



## 2008 Kansas Conference on Poverty Conference Agenda

### Tuesday, May 13, 2008

- 8:30 A Registration Opens
- 8:30 A – 10:00 A Networking and Coffee with Advocate Exhibitors
- 10:00 A – 11:30 A “Key Strategies for Framing Social Problems”  
Plenary Session featuring Dr. Lynn Davey
- 11:30 A – 1:30 P “Social and Political Obstacles to Poverty Reduction”  
Lunch and Plenary Session featuring Dr. Mark Rank
- 1:30 P – 3:00 P Workshops, Session I

#### Developing Long Term Relationships with Legislators

*Speaker(s):* Gary Brunk

*Description:* Effective legislative advocacy begins at home, not in the State Capitol, and should be part of a year-round plan for building relationships with your representatives. In this interactive, hands-on workshop, the presenter will discuss how to best build long-term relations with legislators, including the most effective ways to communicate your concerns and have your voices heard.

#### Why Everyone Can and Should Develop Positive Saving Habits

*Speaker(s):* Jackie Blaesi-Freed

*Description:* For families and individuals living paycheck to paycheck every unexpected bill can become a crisis. This presentation will discuss how adults and children can begin developing a savings account and work towards financial stability. We will discuss simple saving techniques and asset development as well as analyze the obstacles to savings and strategies to overcome those obstacles. The audience will be invited to discuss how a cycle of poverty can be replaced by a cycle of effective saving and money management.

### Improving Supports for Working Families

*Speaker(s):* Shannon Cotsoradis and April Holman

*Description:* As the nation teeters on the edge of a recession, many working families struggle to maintain economic self-sufficiency. This workshop will review state policies that help families remain in the workforce and prepare their children to succeed, including child care assistance, access to health care, and, access to early care, education, and after-school programs. Presenters will focus on the current status of policies and how they could be improved, and will discuss other policy initiatives that could support working families.

### Local Approaches to Best Practice in Youth Development

*Speaker(s):* Richard Jackson, Lisa Rivers, and Elmer Robinson

*Description:* Participants will learn about the Youth in Government and Youth in Action programs operated by the East Central Kansas Economic Opportunity Corporation, as well as the First Tee Youth Development program operated by Community Action, Inc. Examples of program activities will be provided and presenters will cover “lessons learned” in establishing and operating their successful programs.

### Going Beyond “Getting Ahead”: Creating Circles of Support for Low-Income Families

*Speaker(s):* Cookie Wiebe

*Description:* This workshop will present a model for supporting working families in moving out of poverty. The Newton community will be one of Move the Mountain’s first 50 communities to become models for 1000 communities working to end poverty. Building on the Bridges Out of Poverty work in Newton over the last several years, the Circles Initiative™ joins people from poverty with others from middle class and wealth to work collaboratively on ending poverty in their communities.

### The Parent Talk System – Parents and Children Becoming Response-Able

*Speaker(s):* Marion Nichols and Kim Douglas

*Description:* Workshop participants will receive an overview of Chick Moorman’s “The Parent Talk System” which emphasizes improved communication skills for parents, teachers, and case managers. Parent Talk focuses on using language that promotes independence while reducing learned helplessness, praising children (and others) in ways that develop a strong internal sense of self-esteem, setting appropriate limits and making controlled choice work, holding children (and others) accountable for their actions without attacking personality, and, speaking in words that nurture, uplift, and inspire. Presenters will highlight how building stronger, more emotionally secure children (and others) can help diminish the impacts of poverty. The presentation format will allow for a brief period of audience discussion with and questions for the presenters.

3:30 P – 5:00 P

## Workshops, Session II

### Youth in Kansas Foster Care: Poverty Issues and State Resources

*Speaker(s):* Jane Adams

*Description:* Youth presenters, facilitated by Dr. Adams, will discuss poverty issues from their experience in foster care and the value of state and federal supports available to them post foster care. Dr. Adams will describe independent living supports, the state tuition waiver, and scholarships available to youth.

### Kansas Strengthening Kids of Incarcerated Parents

*Speaker(s):* Kameelah Alexander and Julie Barber

*Description:* Participants will learn about the Strengthening Kids of Incarcerated Parents program and how it was implemented in Hawaii, Texas, and now, Kansas. Information will be shared about the added risks children experience when their parents are incarcerated and how the SKIP program addresses those issues. Presenters will describe lessons learned during program implementation and how communities can take part.

### Family Participation in the Education of Their Children Beginning at Birth: Research, Strategies, and Implications

*Speaker(s):* Tammie Benham

*Description:* Research demonstrates that when families are involved in the education of their children, outcomes include increased achievement in school, longer school attendance, greater participation in advanced placement classes, and more success in later life. This session will share the research behind the importance of family involvement in the education of their children and the connection of the federal No Child Left Behind legislation. Programs will be asked to examine their existing beliefs about the involvement of parents and the expectations of their programs. Plans, ideas, and strategies for involving ALL parents in the educational process will be explored.

### Living Paycheck to Paycheck

*Speaker(s):* Chris Bush and Lea Vincent

*Description:* This interactive session will familiarize participants with the employment and training programs of Kansas Legal Services. KLS customers will provide first-hand accounts of their experiences with the programs and workshop attendees will participate in simulated case management activities.

## Local and Statewide Advocacy Strategies for Nonprofit Leaders

*Speaker(s):* Richard Jackson and Aaron Heckman

*Description:* This workshop will discuss various ways to advocate on behalf of your clients and community services organization. It will cover many topics ranging from dialogue with legislators to grassroots activities within your communities and way to share the economic impact of your agency's efforts with your stakeholders. The session will also include time for attendees to share advocacy ideas and a personal story from a low-income client who recently traveled to Washington, DC to share her story with out Congressional leaders. This workshop is ideal for all wishing to better advocate for their clients and programs.

## Building Strong Families through Asset Development

*Speaker(s):* Marion Nichols, April Holman, Kimber Parks, Julie Riddle, and Dale Tower

*Description:* The Kansas Partners in Asset Development will provide information in the form of a panel discussion on the background and history of asset development programs in Kansas, state and federal EITC programs, Individual Development Accounts, and the KIDS college savings program.

## Wednesday, May 14, 2008

- 8:30 A – 9:45 A “Spotlight on Poverty in America’s Communities, States, Nation and Elections”  
Plenary Session featuring Jodie Levin-Epstein
- 9:45 A – 10:00 A Break
- 10:00 A – 11:15 A “Seen But Not Heard: Strengthening Non-Profit Advocacy”  
Plenary Session featuring Dr. Gary Bass
- 11:15 A – 12:00 P “Legislative Vision on the Alleviation of Poverty”  
Plenary Panel Session featuring
- 12:00 P – 1:30 P “Stories of Youth Empowerment”  
Plenary Session featuring Aaron Fowler & Hope Street Youth Development Program