

# 2011 California Parent leadership Conference

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February is National Parent Leadership Month and on February 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of this year California celebrated with its fourth annual Parent Leadership Conference. The California State Parent Team and Parents Anonymous® Inc. in collaboration with The California Department of Social Services, Office of Child Abuse Prevention successfully held a very well attended conference at the Ontario Convention Center in Ontario, California. This year's theme was "Taking Parent Leadership to New Heights" with our very catchy tag line of "Real Families, Real Involvement and Real Outcomes."

The value of the Parent voice was heard loud and clear by the purpose of the conference, which was to provide shared experiences and practical tools to help California counties establish and strengthen their local parent and shared leadership® programs and to recognize parents, caregivers, staff and programs for their exemplary work in these programs.

Five hundred people attended the conference and increased their knowledge, skills and abilities to promote and implement evidence-based/evidence informed local parent and shared leadership® programs.

The California State Parent Team, is a group of eight highly trained, active and diverse parents with leadership skills and expertise who work in shared leadership® with Parents Anonymous® Inc., the California Department of Social Services, Office of Child Abuse prevention, counties and community-based child abuse prevention programs to improve service delivery and outcomes for California families. The Team worked in partnership with a 38-member Conference Planning Committee to design and deliver 17 workshops and 4 Think Tank sessions over a for a very full two-day period.

Everyone involved was highly committed to bringing about positive changes for children and families in partnership with parents. The conference astonishingly exemplified those efforts.

I would like to take a moment to thank all of the people who have worked diligently in family strengthening programs and especially thank Parents Anonymous® Inc. for believing in parents and standing with families for over 42 years.