

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Community Oyster Roast November 12 Includes Entry to 21st Annual Holiday Festival of Lights

(October 21, 2010) North Charleston, SC – The community is invited to participate in an Oyster Roast Friday, November 12, beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Wappoo Shelter, James Island County Park, Charleston, SC. Participants for the event will also receive complimentary entry to the park in order to enjoy its popular Holiday Festival of Lights. Entry for the roast is \$25 per adult and \$10 per child and can be arranged on line by going to www.paofsc.org. Payments are accepted through PayPal on the website. Interested parties also may mail a check to Parents Anonymous® of South Carolina, Inc., 1285 Avenue G, N. Charleston, SC 29405. Pulled pork bar-b-que, hot dogs, marshmallow roasting, cookies and a variety of beverages also will be available at the Wappoo Shelter event. Parents Anonymous® of South Carolina is the event sponsor. For more information, contact Jessica Bennett 747-0480 x 22 or email jbennett@paofsc.org.

“We invite the entire community to help a very good cause; be one of the first to see the 2010 Holiday Festival of Lights and also have a good time at a feast prepared by the Lowcountry’s most famous oyster roaster, Jamie Westendorff,” said Troy Strother, Executive Director of Parents Anonymous® of South Carolina. “The proceeds of this event will be used to sponsor parents attending the 8th Annual “Parents Leading the Way” Conference, February 25-26, 2011. The Conference caps off the celebration of “National Parents Leading the Way Month” which is observed each February both in South Carolina and across the nation, as well.”

The mission of Parents Anonymous® of South Carolina is to prevent child abuse and neglect by strengthening families and empowering communities throughout South Carolina. The 501(c)(3) organization provides a proven-effective prevention program that offers free, weekly mutual support groups to parents across the state. Groups are co-led by a facilitator trained in the Parents Anonymous® model and by a parent group leader. A Parents Anonymous® mutual support group creates a caring, supportive environment where parents can learn new parenting strategies, discover positive ways to relieve stress, make constructive changes in how they interact with their children and build long-lasting positive changes in their families. Parents can join a mutual support group at any time and attend for as long as they wish. Many sites also offer a Parents Anonymous® children and youth program during the parents' meeting. This youth program offers a variety of enriching, fun, hands-on activities for children and teens in order to stimulate positive emotional growth and development.

In a recent research project conducted by the National Council on Crime and Delinquency, funded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, U.S. Department of Justice, research indicated that 67% of families improved family functioning after taking part in a Parents Anonymous® Mutual Support Group. Research also has shown that when parents attend a Parents Anonymous® Mutual Support Group they gain knowledge and skills to function in meaningful leadership roles, leading to positive changes made within the family.

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