



NICWA News

service and advocacy for Indian children

National Indian Child Welfare Association's Quarterly Newsletter - Winter 2000

PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN CONFERENCE IN TUCSON, ARIZONA APRIL 17 - 19, 2000



by Gerald Dawavendewa

**Bringing Their Child
Into the Fourth World**

R. CARLOS NAKAI HEADLINES CONFERENCE

Larry Douglas

A powerful poster image by Hopi artist, Gerald Dawavendewa heralds the coming of the 18th Annual "Protecting Our Children" National American Indian Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect on April 17-19, 2000 in Tucson, Arizona. The poster depicts a young Hopi girl, aided by her parents, climbing a reed ladder from the Kiva, a Hopi religious structure, to this, the fourth world. (Read, in *Bringing Their Child Into the Fourth World* on page 11, the artist's own description of the rich symbolism captured in the image).

continued on page 2

INSIDE...

- 3.....ADVOCACY:
ICWA Amendments, Congress,
ASFA Document and more...
- 6.....New Members
- 7.....Pathways Subscription
- 8.....Indian Parents Go To Washington, D.C.
- 8.....Children's Mental Health
Services Update
- 9.....New Grants Awarded
- 10.....FAPE Update
- 12.....Calendar

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Conference, continued from page 1

"We are very excited about wonderful keynote speakers we have this year," said Conference Chairwoman Eloise King. The opening general session will be in a traditional format and we are pleased that Jesse Taken Alive, tribal leader from Standing Rock Sioux Tribe will be featured. Second general session will feature Dr. Stephen Cornell, co-director of the Harvard Project of American Indian Economic Development. And we are honored to have the newly elected President of the National Congress of American Indians, Ms. Susan Masten provide the conference closing keynote address," King said.

The core of the conference is a selection of 30 workshops each presented twice, that speak to the conference theme of "Protecting Our Children by Building on Our Strength, Success and Wisdom." Keynoters and presenters will highlight the good, healthy and positive aspects of working with Indian children and families. Success stories, best practices, winning programs, model projects and innovative solutions will be showcased this year.



Conference Chairwoman, Eloise King, added, "We wanted the conference to help us enter this new century on a positive, upbeat note. We acknowledge the serious challenges in our work, and we know the best way to meet them is by using ideas that work and bring success."

Two traditional conference events, the Monday evening Pow Wow and the Tuesday evening Honor Banquet will feature the best the Southwest has to offer. Heading the Banquet will be renowned Navajo-Ute artisan, musician, and lecturer, R. Carlos Nakai. Southern and northern drum groups and regional champion dancers will add a special atmosphere to the inter tribal pow-wow.

Detailed registration information is featured in the conference flier/poster which was mailed throughout Indian Country in mid January. All readers of NICWA News should already have a copy in hand. Call (503) 222-4044 if yours has not arrived, or to request additional copies. Early bird discount registration is available up to Friday, March 24.

The headquarters hotel is the Holiday Inn City Center which is offering a special rate of \$85 plus tax. Reservations may be made by calling direct to (800) 448-8276. A shuttle from the airport to the hotel is provided by Stagecoach Shuttle and is located just outside the from the baggage claim area at the airport. The cost one-way for one person is \$13, round trip is \$21 for one person. Please call 24 hours in advance (520) 889-1000 for shuttle reservations.

ADVOCACY

ICWA AMENDMENTS STILL ALIVE FOR 2000; ICWA TASK FORCE MEETS

David Simmons

Last year the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) amendments in S. 1213 did not receive a hearing or committee mark up (discussion and vote). However, because we are still in the 106th Congress S. 1213 is still up for consideration without needing to be reintroduced. The sponsors of the bill continue to express interest in moving the legislation, but most likely will need to hear more from tribal governments on their position before action will occur in the Senate. In the House of Representatives, Congressman Don Young (R-AK), Chairman of the House Resources Committee which has jurisdiction over ICWA legislation, has also expressed interest in ICWA amendments like those in S. 1213, even though no ICWA legislation was introduced in the House last year. For a description of the amendments in S. 1213 see the NICWA News Fall Quarter issue, pages 5 and 6.

The debate in Indian Country on ICWA amendments picked up last fall at the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Annual Conference in Palm Springs. While most participants agreed that ICWA did need strengthening in certain areas, not everyone could come to agreement on how that might be accomplished. The result was two resolutions passing that supported S. 1213 and one resolution passing that created a ICWA Task Force to examine ICWA amendments that were not contained in S. 1213.

The NCAI ICWA Task Force held its first meeting by conference call on December 14 with tribal representatives from several regions participating, in addition to NCAI and National Indian Child Welfare Association staff. The Task Force members discussed some the history of the ICWA amendments, the current political environment in Congress and a process for collecting information from tribes on what they saw as critical issues in ICWA implementation. One of two Co-Chairs for the Task Force was

appointed during the conference call – Beverly Wright, Chairperson for Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head. The other Co-Chair will be appointed during the next meeting of the Task Force.

A packet of information was mailed out to all tribes that contained 1) the ICWA, 2) a section-by-section description of S. 1213, and 3) a list of all Task Force members. Participants on the December 14th call decided to set a January 15, 2000 deadline for Task Force members to submit comments from their region to NCAI. The staff at NCAI will then compile a list of all the comments and schedule a conference call to discuss further action (no call scheduled as of January 21, 2000), such as further conference calls or face-to-face meetings.

CONGRESS CONSIDERING TRIBAL FOSTER CARE BILL IN 2000

A bill in the Senate, S. 1478, that would allow tribes to operate a federal foster care program is still being considered by Congress for the legislative year in 2000. The program, Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, has been out of the reach of most tribal governments based on Congress's oversight in not making them eligible to apply for and administer the program directly. Consequently, tribal children who are placed in foster care by tribal agencies and courts are ineligible for the federal reimbursement provided by Title IV-E for the services rendered to them.

Title IV-E provides reimbursement for a multitude of basic foster care and adoption assistance services and is the largest federally funded child welfare program at over \$5 billion each year. Some tribes have been able to tap into the program through agreements with states that operate the program, but these agreements have only reached approximately 50 tribes and have been proven to be problematic in many cases, for both states and tribes.

S. 1478 contains the following provisions:

- Provide reimbursement for Title IV-E services to tribal placements of Indian children in tribal foster and adoptive homes which meet Title IV-E eligibility requirements.
- Authorize tribal governments to receive direct funding for the administration of the IV-E program.
- Recognize tribal standards for foster home licensing.

continued next page

Advocacy, continued.

- Allow the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services the flexibility to modify the requirements of the Title IV-E law for tribes, if those requirements are not in the best interests of Indian children.
- Allow the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services to modify Title IV-E matching fund requirements in recognition that tribes, unlike states, have not previously received funding to build the type of service delivery systems available to the states, and permit other federal and state funds to be used for any required tribal match.
- Continue to recognize existing tribal-state Title IV-E agreements and the development of new agreements.

S. 1478 has received broad support within Indian Country with resolutions supporting the bill from the National Congress of American Indians, Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, and the United South and Eastern Tribes. The bill has also received favorable reviews from Native Villages in Alaska, tribes in California, Oklahoma, Montana, the Navajo Nation and many other areas. What is needed now is for tribal governments to become more actively involved in notifying their members of Congress of their position on this legislation and how it can improve the lives of children in their communities. The biggest challenge for passage has been to find federal funding that could offset the cost of offering the program to tribes and Indian children under their jurisdiction (approximately \$250 million over 5 years). This obstacle can be overcome if more tribes voice their support for the bill.

ADOPTION AND SAFE FAMILIES ACT DOCUMENT PUBLISHED!

After two years of work the National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA) in partnership with the National Resource Center for Organizational Improvement in Child Welfare and the Children's Bureau have finished publishing the document "The Adoption and Safe Families Act: Issues for Tribes and States Serving Indian Children". The document provides information and assistance in implementing the 1997 federal law with Indian children under both state and tribal jurisdiction. Information from this draft has been used in NICWA trainings on this subject

throughout the United States. The Adoption and Safe Families (P.L. 105-89) was enacted in November 1997 and sought to bring about changes in how child welfare agencies and courts work with children that were at risk of being removed or had been removed from their

home and their birth families. While final regulations on the changes brought about by the Adoption and Safe Families Act have not been approved, the document was extensively reviewed by the Children's Bureau in Washington, D.C., which has regulatory authority and implementation responsibility under the law. Copies of the document will soon be distributed to the following groups:

Tribal leadership,
Tribal child welfare programs,
Tribal courts,
State child welfare agencies,
Area Bureau of Indian Affairs offices,
State Attorney Generals office,
State juvenile court judge's offices,
Regional Administration for Children and Families offices (federal),
National child advocacy organizations.

If you think you will not receive a copy based on this distribution list and would like a copy please contact the National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA). In addition, if you or your organization would like training on this topic NICWA has trainers that can train you and your organization. For training requests, please contact Kelly Mitchell at NICWA.

CONGRESS APPROVES INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM EXPANSION

The Foster Care Independence Act of 1999 (P.L. 106-169) was enacted in December 1999. The bill includes a new requirement regarding state services to Indian youth.

The primary purpose of the Foster Care Independence Act is to reform and expand the Independent Living program which has been renamed The John H. Chafee Foster Care Independence Program in honor of the late Senator. This program is authorized under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act, and is designed to help children in foster care prepare to become independent once they transition out of foster care at age eighteen.

Congress, continued from page 4

The law doubles the annual funding provided for the Independent Living Program to \$140 million (a capped entitlement) and expands services to youth ages 18 through 20 who have left foster care. Among the many services provided under the program are assistance in obtaining a high school diploma, career counseling, education and job training, living skills, preventive health activities, and mentor programs. In addition, the bill offers new assistance with room and board expenses for youth between ages 18 and 21 after leaving foster care.

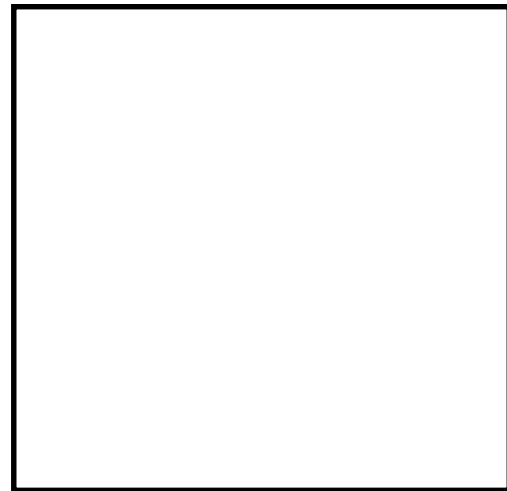
The law also authorizes services — education, counseling, and preparation for post-secondary education — to younger children *who are deemed likely to still be in foster care at age eighteen*. The bill also gives states the option to provide Medicaid coverage to youth ages 18 through 20 when they leave foster care.

One provision of the new law deals specifically with Indian youth. The new law requires a state, as part of its plan submitted to the Department of Health and Human Services, to certify that it is serving Indian children in the Independent Living Program to the same extent as other children in the state. The bill requires the state plan to include:

A certification by the chief executive officer of the State that each Indian tribe in the State has been consulted about the programs to be carried out under the plan; that there have been efforts to coordinate the programs with such tribes; and that benefits and services under the programs will be made available to Indian children in the State on the same basis as other children in the State.

The legislation as introduced (H.R. 1802) in the House of Representatives would have required states to provide Independent Living services to Indian children, but would have only required the state to “inform” tribes of the services available under the program and allow tribes the opportunity to comment on the proposed state plan. Representative Hayworth (R-AZ) amended the bill in the House Ways and Means Committee to require that the certification not only verify that Indian children are being provided services on the same basis as other children in the state, but also that tribes were consulted on draft plans and that efforts were made to work cooperatively on the program with

tribes. It will be very important for tribes to contact their state office that operates the Independent Living program and begin discussions on how to make the program more accessible and effective for Indian youth. Requirements similar to this have been in effect for state services under the Title IV-B programs (Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families) and welfare reform for a few years now and may be helpful in the development of an effective process for this program.



FINAL REGULATIONS ON ADOPTION AND SAFE FAMILIES ACT AND MULTI-ETHNIC PLACEMENT ACT PUBLISHED

Over two years after the Adoption and Safe Families Act (P.L. 105-89) became law in November of 1997 the Children’s Bureau has published the Final Rule that implements changes to Title IV-E and Title IV-B programs by the Adoption and Safe Families Act and the Multi-Ethnic Placement Act (P.L. 103-432). Many of the changes do affect tribal programs and services to Indian children and families under state jurisdiction, so it is important that tribes review the Final Rule and before it goes into effect on March 27, 2000. The National Indian Child Welfare Association is reviewing the Final Rule now and will be developing an analysis of the provisions that impact Indian children and families. You can get a copy of the Final Rule on the Internet at <http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/cb/> (look for the item entitled “Title IV-E Foster Care Eligibility Reviews ...”) or you can call the National Indian Child Welfare Association for a copy.

THANK YOU

NEW & RENEWING NICWA MEMBERS & DONORS

The board of directors and staff of the National Indian Child Welfare Association extend our sincere thanks to you for your investment in NICWA's mission, goals and programs. If at any time you have questions regarding your membership, or if we can be of service to you, please call us at (503) 222-4044. Thank you for your support.



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*Listing for receipts from October 1,
through December 1999.*

Pathways Is Now by Subscription

Beginning in November, Pathways Practice Digest is by subscription only.

The subscription fee is only \$25 for one year.

Pathways Practice Digest is published bimonthly.

The contract between the National Indian Child Welfare Association and the Bureau of Indian Affairs to publish *Pathways* expired a year ago. The BIA decided not to continue funding the publication, citing lack of funds as the reason. NICWA believes *Pathways* is important and made the decision to take on the financial responsibility. This puts an added burden on the association's budget, *and for that reason, a subscription fee is necessary.*

If your organization or tribe intends to subscribe, please pass this information on to the person who makes the decision.

We encourage you to subscribe personally, as well as your organization or tribe. This will ensure that you will receive a copy, rather than having it sit in someone's in-box.

(coupon stripped in)

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3611 S.W. Hood St., Suite 201
Portland, OR 97201



INDIAN PARENTS GO TO WASHINGTON D.C. TO ADVOCATE FOR THEIR CHILDREN

Kathryn Manness

Between November 15 and 21, over 60 Native American parents and two adolescents met in Washington D.C. to attend the annual Federation of Families conference and to meet with members of Congress and/or their staff regarding the mental health needs of Indian children. This was the first time a large group of Native Americans attended this conference, and their presence met with a warm reception from Federation of Families leadership.

NICWA worked closely with the nine Circles of Care sites, the six Services grantees and Indian Health Service to coordinate the parents' attendance. The Federation of Families and NICWA joined as partners in creating a Native American track of workshops at the conference.

Parents came from across the country to attend this event. November 18th was devoted to learning how to advocate. Native parents and family members attended both Federation and NICWA facilitated workshops focusing on advocacy skills. The NICWA workshop featured a role play between NICWA consultant Holly Echo-Hawk Solie and staff member David Simmons, which was both informative and, at times, hilarious.

The response to this event was extraordinarily positive – from all spheres. NICWA and the Federation of Families have agreed to work together closely to build an effective, organized, national Native American voice for their children. Reflecting their commitment to systems change and community empowerment, CMHS has contracted with the Federation to assess the technical assistance needs of Native American parents, which has partnered with NICWA in this endeavor.

Parents were in agreement that their next step was to bring this information home, to gather the opinions of their community members, and then to return. There was no doubt about their commitment to their families and their communities: “We learned that we need a voice in making policy that will affect Indian people.”

The next step will take place in April, when parents will gather to discuss the possibility of a formal organization of Native American parents, independent of or a chapter of the Federation of Families. The Federation will be paying for 20 parents to attend focus groups during this time in April, to identify the technical assistance needs of Native American parents. Specifically, they will be asking, “What do Native American parents need to help them learn child advocacy and community outreach skills?” - One more step in family empowerment.

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES UPDATE

Kathy McGregor

Staff and parents from the six current Native American children's mental health service grant sites and a parent from the one former Native service grant sites met for a Grantee Meeting, November 17, 1999, in Washington, D.C. The six current Native sites that have Center for Mental Health Services grants to develop systems of care for Indian children with complex needs are:

Kmihqitahasultipon Program from Passamaquoddy Nation, Indian Township, Maine;
Sacred Child Project, coordinating services to four tribes in five sites through United Tribes Technical College in Bismark, North Dakota;
Mno Bmaadzod Endaad Program, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan;
With Eagle's Wings, Northern Arapaho Tribe, Wyoming;
Nagi Kicopi, Oglala Sioux Tribe, South Dakota; and
Yuut Calilriit Ikaiyuquullutengi, Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corp., Bethel, Alaska.

The K'e Project, Children and Families Advocacy Corporation on the Navajo Nation has completed the five year SAMHSA-funded grant and is considered to be “graduated.”

The Grantee Meeting was followed that evening by an informal evening get together during which the Native service grantee staffs and parent representatives were joined by parent representatives and some project staff of the Circles of Care grants. Circles of Care are three year planning grants and are offered exclusively to plan for Native communities. Like the five-year service grants, they are funded through the Child, Adolescent

continued on page 9

CMHS, continued

and Family Branch, Center for Mental Health Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. The nine current Circles of Care grantees are doing the planning to build systems of care for Indian children who have serious emotional disturbance. Both planning (Circles of Care) and service grants are won through the submission of competitive proposals.

The following day, the parents and staffs from the service and Circles of Care grants participated in Policy Day. Part of their training came through the Federation of Families, a national family organization for parents and caregivers of children with serious emotional disturbance. The other part of the training and technical assistance was given by NICWA staff and NICWA consultants. That information related to mental health and advocacy issues in Indian Country, role-playing good and bad examples of ways to conduct visits with political representatives.

In the afternoon, parents and grantee staffs kept pre-arranged appointments with congressional and legislative politicians and aides to advocate on behalf of the mental health needs of Indian children. NICWA staff and consultants accompanied groups to their appointments if that was desired. Policy Day is put on annually by the Federation of Families the day prior to their annual conference. This year NICWA and Federation of Families worked together to arrange for an Indian track of both Policy Day and the Federation of Families conference.

The conference was opened by spiritual leadership from the Northern Arapaho tribe, and as part of the conference, several workshops and/or meetings comprised a Native American track. There was a workshop on the community readiness model by Choctaw Nation (Circles of Care) and another about parent advocacy in school situations by Passamaquoddy grantees (service). A meeting was held to discuss whether to form an organization of Indian parents and caregivers of children with complex needs. At the end of the meeting, there was an agreement to meet again to continue the discussion. That meeting has been set to connect with Portland State University's Building on Family Strengths conference in April. A debriefing and door prize meeting the night before the Federation of Families conference concluded was well attended and resulted in positive comments particularly from the family members.

NORTHWEST HEALTH FOUNDATION SUPPORTS FAS/ FARC PROJECT

Rose Hill

The Northwest Health Foundation, whose commitment to advance, support and promote the health of the people of Oregon and Southwest Washington, has awarded NICWA \$24,500 to develop a monograph on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome/Fetal Alcohol Related Condition (FAS/FARC) that is specific to Native American communities. There are two parts to the project. The first part is to develop a manual that will provide training to parents and professionals based upon a developmental learning style for children with FAS/FARC, which includes strategies for prevention, intervention and resilience. The second part will be to train fifty parent trainers, beginning with the Northwest tribes, to use the new curriculum. From there it will branch out to the rest of the tribal ICW programs.

The project will be of great assistance to all of the people working in the Indian Child Welfare communities. Training trainers who are tribal members is very important and information developed specifically for parents of Indian FAS/FARC children is sorely lacking. Susie Kuerschner, a very qualified writer has been chosen for this task. She has given national training in Indian communities, public schools, mental health organizations and juvenile services setting and working with children and families for the last 30 years. Pathways Practice Digest, NICWA's quarterly professional journal, has published her papers. She has given workshops for the NICWA Training Institute on this subject and will now develop a curriculum incorporating her many years of experience and research.

NICWA thanks the Northwest Health Foundation for the opportunity to address this critical issue. Alcohol consumption during pregnancy is the leading preventable cause of mental retardation in this country. FAS is a pattern of birth defects, which occurs in one out of every 750 births. In Indian country it is estimated that about 25% of all Indian women of childbearing years have contact with alcohol. I.H.S 1995 statistics show that 75% of all pre-natal referrals are alcohol related and that 6.5 % of Indian children are diagnosed with FAS. In light of this reality, the need for parents to know how to raise a child with FAS/FARC and to deal with the everyday issues becomes an area of concern that affects all tribal communities. Raising awareness

continued on page 10

FAMILIES AND ADVOCATES PARTNERSHIP FOR EDUCATION

Seathl Ollgaard

NICWA's partnership with the PACER Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota is going well. NICWA is informing parents and advocates of their rights under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to ensure that Indian children with disabilities get the education they deserve.

A NICWA presenter conducted a workshop on IDEA '97 this past October in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma at the National Indian Education Association's 30th Annual Convention. Approximately 20 people attended the presentation.

NICWA is gearing up for another year of informing and assisting parents of Indian children with disabilities about the IDEA '97 reauthorization. We will be conducting presentation workshops at the following events this year; Building on Family Strengths conference in Portland, OR April 6-8, our "Protecting Our Children" National American Indian Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect in Tucson, AZ April 17-19, the National Indian School Board Association conference in July, and the National Indian Education Association Convention in Oct.

OREGON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT AWARDED

NICWA's library is a very special library. Its shelves are packed full of books, useful documents and information, many of which cannot be found anywhere else in the country. This small but dynamic library has served many tribes and organizations over the last 17 years and now, thanks to the Oregon Community Foundation, will soon have the capacity to be reached by the far corners of Net-world. Yes! The NICWA library will be making its debut into the 21st century by going on line.

The goal is to use the NICWA website as the primary delivery system for all library holdings. This truly exciting project is the transformation of a modest little library into an information center, blooming with accessibility to a wide population. The over 3,700 pieces that include technical papers, research studies, doctoral dissertations and newspaper archives will venture onto the information highway. But, before this critical step forward, NICWA will conduct a needs assessment of the library. An extensive survey will help put into place systems needed to run an

effective and efficient information center. NICWA currently links to the National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect, but the OCF grant brings with it the potential of linking to many other libraries, universities, community colleges, and other sources where Indian child welfare resources can be accessed. It will greatly broaden the information exchange capacity of NICWA.

NICWA HIRING NEWS

Iona Hansel

NICWA will be expanding program services in the coming months and that also means expanding staff. Recruitment will begin for several positions in early February. The best place to keep updated on this process in on our Web site at www.nicwa.org. Vacancy announcements and job descriptions will be posted there with instructions on submitting resumes and timelines.

The jobs we will be filling are:

- Policy Analyst (one position tracks and analyzes public policy legislation and regulations affecting Indian child welfare)
- Community Development Specialist (two positions providing technical assistance to tribes/programs)
- Research Coordinator (one position coordinating research and publication of findings on at least five policy-related Indian child welfare issues)
- ICWA Specialist (one position handling ICWA help line and referrals)
- Administrative Assistants (three positions assisting departments with technical assistance logistics)



FAS/FARC, *continued from page 9*

to issues such as these is not an easy task. The benefits of having a culturally relevant curriculum that is infused with the values and skills of Indian knowledge offers the tools to ensure that children with FAS/FARC will have the support they need in their lives.



NICWA HITS THE BULL'S EYE WITH TARGET

It is amazing what a simple phone call can do. Not long ago, Lisa Potter, the manager of the Beaverton, Oregon Target store, called NICWA to renew our grant from last year. We did, of course, and the results were wonderful. In January, Lisa presented a check for \$5000 to help with the Child Abuse and Prevention packets that are distributed in April, which is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Target's interest in NICWA is a welcome partnership that will help accomplish a valued service to our communities.

Each year, Target offers grant support to organizations involved in social action programs that provide long-term impact in strengthening families. Their commitment toward diversity has given impetus to our public awareness prevention campaign. The Target support will provide much needed culturally specific child abuse prevention packets that are sent to all of the 559 federally recognized tribes and Alaskan Native communities, and several hundred urban Indian child welfare programs.

There is much work to be done in this important area. The most recent statistics available from the BIA (1997) show that there were 9,040 reported incidents of child abuse, 19,200 incidents of child neglect, 4,567 incidents of child sexual abuse. In a separate study, last year the US Department of Health and Human Services reported 14, 486 Indian/Alaska Native children were maltreated. NICWA's efforts in addressing this devastating trauma on our children need the help and support of all of us. As we work to turn these statistics around, families will become strong once again and our communities safe and healthy environments for the future leaders of Indian people. Cultural strengths have always been the cornerstone of Indian people. NICWA's commitment to ensure that every child has the opportunity to grow up free from abuse, neglect, sexual exploitation and the damaging effects of alcohol brings this campaign to tribal communities to empower them to create and implement their own long-term solutions.

BRINGING THEIR CHILD INTO THE FOURTH WORLD

Gerald Dawavendewa

The image depicts a journey from the third world to this, the fourth world. For the Hopi people, they journey through three other worlds, facing challenges and gaining wisdom and understanding. They entered the fourth world through a reed.

The Kivas, the Hopi religious structures, are built underground and are reached by a ladder rising out from the ground. The ladder in the image also represents not only the reed, but also the Kiva ladder. It is a symbol of the passage to this new world and of the connection to the Hopi's traditional culture.

A young girl climbs this ladder on her own. She is female, for the ability to give life, and wears her hair tied in a young girl's butterfly whorls, representing moisture and rain. Her mother is below her, with arms outstretched to catch her if she stumbles. She is wearing a traditional dress and a robe that will contain images that represent the culture's legacy. Beside her is her husband, who holds the ladder steady for his daughter. He represents the traditions and wisdom of the people.

Surrounding the image on the edge is an earth line with blossoms heading up to the sun and a moon at the top of the painting. Between the sun and moon will be stars of the fourth world that the child will see as she climbs to this new world. At the bottom of the painting are two curved lines representing the two other worlds, and above them are four mounds, (three are seen), which are made of cornmeal, a symbol of prayers and blessings. Above them are two butterfly maidens, representing a prehistoric mural. The butterfly dance for Hopi is a celebration of the harvest and the importance of family. Those who dance in this ceremony are related to each other, and it brings the extended families together in support and celebration.

Gerald Dawavendewa, December, 1999

Fourth World Design

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Building on Family Strengths: A National Conference on Research and Services in Support of Children and Their Families

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Contact: (503) 725-8118

16th Annual Washington State Indian Education Association Conference and Washington State Indian Education Policy Summit "Sharing Our Wisdom"

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18th Annual "Protecting Our Children" National American Indian Conference on Child Abuse & Neglect

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Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) Mid-Year Conference

May 8-11, 2000, Pendleton, OR
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Health Promotion Programs, The University of Oklahoma's Wellness & Women Annual Conference, "Leading Our Children With Gentle Footsteps"

May 8-13, 2000, Portland, OR
Contact: (405) 325-1790

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November 9-11, 2000, Portland, OR
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