

# PRESS RELEASE

Parents Anonymous® of South Carolina, Inc.  
1285 Avenue G  
North Charleston, SC 29405  
843-747-0480 X 21  
843-747-0890 fax  
[www.paofsc.org](http://www.paofsc.org)



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Contact: Troy Strother, executive director  
843.747.0480 x23  
[tstrother@paofsc.org](mailto:tstrother@paofsc.org)

## **Parents Anonymous® of South Carolina Receives 2010-2011 Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention Grant Award**

(October 18, 2010) North Charleston, SC -- Parents Anonymous® of South Carolina is one of only nine community organizations providing child abuse and neglect prevention activities and family support programs to receive a 2010-2011 community-based child abuse prevention grant award. According to The Children's Trust of South Carolina, Parents Anonymous® was selected, "for their ability to identify and develop comprehensive and innovative child maltreatment prevention strategies targeted to new parents, low-income parents, pregnant and parenting teens, fathers and grandparents in ethnically diverse communities throughout the state." The grant award will be used to further the work of Parents Anonymous® of South Carolina's "Pathways to Strong Families" initiative in Jasper and Beaufort counties.

"We are excited to be selected for this grant and to be able to increase our services to the families of Jasper and Beaufort counties," said Troy Strother, executive director. "Our strategy for the prevention of child abuse and neglect is evidenced-based. Our program promotes protective factors within families and minimizes the risk factors that have been shown to lead to child abuse and neglect."

Funding for the grants was based on allocations from Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) grant funds, a federal initiative originating from the Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services in Washington, D.C. The Children's Trust is the designated lead agency to disburse CBCAP funding in South Carolina.

The mission of Parents Anonymous® of South Carolina is to prevent child abuse and neglect by strengthening families and empowering communities throughout South Carolina. In that capacity it has served thousands of South Carolina's families for 32 years with a proven-effective prevention program that offers free, weekly mutual support groups to parents as well as a program for children and youth. Co-led by a parent group leader and a group facilitator trained in the Parents Anonymous® model, parents find a caring, supportive environment where they can learn new parenting strategies and create 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 mutual support group 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.

Research 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. 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.

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