN Care, MA, MA-TEFRA, MA-EPD, Home & Community Based Waivers & SSI)
- *To be able to use “tools” to assist in identifying potential funding resources for families
- *To gain more knowledge about other less well known resources for families

When: Wed Feb 16th
1:00-3:00 pm

Where: Kandiyohi County Health & Human
Services Building

Cost: FREE!!

To register: call or email:

Phone: (320)231-7030 or 235-8938

Fax: (320)231-7033

email: shawna.steffen@co.kandiyohi.mn.us

Audience:

All families and anyone who “touches” families is a potential audience member—examples include: public health, social services, education, advocacy organizations, medical clinics, hospital social workers, Head Start, childcare, large employer human resource personnel, faith communities, etc.

Presented by:

Nadine Taylor, PHN

MN Children with Special Health Needs (MN Dept. of Health) Marshall, MN

Standing Tall

By Jamie McKenzie

In honor of Martin Luther King

Some kings rule their kingdoms sitting down
Surrounded by luxury, soft cushions and fans
But this King stood strong stood proud stood tall

When the driver told Rosa “Move to the back of the bus!”
When the waiter told students “We don’t serve your kind!”
When the Mayor told voters “Your vote don’t count!”
And when the sheriff told marchers
“Get of our streets!” using fire hoses, police dogs and cattle prods
To move them along This King stood strong stood proud stood tall
Speaking of peace of love and children hand in hand free at last free at last

When some yelled for violence for angry revenge An eye for an eye
And a tooth for a tooth He stood his ground Preaching peace

And when some spit out hate he stood there smiling spreading love
Until it rolled like the sea across the land Sweeping away Jim Crow
Breaking down the walls Ringing the bell Joyfully For Freedom

Until standing on the mountain top They shot him Coldly
Hoping to see him fall Hoping to put him away To bring him low

But this King even in death even today stands strong stands proud
Stands tall and we remember

WHAT'S GOING ON...

What's Going On... is a column in the PACT 4 Bulletin to keep everyone up-to-date on what's going on in each county.

Kandiyohi County

"Attitude is Everything"

Many of us have seen Charles Swindoll's famous statement on "Attitude." In this article he states,

.....*"we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change our past...we cannot change the fact that people act in a certain way...The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude."* (Public Domain)

This concept is not new but it is revolutionary. In this season of making and breaking New Year's resolutions it would probably serve all of us well to think about this. It is true, after all, that we can't change how others act. In the end we are only responsible for our own reactions and our own attitude. And in the end it is OUR attitude that we have to live with. Swindoll concludes his article by saying, "I am convinced that life is 10 percent what happens to me and 90 percent how I react to it..." If we all adopted this concept, I wonder how things would be different in our homes, in our workplaces. Something to think about!

*Char Erickson
Case Manager*

Greetings to everyone! I hope your holiday was wonderful and safe. Kennedy Elementary School has been working hard to incorporate monthly Character Education Words to promote a better environment within the classroom, school, and district. Kennedy has received funding to put up character word banners throughout the school. Also, a morning announcement and a monthly classroom lesson are being implemented. Each month the School Social Workers go into each classroom to talk about the specified word. So far this year we have learned about Responsibility, Respect, and Gratitude. For Gratitude we collected food for the food shelf and raised over 700lbs. of food. We are excited about the impact the monthly Character Education Words have had so far. As a reminder, "Good character traits are the results of good choices and must become habits." Only by promoting, re-

peating, and continually modeling can we as educators make a difference.

*Sara Jacobson
Social Worker, Willmar School*

Renville County

"Happy Holidays?" that is the big question. Are the holidays truly happy and stress free? I have known that it would be my turn at writing a snippet for the Bulletin and had been dodging the bullet but was caught and here I am trying to figure out what pearl of wisdom I have for my colleagues. I started the quest for that tidbit of profound knowledge on a long road trip down to Cedar Rapids where I was to pick up my 17yr old stepdaughter who had decided she wants to finish school with us. As we drove I mindlessly listened to my wife and her talk about house rules and future plans. I could hear Christmas carols playing quietly on the radio. All I could come up with on the trip is "ah great, we haven't even bought any presents yet". A few days go by and my 6 yr old asks why there is no Christmas tree. I tell her "I think this year we are changing religions for Christmas and can go back to being Catholic after the first of the year". She promptly got up and told on me. I still had no great inspiration but I did hear how much of a grinch I was. All I could think was "bah humbug". The closer we got to the holiday break the faster life seemed to get. I felt like someone had pressed the fast forward button on life's remote. Personally, I think it was that Santa guy, just think about it, if he can see us when we are sleeping and he knows when we are naughty and nice don't you think he might get a little bored and might just mess with us from time to time? Well, it is just a theory, back to the wisdom I am to impart Sorry for the short break in this story but I had to deal with 3 students a fighting, 2 girls a crying and a Probation officer asking for information from me. I thought I would have this article done last Friday but I had forgotten I had to go to the Cities to pick up my two stepsons who were flying in for the Holidays. I thought to myself no problem I can whip this puppy out on Saturday. I will find inspiration on my trip...I turned on the Christmas carols, then I remembered "No

Christmas gifts yet The house was bustling, the kids were scampering around and the teens were bickering. I wondered silently if disappearing for a couple of weeks would constitute abandonment. Finally it hit me when we were at the mall I knew! I knew what I would write about! But I suggested we finish shopping then catch a movie. The wife loved the idea. The kids thought we were shopping for them -what would a couple of extra hours away mean anyway? Sitting through the latest action movie munching on some popcorn I knew the secret of a happy holiday season is not to fall into the trap of becoming human doings.....but to just be a human being. I know this is not a profound thought but so often we get caught up in what we have to get accomplished and what work we need to get done before the year is done we forget to take time out for ourselves and just relax. To remember what it is like just to "be" not to think about what we have to do. So, have a wonderful Holiday Season. Ditch the kids and take someone you love to a movie.....

*Jose Herrera
Counselor,RCW*

Yellow Medicine County

Christmas 2004 is a fading memory. The children have returned to school, the relatives are long gone, and the last of the decorations are ready to be packed away. A new year has begun and at last, there is a little time to reflect on our successes. Two of the most successful programs offered in Yellow Medicine County include Santa's Sleigh and the Food Closet. Amazingly, both programs are made available solely by donations from local organizations and individuals. In addition, both programs are coordinated by volunteers in the community. The Food Closet is a year around program that is available to families in need of food and can be utilized up to 4 times a year. In 2004, the Food Closet received approximately 5500 lbs of food donations,

What's Going On...

Continued on page 6

AND THAT'S A WRAP!

by Diane Onell Wraparound and Resource Development Coordinator

COME JOIN US FOR THE NEXT WRAPAROUND "REFRESHER" TRAINING!!!!

Reminder : This training is for those of you who have had the basic course in wraparound and are due for your annual "refresher".

January 10th, Monday @ 10:00 am—12:00 am

Renville Co. Office Building—(Renville Co. Public Health)

February 17th, Thursday @ 9:00 am—11:00 am

Kandiyohi Co Human Services Building—Room 2057

Register with Shawna at (320) 231-7030 or shawna.steffen@co.kandiyohi.mn.us

Congratulations to the following people who are current in their wraparound training and have access to wraparound funds on behalf of their child and family teams! Sheree Hable, Michelle Wenberg, Julie Brudelie, Jon Wood, Cheryl Iverson, Sharolyn Peterson, Tonya Skoog-Hastings, Sara Jacobsen, Lori Clasemann, Margo VanMoer, Char Erickson, Tammie Knick, Tammy Thompson (Meeker Co.) Lynn Peterson, Andre Wohnoutka, Emily McGonigle, Diane Helgeson, Dena Eichelberger, Loretta Jeanette Leith, Vicki Lippert, Rose VanEngen, Heather Ziehl, Jill Root, Ann Jensen, Rita Laughlin, Deb Floren, Jennifer Sullivan, Nancy DeSchepper, Laura Kirilin, Patty Butler, Don Burr, Shannon Andreson, Carrie Silbernack, Sara Kitzmann, Darwin Strong, Beth Hesse, Tom Kroes, Damien Woelfel, Nina Bregel, Jose Herrera, Julie Nelson, Julie Slaughter, Jen Hovland, Rick Loseth, Angie Ahlbreth, Sue Lindstrand, Debbie Gerrety, Star Bradburn, Wendell Veurink, Kristin Stoner, Heidi Peterson, Danette Hendrickson, Louise Roebke, Elaine Boland, Beth Jacobson, Amy Haugen, Jon Marchand, Sharon Hendrichs, Jackie Gustafson, Kina Hanson.

The Wraparound Committee is working to establish an email list for the faith-based community in our four county area. The email list will be a valuable tool for all of us to use as a resource and information

exchange. Churches wanting to be included should send your email address to: diane_o@co.kandiyohi.mn.us

January's Featured Resource: Attention Deficit Disorder by Jim Fay & Ray Levy, Ph.D. (cassette tape) Available to "check out" library style from PACT 4. Help for parents and teachers to guide children toward increased self-control and better decision-making. Contact Diane Onell @ (320) 235-8907 or by email (above).

Family Needs



Family Needs is a section which features area families in need. If you are able to donate any of the listed items, please do so by contacting the referring agent Joline Hovland in the Sexual Violence and Abuse Crisis Center at (320)235-8001:

A request has come from Kandiyohi County to assist a family. They are in need of many items such as clothes:
Girls sizes: xlg tops/11-12 pants (age 12)
lg tops/3-4 pants (age 14)

Boys sizes: lg tops/14 boys pants (age 10)
xlg tops 32/34 pants (age 13)
xlg tops 34/36 pants (age 16)

This family is also in need of beds (they are sleeping on the floor), blankets, sheets, pillows, towels, washcloths, shower curtain, pots and pans, glassware, dishes, silverware, sofa, living room chairs, decent TV, radio, lamps, Christmas tree and decorations, and basically anything anyone has to offer.

We have another family that is in need of a 30 gallon electric water heater and a full size bed. Please contact Shawna at PACT 4 (320)231-8938 for information.

Please share this information with others you think may help donate.

What's Going On...

Continued from page 5

as well as nearly \$6,400.00 in monetary donations. Although exact numbers are not

available, preliminary calculations indicate that approximately 23,735 pounds of groceries were dispersed to local families through the Food Closet.

Santa's Sleigh was established by Yellow Medicine Family Services a number of years ago to help brighten the holidays for children in the county by providing them toys and gifts. In recent years, Santa's Sleigh, though still run through Family Services is organized and coordinated by individuals in the county. During Christmas 2004, approximately 300 children received gifts, valued at \$50.00 per each child. Monetary and gifts donations begin in mid-November and through hours of coordination, are distributed to the children the week prior to Christmas.

These programs represent just two of the many ways that PACT 4 and Yellow Medicine Family Services make a positive impact on the families in our community. While we should be proud of our accomplishments, there is still much to do, AND a whole new year to do it!

Thank You Yellow Medicine County!

Vicki Lippert
Case Manager

Meeker County

I am into my 5th month at EV-W schools and it is flying by. I am busy at the elementary, thus spending most of my time there. Our Peer Mediation program is up and running. I trained 7-6th graders to be Peer Mediators and they are so excited to start the program. They will deal with situations such as: teasing, fighting, spreading rumors, and friendships. We are also looking into having our Peer Helpers (high school students) coming over to the elementary to do some activities related to bullying for our 4-6 graders. Things are starting to fall into place and it feels great. Starting mid-February, the Central Task Force in St Cloud will be coming to do groups with grades K-6 dealing with issues such as: self-esteem, bullying, peace making, problem-solving, conflict resolution, etc....So far we have received a good response for kids to participate in those groups. I would just like to thank Anine Picard and Ann Dobmeier, both Social Workers in Litchfield, for all their help and support. They have given me great resources to work with.

Carrie Silbernack
Social Worker, EVW



EVALUATION REPORT

By Dr Ed Downey, PACT 4 Evaluator

In 1999, PACT 4 Families Collaborative was awarded a Federal multiyear grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to help PACT 4 improve its System of Care. The following definition is taken directly from a SAMHSA website:

A system of care is a wide range of mental health and related services and supports organized to work together to provide care. It is designed to help children or adolescents with serious emotional disturbances get the services they need in or near their home and community. Youth service plans are driven by their families.

This grant, known as the PACT 4 Wraparound Initiative, is in its last year of Federal funding as of October 2004. As we approach the end of Federal support, the PACT 4 Collaborative would like to evaluate the overall progress we have made in furthering our System of Care. To get this process started, I developed a survey instrument that asks questions about various System of Care components.

The survey is focused on the positive and asks respondents to share the good things that have been happening so that we can build on what we are doing right. The survey is still in draft form, and options are being discussed about how to distribute it.

The survey should be ready to give to partners shortly after the new year. Whether the information is collected through a mail-in survey or through personal interviews, I want to encourage you to take part and to contribute candidly the many good things you have seen happen over these last several years. The more data we have, the better for the future of our system of care.

Did you know?

According to a recent report by the World Health Organization entitled “Prevention of Mental Disorders:

Effective Interventions and Policy Options”, the annual total costs in the United States related to mental disorders have been reported as reaching 147 billion US dollars, more than the costs attributed to cancer, respiratory disease or AIDS.

For a child diagnosed with a conduct disorder the average yearly cost is \$25,806 when factoring in the price of treatment, justice and the criminal system, social services, academic failure, and the emotional and economic costs for victims and families. While treatment is important, prevention is imperative.

www.who.int/mental_health/evidence/en/Prevention_of_Mental_Disorders.pdf



FAMILY FORUM

by Patty Butler, Executive Director - Families Matter...Just Imagine

This month I was told there is no specific topic to write about, so initially I was lost, as I am so used to having a guideline to follow. I thought to myself, what can I write about, what can I put into words and what should I do? As always however, things fell into place and I found there is something to write about, something wonderful and exciting. In Jan. 2005, Families Matter...Just Imagine will celebrate our 1 year anniversary. How did that happen? Where did the time go? This past year has been quite a year for me and all of the staff who work at FMJI and everyone else involved.

Let me tell you, we have shed a lot of tears, laughed a lot of laughs, sweated a lot of sweat, but through all of this we have learned a lot of lessons. One day, we all sat down and talked about just a few of the lessons we have learned this past year and let me share a few of them with you. Some of them are things like how to type our newsletter, documents, postcards, and all sorts of other things on the computer. It is amazing what you can learn when you no longer have a secretary to help you. We have also learned that a volunteer can become so much more than a volunteer and for those who have never tried volunteers in your office, we say "You certainly don't know what you are missing".

We have also learned how to become our own maintenance personnel at some time and this has led to much laughter at times, but again, we have learned about the kindness of our neighbors and janitorial staff in the KandiMall and how people generally are willing to help those of us who are quite janitorial disabled. For those of you who came when our bathroom fixtures were not working properly, you know that anyone can learn to get by with anything. You literally just have to learn how to roll up your sleeves.

I think we all have learned, some of us more slowly than others, that we cannot worry about what others may think of our doing for it is our passion for other families that keep us here. Some days the phone is so busy we forget who we are when we answer it, and some days the family liaisons have so many tools to complete they look at me with a blank stare, but they always recover, the phone always gets answered and we go on. Some days we are almost in tears because of the family we cannot help as much as we would like to, or the fear that we will not be around much longer, but then there are days when a family tells us how much we have helped them and we receive a small grant or a donation from a local business and we have hope and so we continue.

Lately, we also try to laugh not only at the fact that we did not know you have to flip the circuit breaker to turn on the heat, or several of us trying to learn Spanish at one time, talk about mispronouncing of words, but also at the fact that the jobs we do and life with our own children can be funny. Without that outlook, we would become so overwhelmed we would surely sit down and never get up again. So instead of seeing a "whining crying child" in our office, we have complimented his mother and laugh quite often on how some day he will be a well-known actor, as he was really good that day, the old "trying to get a toy" routine.

And so, Families Matter...Just Imagine celebrates its first anniversary in January, 2005 and we would like to thank all of our partners, whether you be another family member, a professional person we work with, a business person, a neighbor, an elected official, one of our Mall friends or others to numerous to mention.


Thank you for being part of that journey.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



January 2005






Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 New Year's Day
2	3	4 Executive Board; 11:30-2:00 Room 2055	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 Full Collaborative Mtg In Willmar MPR See below for Committee Meetings Information	13	14	15
16	17 Martin Luther King Jr Day  Survey is Due Office Closed!	18 Mandatory After School Grantee Meeting 10:00-12:00 Room 2057	19 Kandiyohi County Blood Drive 12:00-6:00 Room MPR	20	21	22
23	24 Evaluation Committee; 10:00-11:30 Data Dissemination Committee; 12:15-1:15 Circle Training; 5:00-9:00 Clarkfield City Hall	25	26 Service Delivery Committee; 12:00-1:00 Lulu Beans	27	28	29
30	31 Voluntary LCTS Grant Writing Workshop; 9:00-12:00 Multi-purpose room Kandiyohi County LCTS Advisory Committee Meeting; 1:00-2:00 Room MPR Meth Training 9:00-3:30 Blue Heron	<p>***The Full Collaborative will be Wednesday, January 12th, from 12:00-2:00 in Willmar. The Early Childhood Committee will meet from 10:00-2:00, room 2057, the Mentor Committee will meet from 10:30 to 12:00, room 1010 and the Community Ed/T&TA Committee will meet from 10:00-12:00, room 2055. The Wraparound Committee, the school-age, and the transition committees will meet from 10:30 to 11:30 in the multi-purpose room. All are prior to the Full Collaborative meeting. Call Shawna to RSVP.</p> <p>*KCHHSB = The Kandiyohi County Health and Human Services Building is located just North of Willmar on Hwy's 71 & 23 next to the Willmar Regional Treatment Center.</p> <p>*RCOB = Renville County Office Building. The RCOB is located off Hwy 21 on DePue Ave in Olivia.</p>				

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



February 2005



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Personnel Committee 10:30-11:30; Room 2055	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 Ash Wednesday Full Collaborative Mtg In Olivia See below for Committee Meetings Information	10	11	12 Lincoln's Birthday
← Dallas Grantee Conference →						
13	14 Valentine's Day 	15	16 Taking the Maze Out of Funding Training; 1:00-3:00 Room MPR	17 Wraparound Refresher Training; 9:00-11:00 Room 2057	18	19
20	21 President's Day PACT 4 Closed 	22 Washington's Birthday 	23 Service Delivery Committee; 12:00-1:00 Lulu Beans in Willmar	24	25	26
27	28 Evaluation Committee; 10:00-11:30 Room 2055 Data Dissemination Committee; 12:00-1:00 Room 2055	<p>***The Full Collaborative will be Wednesday, February 9th, from 12:00-2:00 in Willmar. The Early Childhood Committee will meet from 10:00-2:00, the Mentor Committee will meet from 10:30 to 12:00, the Community Ed/T&TA Committee and the School-Age Committee will meet at 10:30-12:00. The Wraparound Committee will meet from 2:00 to 3:00. All meetings are at the RCOB, with the exception of the Mentor Committee which will meet at the Master's Café. All are prior to the Full Collaborative meeting. Call Shawna to RSVP.</p> <p>*KCHHSB = The Kandiyohi County Health and Human Services Building is located just North of Willmar on Hwy's 71 & 23 next to the Willmar Regional Treatment Center.</p> <p>*RCOB = Renville County Office Building. The RCOB is located off Hwy 21 on DePue Ave in Olivia.</p>				

The December Full Collaborative Meeting in Willmar had 85 in attendance.

*The next
Full Collaborative Meeting
is scheduled for...*

**Wednesday, January 12th, 2005
12:00 to 2:00 p.m.
KCHHSB
Willmar, MN**

If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Shawna by calling (320) 235-8938 or e-mail at shawna.steffen@co.kandiyohi.mn.us

Executive Board Elections

Three positions were up for re-election: a parent position, a school position, and a mental health position. These positions were held by Arliss Stenger, Loren Hacker, and Gene Bonyng, who all decided to run again.

Arliss, Loren and Gene will each serve a 3 year term.

PRIDE-4 Transition Program Presentation

PRIDE-4 staff and one of the youth that they work with presented on the program. This grant was awarded in October 2002. It was the 3rd grant PACT 4 received from SAMSHA. We are the most-rural of the 5 sites that were awarded funding. A similar presentation of this program was recently given in Park City, Utah.

Jon Marchand (Kandiyohi County), Amy Haugen (Meeke County), and Damian Woelfel (Renville/Yellow Medicine Counties) spoke on her experiences working with coaches and PRIDE-4. Some of the youth are currently involved in forming a youth council that hopes to be self-sustaining and make connections with agencies and businesses beyond the end of the PRIDE-4 grant. They are developing the name, mission statement, and other criteria. They have just begun these groundbreaking meetings.

After School Grant Awards

Listed in the December Bulletin are the sites that were awarded on After School grant. There will be a mandatory meeting for all grantees on January 18th from 10:00am to 12:00pm in Willmar.

LCTS 2005/2007 Update

Letters of Intent are due January 21st, 2005. All information regarding LCTS grants, in-

cluding the timeline, is available on the website: www.pact4.org. There will be a voluntary Grant Writing Workshop on January 31st from 9:00am to 12:00pm in Willmar.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Early Childhood Committee - Diane Winter elected Chairperson. Worked on Needs Assessment, Joy in the Journey Spanish translation progress, and the PECFAS screener.

Community Education/Training & Technical Assistance Committee - Identified their biggest need: more committee members. Also talked about resource development and dissemination, discussing with each committee their various training needs, and the best way to distribute information.

Mentors Committee - Set agenda items for the next 3 meetings: surveys, parent brochure, and mentor training topics.

School Age Committee - Set schedule for the next 3 meetings: January, February and March before the Full Collaborative meeting. Also talked about what's out there, identifying needs and gaps.

Service Delivery Committee - Working on identifying the contact person from each committee, and defining what the roles is of the committee.

Transition Committee - Needs more members. Focus on kids ages 14 to adult.

Wraparound Committee - Will meet today after the Full Collaborative. Will discuss the upcoming refresher trainings, communicating with the faith-based community, increasing the resources and trained neutral facilitators available.

Evaluation Committee - Discussed the continuation of evaluation efforts beyond the end of the SAMSHA Wraparound Initiative grant, and uses of data collected.

Data Dissemination Committee - Looked at data from various projects and ways to share the information with everyone.

Executive Board - Due to Toni's absence, the meeting was very short. Approved a COLA for PACT 4 staff.

Families Matter....Just Imagine - Upcoming training on January 18th : How Not to get Into a Hassle with Your Significant Other When You Have a Child With Mental Health Issues, conducted by George Dubie from Greater MN Family Services. Will be cele-

brating their one-year anniversary on January 7th at their office in the Kandi Mall. Parent Retreat set for April 29th and 30th. Will be hiring for the PRIDE - 4 Family Liaison position, due to Star Bradburn leaving. Were awarded a grant from the Otto Bremer Foundation to help with sustainability efforts and grant writing.



Other:

- A. Leftover handouts available from the Brain Conference, which was well attended with about 250 participants.
- B. Celebrating Excellence Award was given to Julie Slaughter by Families Matter....Just Imagine staff for her volunteer work at their agency.
- C. Two upcoming Circle Sentencing/ Restorative Justice trainings: January 24th in Clarkfield, and January 31st in Willmar.
- D. Connie Spartz spoke about a grant that the City of Willmar received, called the Community of Promise grant. It will help with setting up a website listing resources available to youth and adults in this area. The Willmar High School kids are using this as a project for their web development class and will be doing all the web design and detail. Go to www.willmar.com, scroll to the Links section and click on Communities of Promise. She asked for help adding resource information to the site, and you can do this directly at the website.
- E. Money has been set aside out of PACT 4's budget to form a couple of task forces dealing with meth issues and bullying. Looking for members.
- F. Next Full Collaborative meeting is on January 12th in Willmar.



New Year Thoughts

*WISHING YOU & YOUR FAMILY A VERY
HAPPY NEW YEAR*

We've seen the passing of another year. For many it's been filled with pain and tears. We've seen our loved ones in their decline. We've had to accept that they won't be fine. Some of us had to say good bye, To a long time loved one, and we've all cried. But there have been times in the past year, That certain events have brought us cheer. There are so many friends that are on the list, And I know there's names I will have missed. But better friends I could not have bought. And here is just a New Year's thought. If it were possible that a wish could come true, Then this is my New Year's wish for you. May the coming year be full of hope, And may we be given the strength to cope. Let courage, faith and patience abound. And let us pray that a cure will be found. And now at the close of another year, My friends, I wish you a Happy New Year.

Submitted by Samir Shakula



Happy 2005

**PACT 4 Families
Collaborative**

2200 23rd Street NE, Suite 2030
Willmar, MN 56201

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

We're on the Web!
www.pact4.org

If you have any questions regarding the content of this newsletter or would like to be included on the mailing list, please contact Cynthia at (320) 231-7030 or e-mail to cynthia_c@co.kandiyohi.mn.us