

FAMILY RE-UNION 8: FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

June 21-22, 1999
Nashville, Tennessee

We begin today with a simple premise. Many of the important challenges facing the family cannot be solved by government but must be solved by the family. It is a premise that led me to focus on family policy beginning a decade ago, and led Tipper and me to begin these Family Re-Union conferences back when I served in the United States Senate.

Vice President Al Gore

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INTRODUCTION

In 1992, United States Senator Al Gore, Jr. and his wife Tipper began bringing people together from many backgrounds and perspectives to examine the challenges and realities of family life in the United States in the last decade of the 20th century. Eight years later, that Senator is Vice President of the United States and the vision of Family Re-Union he shaped with Tipper is stronger than ever. Family Re-Union, as the Vice President reminded the 1999 gathering, embraces a simple premise: “Many of the important challenges facing the family cannot be solved by government, but must be solved by the family.”

Each year, the Family Re-Union conference examines the role of the family through a slightly different lens and attracts 1,000 people from around the country—young people and parents, along with experts working on issues affecting children, youth, and families. Tens of thousands more participate through satellite downlinks and the Internet. Co-sponsored by the Children, Youth & Family Consortium at the University of Minnesota and the Child and Family Policy Center at Vanderbilt University’s Institute for Public Policy Studies, Family Re-Union is supported by private foundations and individual donors, and it aims to stimulate discussion, cooperation, and hands-on responses to each year’s specific issue.

Family Re-Union 8: Families and Community was perhaps the most ambitious of the conferences to date because it took the entire community as its backdrop, demanding a breadth of perspectives that crossed traditional boundaries. What is required for safe streets, schools and homes? How do we make housing not only affordable, but attractive? What are the responsibilities we can expect from schools? from faith-based organizations? from the private sector? How do we go about encouraging economic vitality in the most distressed communities so that individuals and families

***“Why can’t we
have communities
where all children can
just have fun?”***

***Matthew Cavedon,
10-year-old member of
Boundless Playgrounds’
Advisory Board
Designer of a “Boat Swing”
large enough for his wheelchair***

sense they have a share of the nation's economic prosperity? How do we, in the words of one participant, ensure that we go beyond teaching the poor and the needy to fish and instead help them own the pond in which they place their lines? By struggling with these challenging issues, Tipper Gore told the participants, "All of you are participating in democracy-building with a small 'd'...so important to the future of our country."

Each of the Re-Unions has explored a different topic and has helped to propel issues critical to families to the top of the national agenda. In 1994 Family Re-Union 3 examined the role of men in children's lives and launched a major policy shift and several private sector initiatives to encourage fathers to support each other's efforts to be good parents. In 1995 Family Re-Union 4 focused on how the media shape our lives and led to increases in family-oriented television programming and to the "V-chip," a tool to help parents control what their children view on television.

In 1996 Family Re-Union 5: Family and Work proposed the expansion of the Family and Medical Leave Act to permit parents to take time from work to participate in school activities. The 1997 conference on Families and Learning launched efforts to expand quality after-school programs, while the 1998 conference on Families and Health encouraged new policies that moved families from the margins to the center of American health care. "I've never been to a conference where I made a suggestion, and it became a national program in a week," said Dr. Robert Ross, director of San Diego County Health and Human Services, reporting on the response to his 1998 presentation about the complications a typical family of four has to endure when encountering the health and social services systems. At the 1998 conference, Ross brandished a telephone book-sized collection of forms such a family is required to complete. Within a week, the Vice President had helped launch "Boost 4 Kids," a network of communities across the country dedicated to making service systems more family-friendly.

The Vice President opened this year's conference by cautioning that "Although government can provide the tools, government must never substitute for a parent's responsibility." With that charge ringing in the auditorium, Family Re-Union 8 took up its challenging agenda.

OVERVIEW

Family Re-Union 8: Family and Community grew out of a conviction that the challenges facing families are misunderstood by national leaders and over-simplified in public policy debates. Many policy leaders believe families should be left to fend for themselves; others automatically assume that public programs should focus on individuals, ignoring the fact that this approach often weakens and demoralizes families and communities. What we have to realize, said Vice President Gore at the outset of the meeting, is that “It’s hard to be a strong family in a weak community.”

Communities need to support families, in just the way that family members support each other. In communities overrun with drugs and crime, undermined by failing schools and no jobs, adrift without locally-available health care or decent transportation, parents and families have a hard time holding on to hope for the future.

Yet testimony from parents and children, from public officials and citizens, from leaders of non-profit groups and the faith sector revealed that in neighborhoods across the nation much community-building is going on. Citizens are creating one-on-one missions to combat racism; public and private programs are providing job-creating loans in the inner city and extending the horizons of the home-bound elderly; fathers are uniting to show young men how real men take responsibility; corporate America is joining in to advance economic development, and artists and architects are creating more livable spaces by replacing housing slums with new apartment designs and filling empty lots with green parks.

All in search of making local communities—whether in towns, suburbs, cities, or rural counties—places that families will be pleased to think of as “home.”

***“My favorite proverb is:
‘The most foolish man is
he who did nothing
because he could only
do a little.’ “***

***Diane Bock,
Community Cousins***

At the conference, agreement was easy to find: To really help families in the United States, we need to strengthen communities. We need creative partnerships between the private sector, community-based organizations, and all levels of government, that create communities where people know each other's names and parents look out for each other's children—whether the community is wealthy or poor, affluent or struggling. Good communities are places where families can find parks and playgrounds, community centers and open spaces; they can find places to walk and bike and play. Good communities are places with safe streets and healthy environments.

Family Re-Union 8, held on the campus of Vanderbilt University, was simultaneously broadcast across the United States via satellite with more than 100 satellite downlinks. The conference also linked participants interactively through video-teleconferences at four specific sites—the Jefferson School of St. Louis, Stairstep Initiative in Minneapolis, the town of Watsonville, California, and Operation HOPE in Los Angeles.

Participants included parents and youth, professionals and volunteers from a variety of national and community-based organizations, teachers and principals, ministers and rabbis, housing authority leaders and police chiefs, academic specialists and corporate CEOs, and policy makers and ordinary citizens.

Leading roles were played by governmental leaders and national figures: Vice President Al Gore and Tipper Gore moderated the two-day discussion; Secretary of Transportation Rodney Slater and NFL football player Eddie George announced a new partnership for automobile safety; and the Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, along with officials from the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Community Empowerment Board also made major contributions.

Some of the most compelling testimony was provided by parents and young people. Parents described the challenges they face in making their streets and schools safe for their children. A former gang member told of how his mother turned his life around by insisting he leave the community that was nothing “but drugs, guns, and violence” when he was 19 to live with family friends elsewhere so that now, “when my kids get home, I’m at home.” Attendees were struck by the composure and presence of a 10-year-old panelist and burst into applause at his message; this young man, Matthew Cavedon, turned from the Vice President to fix his attention on the audience and ask: “Why can’t we have communities where all children can just have fun?”

Through a series of panel presentations, structured small group discussions, films, and remote-site teleconferencing, Family Re-Union 8 explored these issues and highlighted effective neighborhood-based efforts around the country that are making communities places where families can prosper.

Following a welcoming session in the afternoon of the first day, the meeting began with a discussion of “What Do Families Want in a Community?” led by Vice President Gore and Mrs. Gore. During this session, a panel of local leaders, non-profit program directors, educators, corporate officials, and parents engaged in a wide ranging exploration of community issues—racism, family care and care for the elderly, improving schools and workplace skills, the role of fathers, and transportation and public housing.

Next the Vice President and Tipper Gore turned their attention to safety, announcing a new seat-belt safety campaign with the support of Secretary of Transportation Rodney Slater and former Heisman Trophy winner Eddie George. In the same session, attendees heard from a former judge now serving as a U.S. Attorney, a California police chief, and a Memphis educator about the need for coordinated, preventive services, and they also learned how Boston had earned the attention of the U.S. law enforcement community by eliminating death by gunfire over a 12-month period.

Late in the afternoon, the Vice President led an interactive session on the essential link between economic growth and community growth with four video-teleconference sites from around the country. Concurrently, other attendees participated in 11 roundtable discussions—ranging from safe homes, streets, and schools to affordable housing and economic vitality—and each developed vision and action statements for further consideration.

The following morning, the Vice President led a discussion on community traditions, a conversation emphasizing neighbor-to-neighbor helping networks, the role of faith-based organizations in building community, and special needs of community-based cultural groups. After introducing the film “Community Is...” directed and produced by Michael Stevenson of Boston University, Mrs. Gore led a panel of children and youth in a conversation on youth participation in public work, entitled “Youth and Community: Working Together.”

Strong themes ran through Family Re-Union 8. First, we need a broad-based, inclusive understanding of community well-being and of the many different ways that communities can strengthen families. Secondly, we must foster intergenerational cooperation involving whole families and growing from a belief in active community engagement and participatory democracy. Third, it is essential to give families a stake in community change and economic revival, a tangible hand up so that they can not just fish in the pond, but one day “own it.” Finally, leadership is essential not only from government agencies and non-profit service-providers, but also from those formal and informal institutions that are central in every community—schools, churches, synagogues, mosques, libraries, neighborhood businesses, family centers and clinics, and other gathering places and institutions that anchor our communities.

In closing the conference, the Vice President announced an encouraging array of responses to these challenges: a resource guide for citizens who want to build more livable communities; a network to expand community-based efforts to reduce gun violence; a federal self-help housing program designed to help families build their own homes; an interagency task force to advance community mapping as a tool for neighborhood planning; and a nationwide initiative to renew the commitment of institutions of higher learning to community building and to producing graduates better equipped to assist families and communities.

What lies ahead, of course, remains to be seen. What we do know is that this gathering has helped bring closer the day when, in the Vice President's words, we will have more strong families to "serve as the shelter of individual decency and the foundation of a mighty nation."

La Plaza

"I came to the United States when I was ten years old, from the Dominican Republic, and this question of family, home and community is basic and standard for us. In the process of moving from one country to the other, families become disentangled, you have to adjust to new settings, and the process of building starts even before you get here, quite frankly, but certainly on the very first day you arrive.

"So, we really do know the value of community, and it is very much connected to

the physical neighborhood. Where you live and your relationship to the people who live next to you, or in the apartment above you. Your block and how that block relates to the next block. We see community as an organizing principle. Everything that we have done, everything we have tried to put together, we have tried to see from a community point of view.

"I had the experience once of flying all over Latin America in a small airplane, going from one small city to the other. When you look

down, you see the exact same design in every single community—there's a central square with a church, the government buildings, and on Saturdays there's an open market there. La Plaza. And that is the center of community life.

"That focal place of family and community life is missing in many of our communities. And so we created La Plaza. La Plaza is a beacon school, a community school that remains open from 3 to 10 p.m. and sees about 6,700 people every day, adults and

youth. And we do everything imaginable there. It's a real center for community life.

"In 1992, we had disturbances in our community, and I knew that we had created a center for our community because parents and youth ran to the school, ran to La Plaza, to find out what we were going to do."

Moises Perez, Executive Director, Alianza Dominicana, Inc., New York, N.Y.

WHAT DO FAMILIES WANT IN A COMMUNITY?

How do we create communities that support families? What do we need to do to make sure more neighborhoods are places people want to call “home”? In the face of challenges such as racism, family mobility, joblessness, and widespread violence, how do important community institutions like schools and the faith-based community give families the tools to cope? How can we make certain that children, families and citizens are given opportunities to strengthen their own communities and in so doing participate fully in democracy building? Questions like these framed the discussions at Family Re-Union 8: Family and Community. Stressing the need for neighborhoods that are safe and family-friendly, in which home ownership is encouraged, the Vice President called for building communities that have “fewer arteries and more heart.”

After the showing of “A Place...A Town...A Home...” a dramatic photo collage of images of community produced by UCLA’s Jeffery Cole, the Vice President called for support in taking back our communities on behalf of families. He painted a vision of communities with space for parks, playgrounds, and common areas that encourage safe streets and a healthy environment...that support citizens in speaking up and taking part in the democratic process...and that establish processes to make sure that problems like crime, pollution, and social fragmentation are examined and circumscribed in the public square.

Families need “help getting guns off our streets, out of our schools, and away from children and criminals,” said the Vice President, encouraging the creation of “a family lobby as powerful as the gun lobby is today. If we did that, instead of fighting off new protections for gun manufacturers to shield them from lawsuits, we could start passing legislation to actually shield our children from gun violence, instead.”

“A good community is a place where whether you are affluent or struggling, neighbors know each other’s names, and look after one another’s kids. It’s a place where there are parks and playgrounds and open spaces, places to walk and bike and play... It’s a place where citizens speak up.. It’s a place where faith and values are free to flourish, and where churches, synagogues, and mosques can reach out to lift up those who have been left out.”

Vice President Al Gore

Announcing the release of a new resource guide for citizens to build more livable communities, Vice President Gore spoke of revitalizing communities by providing examples of the best ideas from around the country. “Together, let us fight for the changes we need in our policies, and in our own hometowns, and in our own hearts. Let us build an integrity that reaches into every home and sustains every family in America.”

Welcoming the participants to the meeting, Tipper Gore emphasized that its importance lies at least as much in the symbolism of what Family Re-Union represents as in the accomplishments of each of the prior convocations. “All of you really are participating in democracy-building with a small ‘d,’ but it’s so important to the future of the country,” she observed.

A Community Discussion

The Vice President and Tipper Gore then led a lengthy and in-depth discussion of neighborhood issues, resources, and challenges with a panel of eleven community leaders. Their work represents the very best ideas in the development of communities oriented toward family needs.

- **Lucia Diaz**, executive director of the Mar Vista Family Center in Culver City, described the comprehensive array of services that the center provides to families in the community, especially recent arrivals. When she moved to the area many years ago, she could not speak English; the center helped her master English, learn skills as a parent and community leader, and develop the confidence to become executive director of the center.
- **Cal Turner**, president and CEO of Dollar General Corporation, spoke powerfully of his corporation’s mission to provide a valuable service in crime-ridden neighborhoods by offering hundreds of low-income, unskilled workers the chance at a better life through the training the corporation offers in its Learning Centers. The corporation helps families discover “the joy of economic independence.”
- **Moises Perez**, executive director of Alianza Dominicana in New York, offered moving testimony about the importance of providing new Americans with cultural connections to their beloved homelands as well as their new community. This landmark organization provides comprehensive services to a large urban community, and an emphasis on families permeates all its programs, from violence prevention to mental health services, from job training to day care.
- **Carole L. Kennedy**, principal of the John B. Lange Middle School in Columbia, Missouri described Missouri’s statewide Caring Communities initiative, an effort to coordinate services in communities statewide to ensure that children don’t fall through the cracks. Caring Communities has these aims: parents working; children ready for school; children learning; and graduates succeeding as citizens and workers.

- **Louis King II**, CEO of the Summit Academy OIC (Opportunities Industrialization Center) in Minneapolis, Minnesota, described a training program designed to make communities stable, “a place to earn a decent living and a nice home to return to.” Summit aims for high literacy standards, preparing youth for community roles, connecting workers to employers (“because if there’s anything worse than being uneducated and unemployed, it’s being trained and unemployed”) and improving community livability.
- **Lily Yeh**, executive director of the Village of the Arts and Humanities in Philadelphia, has pioneered the use of the arts to engage children and their families in community-building, and has rallied urban communities around the re-development of parks and open spaces. She made an impassioned plea for the arts and humanities as central to the human dimension of renewing shattered communities.
- **Anthony Wallace**, president of Security Dads, Inc. of Indianapolis, Indiana, and his wife Linda, created a program that has led to greater school safety and higher academic outcomes for youth. They insisted that no child should have to grow up without a positive male influence in his or her life, and they went to work to recruit more than 30 fathers to serve as a daily presence in their community school, Arlington High in Indianapolis.
- **Janet Hartey**, executive director of Coastal Caregivers in Fort Pleasant Beach, New Jersey, spoke of the needs of the elderly and described a coalition of congregations coming together in a collaborative effort to help the frail elderly, the disabled, and the home-bound maintain their independence and dignity by providing them with such necessities as transportation and shopping assistance.
- **Ralph Smith**, vice president of the Annie E. Casey Foundation (substituting for John Wardlaw of the Hartford Housing Authority) described Wardlaw’s fundamental conviction that much of public housing is intergenerational warehousing, and courageous efforts are called for if we are going to break that dreadful cycle. Family literacy, career training, job creation, and re-engaging fathers in the lives of children make up the core of these efforts.
- **Cameron McDonald**, Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of Connecticut, described how she is helping her husband through his on-going battle with cancer by creating a web of supportive community members, based on the model described in the book, Share the Care. But before she could create a care network for her husband, she had to put aside her belief that “families should take care of their own,” and accept that even strong families sometimes need help.
- **Diane Bock**, director of Community Cousins in Oliverhain, California described how she and her family addressed racism by establishing a community-wide program to match families of

different races to become “cousins.” “The whole picture changes, and issues are very different, when they affect someone you care about personally.”

These presentations converged around several conclusions. Each of us is our neighbor's keeper, in the words of the ancient biblical injunction. Despite the stresses under which they labor, our communities are remarkably resilient. When push comes to shove, today's Americans are just like their predecessors: they're willing to pitch in. Above all, each of these programs is a celebration of the power of community and democracy in supporting families.

Schools Need To Be Places to Dream

“Schools need to be bridgemakers to the community so that when young people are there, and families walk through that door, they see themselves.

“They see in themselves potential, they see in themselves dreams. Schools need to be places to dream. Not places where they raise their hands, not places to get

stabbed, or where they have to put their pocketbooks through scanners.

“Schools need to be places where children can dream. And where they can depend on the kind of support, the kind of mentoring, the kind of responsible caring from consistent adults that will make those dreams possible. “They also need to know and

understand that schools are places where young people are doing real work. At the El Puente Academy, young people know that in their biology class, in English class, in history class, they're doing real work because we connect it to real issues in the community. Our young people have planted 100 trees; they have built a community garden.

They, together with other community leaders, stopped the building of a 55-story incinerator in one of the most toxic neighborhoods in New York City.”

Frances Lucerna
Founder and Principal
El Puente's Academy for
Peace and Justice
Brooklyn, New York

SAFETY AND STRENGTH IN HOMES, STREETS, AND SCHOOLS

Although gun violence gets all the attention, the number one threat to the safety of young children today is accidents, with accidents involving automobiles leading the way. While we know a great deal about reducing the incidence of death and serious injury from accidents, we don't always practice what we preach. Many of these deaths, if not most of them, are entirely preventable.

In other areas, the answers aren't so clear cut. How do we make sure that random violence doesn't strike in our streets and homes? What can we do to eliminate the violence accompanying the scourge of drugs in our communities? When it comes to domestic violence, we may understand the questions, but where are the answers?

Leading off the panel on safety in our communities were Secretary of Transportation Rodney Slater and National Football League player Eddie George, former Heisman Trophy winner from Ohio State University and 1996 NFL Rookie of the Year. Together, they announced a new partnership between the transportation department and the NFL Players Association designed to emphasize the importance of adults wearing seat belts and placing children securely in child safety seats. "If your child is under the age of twelve," advised Slater, "put him or her in the back seat of the car, because that's the safest place to be." The partnership is designed to bring the public safety message to the American people in much the same way that the NFL and the Players Association have emphasized the importance of contributing to United Way campaigns in the last decade.

Said Mr. George: "It's an honor to be here as a father. Because children are our future, we have to really keep safeguarding them. We have to make sure that, whatever the possibilities, they're safe in all circumstances." With the help of a poster unveiled at Family Re-Union 8, the Department of

"If we are going to change the way we do business, and I'm talking about changing the core systems, then we must create environments in which prevention programs are allowed to thrive."

***Judge Loretta Biggs
Executive Assistant
U.S. Attorney,
Winston-Salem, N.C.***

Transportation and the NFL Players Association expect to reach literally millions of people across the country in the 1999-2000 football season, according to Secretary Slater.

In addition to that announcement, the conference also heard from pioneering safety efforts in Memphis, Tennessee; Boston, Massachusetts; Winston-Salem, North Carolina; and Redlands, California.

School-Linked Services in Memphis

J.V. Payton, administrator of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Educational and Cultural Center described how putting together community resources for families and children in an abandoned school in Memphis helped change the face of a troubled neighborhood.

“Thirteen years ago, when we started this program, I was told we wouldn’t last six months. But we’re still here!” reported Mr. Payton. The King Center, a product of the Memphis City Schools and its Division of Youth and Family Services, pulls together community resources from over 20 different programs and draws on the schools, social agencies, churches, governmental agencies, and medical and mental health services to provide a comprehensive array of services for children and families in need.

“When we needed programs for homeless people,” reported Payton, “the Shelby County government provided shelters. Then we found that when mothers and fathers are homeless, so are their children. So we established the children’s homeless program, sponsored by the state, the city of Memphis, and Shelby County. Next, we were led to address domestic violence in the community, creating a Family Trouble Center with foundation support.”

Attacking Gun Violence in Boston

Joseph Hackla, a Jesuit priest who works for the Department of Housing and Urban Development, filled in for the Reverend Gene Rivers who was ill.

Working with faith-based communities of all persuasions, Rivers has led a crusade to end violent deaths in the city of Boston. Approached by a crack dealer in 1998, who said, “I am always available to these young people, and you people in collars rarely are,” Boston churches set out to do three things the crack dealer insisted were necessary to end neighborhood violence: “Number One: You must help us **avoid violence** and simply stay alive. Number Two: You must help us **acquire literacy**, because we can’t survive without it. And Number Three: Help us **get jobs** so that we don’t turn to crime to support our families.”

Working with a ten-point effort to expand that simple program, the Boston clergy and the Boston police department accomplished something truly remarkable: ***No juveniles died violent deaths in the city of Boston over a period of 18 months.*** Stressing the faith-based nature of the intervention, Father Hackla harnessed it to the vision of Old Testament prophets denouncing injustice in society, and he emphasized that the intervention had been built from the bottom up and on the power of youth.

Crime Prevention in Winston-Salem

With the leadership of Janet Reno, Attorney General of the United States, Federal prosecutors across the nation are working to aggressively prevent crime in the hopes of prosecuting fewer criminals in the courts. Executive Assistant U.S. Attorney Loretta Biggs, a former judge, reported that High Point County in North Carolina adopted the Boston strategy and “for the last nine months, there have been zero murders, while last year, for the same nine-month period, we had had twelve.”

Stressing that U.S. Attorneys’ offices do not attempt to import every strategy into every community, Biggs said that Federal prosecutors now see it is part of their job to work with local communities to address systemic problems and find the best ideas available. Under a program called Forsythe Futures, Biggs’ office works with leaders in the community to make sure that schools, health care, mental health, the police, the juvenile justice system and the courts are all working collaboratively. Under the Jason Network (so named after a child who fell through the service cracks), these agencies share information about their case files, and parents in Forsythe County have been encouraged to permit their children to be included in the data base.

Why should prosecutors get into the prevention business at all? Biggs revealed a personal anecdote that answers the question decisively: “As a judge, I had a young man in front of me charged with assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill. Fourteen years old, first time in juvenile court. What does a judge do with a fourteen-year-old who is charged with that kind of serious offense? And, as the evidence actually came out, he was heard to say, ‘Is he dead yet?’ So the intent was to kill. At that point, no longer did I want to be on the back end, dealing with this problem. I needed to be on the front end.”

Attacking Crime with the Tools of Statistics

Jim Bueermann of Redlands, California has an unusual title; he’s not only police chief in his community, he’s also Director of Housing, Recreation, and Senior Services in this small city of 70,000 people. Two years ago the Redlands police department decided that to honor its commitment of service to community, it needed to become, not an after-the-fact response to crime, but a 24-hour-a-day, 365-day-a-year, out-in-the-field, human service provider. “I’ll say that again: We are a human service provider in the community.”

The department began looking for ways to prevent problems and strengthen families and found it in a theoretical model developed by David Hawkins and Richard Catalano from the University of Washington, a program entitled Risk and Protective Factor Focused Prevention. The model examines four major domains—family, community, school, and peer groups—and maps both risk and protective factors on a local census block map. Working with housing and recreation groups, and offering the service to surrounding communities, Bueermann’s office is now providing services to an area holding more than 200,000 people.

The mapping project displays a series of maps showing indicators of community disorganization (such as the existence of blight, graffiti, or drug arrests) and preventive factors (such as housing programs and first-time buyers’ programs). Noticing that youth in one local neighborhood gave little evidence of attachment to the neighborhood, Bueermann’s office learned that the nearest community center was not accessible to these teenagers. So once a week, Bueermann’s staff brings the center to them, in the form of a mobile recreation program for parents, young adults, and children.

A New Beginning

These presentations pointed to the belief that the boundaries defining traditional agencies, organizations, and activities are slowly eroding. Old ideas about turf no longer make much sense in a world changing with remarkable rapidity. It once was all right for the police to police and let others worry about recreation and housing. After all, what did it matter where you arrested offenders—in the streets, the parks, or their homes? But police officers and prosecutors are beginning to address community problems at the outset, when they can be prevented, not at the end, when arrest and punishment is the only response. And so, too, has the faith-based community stepped up to take a leadership role in community building. Even Cabinet officials have had to expand their horizons. As Secretary Slater said: “Transportation is about more than concrete, asphalt, and steel. It’s truly about the tie that binds us all.” And the ties that bind most closely and precious are those of community and family.

My Children Have Moved Up with Me

“When I came over to the Mar Vista Family Center I didn’t understand how important what I was doing was. My older daughter, when I was moving up, she was moving up with me too.

“At that time, I used to clean houses, and my daughter used to say ‘When I grow up, I want to clean houses like you.’ Then I

became a teacher, and she would say, ‘When I grow up, I want to be a teacher like you.’

“Now she’s doing work in the community, she’s running a pre-teen leadership program. My son is running the sports program. My younger daughter’s in the pre-teen program. My husband co-leads a men’s group. So I feel really good. My children

have moved up with me.

“My larger family is in the community, working with schools, working with government, working with every single person, and not making any distinctions. The family that I’ve adopted lately, and I know for many people it’s hard to work with them, is gang members. Gang members we sometimes

believe are very difficult, but I have learned a way to work with them, and include them as part of the family. So, the program is based on shared responsibility, and we all learn to take responsibility.”

Lucia Diaz
Executive Director,
Mar Vista Family Center

OWNING THE DREAM: ECONOMIC VITALITY AND EDUCATION FOR LEADERSHIP

Like prior Family Re-Unions, Re-Union 8 linked participants in Nashville with several different sites. During the session entitled “Owning the Dream: Economic Vitality and Education for Leadership,” Vice President Gore and Alvin Brown, executive director of the White House’s Community Empowerment Board, led an interactive discussion with four video-conference sites in Minneapolis, Minnesota; St. Louis, Missouri; Los Angeles, California; and Watsonville, California. Joining the Vice President and Mr. Brown on stage were the local leaders of the four remote programs under discussion.

The Community Empowerment Board, chaired by Vice President Gore, was established in 1993 to help underserved communities, urban and rural. Insisting on comprehensive strategic plans, the board subsequently designed eleven Empowerment Zones and ninety-four Enterprise Communities, generating more than \$8 billion in private and public sector investment in these communities. Urban Empowerment Zones were eligible for up to \$100 million in Federal pump-priming support; Rural Empowerment Zones were eligible for \$40 million; and Enterprise Communities received \$3 million.

Stairstep Initiative, Minneapolis, Minnesota

From Minneapolis came a story of a remarkable partnership between churches in the African American community and the for-profit world of Community Development Corporations. Alfred Babington-Johnson, president and CEO of Stairstep Companies, described a community reclamation process based on education and job development. Working with two corporations, one a non-profit agency and the other a for-profit corporation, Stairstep entered a partnership with General Mills to create a 65,000 square-foot manufacturing facility, financed at \$1.5 million, to develop frozen soul food.

“You know, the Bible says it’s not just giving somebody some fish, but really teaching them how to fish. We’re going to take it one step further. We’re going to give them the opportunity to own the pond from which they fish.”

**Mark Whitlock,
Executive Director
Los Angeles FAME
Renaissance Program**

Austin Sullivan of General Mills pointed out that citizenship is one of General Mills' guiding values. Given an opportunity to contribute to minority job creation right in the local community and to assist in the creation of a food plant that matched the company's own area of expertise, this was a business prospect near irresistible to General Mills.

Does a community-based enterprise make much difference? It does to Dorothy Harris, an employee at the Stairstep plant. "I have progressed. I have got an education. I have got management experience," she said. "It's a go ahead thing." And it does to the Reverend Leslie Ford, one of twelve pastors involved with the initiative. He told Family Re-Union 8: "This way, we get men and women who are interested in making a life change. And so, with them being able to find a job, maintain that job for one year, and mentor other people in the church, we not only get involved in their lives, but their families' lives, and it's tremendous."

Jefferson School, St. Louis, Missouri

Richard Baron, president and CEO of McCormack-Baron and Associates in St. Louis, has long had a dream of harnessing private-sector imperatives to public needs. So when he got a chance to rebuild a community in the near north side of St. Louis, site of the infamous Pruitt-Igoe housing project built in the 1950s, he jumped at it. Building several hundred moderate and low-income new homes and apartments in the neighborhood, he began focusing on the possibilities of using the existing neighborhood school, the Jefferson School, as the focal point of community activity.

One of the challenges he faced was that the 500 school-aged children in the community were being bused to 60 different schools in the city and the county to satisfy desegregation requirements. How do you build a community when its schools are torn in every direction? And how do you rebuild a school in which the community has lost faith?

Undaunted, Baron enlisted the support of some 20 corporations and foundations in St. Louis, who invested \$3.5 million to upgrade the school, air condition it, and lay in the fiber-optic cable that permitted the school to participate in Family Re-Union 8. It houses an accelerated academic program from Johns Hopkins University, a welfare-to-work program, an adult education training center, and an early child care center.

Principal Ann Meese, teacher Andrea Williams, and former student Brittany Taylor and her mother, Stephanie Booker, all spoke of how important the Jefferson revitalization has been to them. "Our school has worked very hard to serve the communities that are right within walking distance," said Meese. "I like the programs that are available for parents," reported Booker. "When I finished, I got a full-time job in the Jefferson School that has really changed my life."

Operation HOPE, Los Angeles, California

John Bryant, CEO of Operation HOPE in Los Angeles, Fred Smith, its president and Chief Operating Officer, and Mark Whitlock, executive director of the Los Angeles FAME (First African Methodist Episcopal Church), described how Operation HOPE has worked with community groups, including the faith-based community, to facilitate over \$42 million in loans to connect residents with mainstream resources.

Operation HOPE is the first non-profit investment banking organization in the nation. Working with 50 bank partners and combined assets of \$1.7 trillion, it serves as a banker's banker, with \$45 million committed to loans for home ownership and small business needs. Meanwhile, the program has also given people options and choices by educating 30,000 children and adults in economic literacy, and setting out to teach 100,000 children the basics of checking and savings accounts and the importance of credit and investment in their lives.

“It’s not enough for a church just to sing and shout on Sunday, and then the members are left on Monday with no place to live, no place to eat, no place to vote or understand the real purpose of the vote,” said Mark Whitlock, describing why churches have cooperated in the economic development effort. “At FAME Renaissance, our mission is to economically empower impoverished communities.” FAME accomplishes that through loan programs with the Small Business Administration, which have provided 120 loans to small firms, created \$5 million in commercial transactions, and led to the establishment of 300 new jobs.

Emergency Recovery in Watsonville, California

When the Loma Prieta earthquake hit the Bay Area in 1989, global attention focused on San Francisco and Oakland, the biggest cities in the area. But towns like Watsonville and Santa Cruz were much closer to the epicenter and suffered much more severe damage, reported Mary Comerio of the Department of Architecture at the University of California at Berkeley. Watsonville, for example, lost ten percent of its housing stock, its entire business district, and the two bridges that connected it to the outside world.

Watsonville was in the midst of an election campaign when the earthquake hit, reported Mayor Oscar Rios. “That evening, I turned my entire campaign committee into an earthquake relief committee.” With the entire community rallying around, earthquake relief and recovery came to dominate Watsonville’s public life for the next decade. Mayor Rios offered this advice to the conference: “Let’s not wait for a crisis to bring us together.”

Moving Forward

These presentations reinforced the themes already resonating throughout the conference. Communities possess remarkable internal resources for renewal and regeneration. Schools, churches, synagogues, and mosques are the warp and woof of community. Individuals, families, and communities aren't looking for a handout, but for a helping hand. When families are active participants in building community and are given educational training and an economic stake in the future, anything can happen. The essential link between education and economic vitality enables families to "own the dream" and to lift up the whole community.

The Bankers' Tour: Why Aren't You Lending Over There?

"Operation HOPE is America's first non-profit investment banking corporation. When I founded it, I was told that I was crazy; it was a dream by a dreamer. And they were right on both counts...The Bible says where there's no vision, the people perish.

"The first vision was a bankers' bus tour. And people said that was impractical, that bankers won't get on a bus and tour the inner city. All I knew is that bankers don't lend

where they've never been. And that people don't step out of their comfort zones naturally.

"All we wanted from these bankers' bus tours was for a bank CEO to go back to his or her office and to say this to the staff: 'Why aren't we lending over there? Just been over there. Opportunity abounds. Why aren't we lending over there?'

"Because whether you're white, black, red, brown, or yellow, these bankers are

concerned about green. We've toured 1,200 bank CEOs and senior bank executives through the inner city, and now people are replicating that model.

"We run the Operation HOPE Home Loan Center. You come in and we find out how bad your credit is. Some credit looks like a bad bus accident. We understand that. That's fine. We don't blame you for what you did yesterday. Your life starts the day we meet you. Then we give

you credit counseling, case management, technical assistance, and loan packaging. We'll give you financial CPR if we have to. So we take check-cashing customers and move them into depository customers; and we take renters and move them into home ownership."

John Bryant
CEO,
Operation HOPE,
Los Angeles, California

ROUNDTABLE RECOMMENDATIONS

Participants in Family Re-Union 8 worked hard on a demanding agenda that left little free time from start to end. While Vice President Gore and a group of participants, as well as those in the satellite audience, explored the issue of economic vitality by teleconference, the other attendees divided into breakout discussions designed to develop a vision for the future, a sense of what works best, and action agendas defining next steps.

Each roundtable heard from four presenters and was led by a moderator and facilitator in a lively process that allowed participants to condense their far-ranging discussion into a report. This chapter outlines the visions and recommendations from each roundtable.

Roundtable 1: Safe Homes, Streets, and Schools

The first roundtable developed a vision that communities and families would “build partnerships that value family life, enhance security, and prevent violence.” Implicit in this vision is family involvement in communities and schools, multiple before- and after-school care, diversity education, and corporate support for family-friendly practices. To advance that vision, participants suggested information sharing among agencies and community; laws and regulation to reduce gun violence; decreasing media presentation of violence; and technical assistance to communities. Participants also suggested the need for annual community reports on the well-being of children, so that families can understand the leading causes of childhood injury and death.

“We listened to the people, and what they wanted was a hand up, not a handout.”

***John Bryant,
Founder and CEO of
Operation HOPE, Inc.,
Los Angeles***

Roundtable 2:

Attractive, Affordable Housing

The roundtable called for access to attractive, affordable housing and opportunities for home-ownership. Special attention was given to the involvement of local stakeholders in planning and a demand for flexible financing. The discussants suggested that next steps should include expanding home-ownership and self-sufficiency programs; designing homes and neighborhoods to fit surroundings; providing maximum local input into housing decisions, including financing, design, security, and management; increased flexibility in Federal financing programs, including new tax incentives; and special attention to the Hope VI programs that address severely distressed public housing and issues of race, poverty, and homeless.

Roundtable 3:

Excellent Schools, Child Care, and Health Centers

Here again, participants spoke of a basic right of “all families” to excellent schools and programs offering child-care, after-school care, and medical services. In support of this the roundtable suggested that effective approaches involve partnerships with families; child development and parenting skills education for parents; high expectations for academic success; and full-service schools with extended hours. Participants called for such actions as using schools as safe community centers; extending the use of schools to include before- and after-school programs, vacations, and summer sessions; expanding quality early care and education; and curriculum that includes empathy, self-esteem, diversity, and parenting education

Roundtable 4:

Economic Vitality

These roundtable participants joined the Vice President’s discussion and then summarized their recommendations. Participants came together around this imperative: “Communities should build good jobs, family-friendly workplaces, accessible public services, and thriving commercial centers.” The best programs, the group suggested, build relationships, worry about communications, link job training to specific opportunities, and connect housing, health, education, jobs and services. The action agenda called for expanding corporate involvement in improving schools and other community investments; linking transportation and economic vitality; providing for grants to faith-based organizations; increasing the number of Empowerment and Enterprise Zones; increasing incentives for developers of affordable housing; and creating more tax breaks for supporters of the Community Reinvestment Act.

Roundtable 5:

Well-Designed Neighborhoods

The roundtable report defined a vision of communities designing “neighborhoods that serve families with green spaces, play spaces, meeting spaces, and vibrant arts, sports, and recreation for all ages.” It insisted that all neighborhood voices be included in planning, that spaces need to be accessible to everyone, and that neighborhoods be designed for people, not automobiles. The group called for employing principles of good design for neighborhoods; making planning enjoyable through games; encouraging mixed-use zoning; planning on preserving green space; and refusing to let transportation destroy neighborhoods. The vision defined the results expected: “neighborhoods that serve families.”

Roundtable 6:

Active Faith-Based Organizations

The roundtable concentrated on a key component of community that government often ignores: faith-based organizations. The vision here was simple: to define, “active partnerships between communities and faith-based organizations to strengthen family and community life.” Forming creative partnerships and educating pastors about community resources and needs were among the most obvious ideas, but others included serious prayer and reaching people in pews and congregations who can act as change agents. Participants called for valuing community-based supports, rather than simply expert services; building trust among organizations; simplifying and coordinating access to government funding; and increasing the use of religious facilities as community centers and as volunteer coordinators. These recommendations are based on trust and collaboration between the public sector and the faith-based community.

Roundtable 7:

A Caring Community of Mutual Respect

The roundtable insisted that the best leadership for building community comes from the neighborhood and its strengths and unique characteristics. It called for building on individual, family, and community assets and allowing indigenous leadership to develop within the community. It posited the belief that smaller, neighborhood-based efforts will lead to greater community ownership and identity. The discussion pointed to these next steps: designing educational programs to reinforce advocacy skills; increasing funding to support positive change, rather than prescriptive change; assessing community strengths rather than “needs”; and building key partnerships that are intergenerational, multicultural, and draw on the strengths of peers, families, and faith communities. A “caring community of mutual respect” sums up this roundtable’s wisdom.

Roundtable 8:

Opportunities for Community Involvement

The discussants concluded that communities need to offer many ways for families to contribute to and receive from the community. Participant involvement, youth and adults working together, meaningful service-learning, and mutual respect among generations were touchstone themes in this discussion. Needed actions included encouraging better media coverage of volunteer opportunities, creating programs that bring different generations together, removing barriers (such as liability concerns) to volunteering; encouraging intergenerational living through zoning and regulation; and teaching youth leadership skills.

Roundtable 9:

Efficient Links Between People and Neighborhoods

The discussion turned on issues of transportation, technology, and communication and their potential to strengthen families. The group reported that the best approaches involve broad-based collaborations between public and private groups, “success models” with clear results, the presence of consumers on boards, and Internet communications between parents and teachers. Next steps require such efforts as employer involvement in community transportation planning; the use of the Internet for advocacy; universal access to technology, particularly for the aging and disabled; expanding transportation options for people with disabilities; and the use of technology for positive social change. These efforts add up to a demanding agenda, one that will be repaid many times over if it succeeds in creating communities with “easily accessible transportation, communication, and technology services.”

Roundtable 10:

Effective Response to Community Needs

This discussion began with a vision of meeting community needs through “partnerships across local, state, and federal government and foundations that listen to and work with the community.” Like other roundtable reports this one called for partnerships and resource sharing, flexible funding, and preventive services in place of after-the-fact correction. The group suggested that next steps should include defining results in terms of what is good for children and families, creating meaningful community involvement, focusing on results, and celebrating success.

Roundtable 11:

Community Conversations Summary

This report summarized the discussions from the various downlink sites that held Community Conversations concurrent with the other ten roundtables. Feedback forms submitted by email and fax provided a snapshot of the conversations that took place at downlink sites in schools, universities, government centers, and businesses. When asked to describe how their communities were working to strengthen, support, and involve families, responses included these model programs and activities: create and maintain family-service collaboratives; locate domestic abuse services to provide easy access; offer variety and depth of community programming; extend school and library programs to encourage family literacy; and involve businesses in community learning centers.

When asked to identify the pressing issues in their communities, they listed: increase funding for programs that help families transition from welfare; involve parent leaders in every aspect of every program that seeks to serve them; provide multiple supports for children from homeless or continually moving families; conduct a family-community equivalent to an environmental impact study; develop strategies to work with communities that are spiritually bankrupt; and provide quality universal child care.

Summing It All Up

In the final analysis, the recommendations of the roundtables re-affirmed faith in the strengths of American families and communities. In the larger meeting, this strength-based approach was summed up in many ways: creating livable communities, building communities with more heart than arteries, and developing neighborhoods where children can have fun together.

These common themes cut across the eleven roundtables. Families and youth need to be involved in program design and choice. We need to encourage local decision making and leaderships. We have to create partnerships with the private sector and new ways of collaboratively working across government agencies. And, we must overcome our past neglect of the role of the faith communities. The reports from the roundtables—with their vision statements, suggestions about what works best, and concrete next steps—are roadmaps to get us to the kinds of neighborhoods that families are proud to call home.

And So, I Gathered My Courage...

“Thirteen years ago, I was invited to build a park on an abandoned lot in the inner city, a mostly African-American neighborhood, in North Philadelphia. I got a little grant of \$2,500 from the Pennsylvania Council for the Arts. But I didn’t know how to build a park, and I was never in the inner city of North Philadelphia. So I was just plain scared.

“So I went to everybody who knew, and they said, ‘Don’t go in. You’re Chinese. That’s an African-American neighborhood. You don’t have enough money. The kids are going to destroy everything you build.’ And so I moped around and told myself, ‘I have no skill. I have no know-how. Nothing.’

“The only thing was the little voice in me, I call my

inner light. It says that I must rise to the occasion, otherwise the dream, the light in me, would die, and the rest would not amount to anything.

“And so, I gathered my courage. I said, ‘At least with \$2,500 I can buy a lot of bags of cement, wire, and shovels and stuff and see what happens.’

“Literally, I picked up a stick and I drew a circle in the center of the lot and I said, ‘Let’s start building from here.’ And I started digging.

“Now, in the inner city, not much is happening most of the time. So when the kids looked around, they thought, ‘Well, nothing’s going on. But look at them. They’re poking and doing this and that.’ And it looked mighty interesting.

“So they all came, and they said, ‘Can we help you?’ I said, ‘Here is this shovel. You dig from there.’ That’s how we started. With no intention to start a children’s program, here we are running a children’s program. We discovered a very powerful way of educating children. We get them to work with adults. And whatever we build—they build—goes directly to transforming their community. It’s very, very powerful.

“Three years later, the adults begin to come in. And most of them, of course, are not working—no jobs, no money, no place to go, and a lot of drug problems. But I knew that when you address the problems, you address the negative, so I said, ‘No questions asked. Come and help. Come and build.’ The impact of art is so

immediate, people begin to come and our communities are transformed.

“So now, from one lot, we have converted over 87 abandoned lots and turned them into 87 community parks and gardens and farms. The most recent one is a nearly two-acre tree farm with 75 permanent trees and incubating 2,000 tree seedlings. We are already negotiating to sell the trees to the city five years or ten years down the line. We’re organizing the community so that it can be a part, and the money will go to them.”

Lily Yeh
Executive Director,
Village of Arts and
Humanities,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

CREATIVE PARTNERSHIPS AND THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF YOUTH

As the participants moved into the second day's agenda, they learned from Dr. Harry Jacobson, Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, that the discussion about family-centered health care at Family Re-Union 7 had played a major role in the planning of a new Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt. Moreover, said Jacobson, Family Re-Union 7 had helped frame the agenda of the first international meeting on pediatric family resource centers held at Vanderbilt early in 1999.

Community Traditions: Seven Voices

The Vice President, after introducing his mother who was in the audience, launched a discussion of "New Strategies from Community Traditions." The panel discussion began with a presentation from the Reverend Gene Rivers and included six other presentations from academics, leaders of community centers, clergy, and educators.

- **Reverend Gene Rivers**, director of the Ella J. Baker House, Dorchester, Massachusetts, described the dramatic role the faith-based community has played in eliminating juvenile deaths by gunfire over an 18-month period in Boston. The essence of his message was that crack dealers were able to say to the clergy: "I'm there for these young people, you're not."
- **Reverend Robert Franklin**, president of the Interdenominational Theological Center, Atlanta, spoke eloquently of the historic commitment to community of all the major religious traditions in the world. "We have heard very clearly the Vice President's call for our involvement in problems such as alleviating poverty, serving fragile communities, challenging the culture of narcotics and violence. And tremendous, heroic work is underway in these areas in the faith community."

"Why should faith communities step up? We have meeting spaces where important things can happen. We have talented clergy leadership. We have armies of potential volunteers. We have track records of service. Community is central in the great religious traditions that we find in this nation and in the world."

*Rev. Robert Franklin
President, Interdenominational
Theological Center,
Atlanta, GA*

- **Geoffrey Canada**, CEO, Rheedlen Centers for Children and Families, New York, described how his center is trying to connect with every single child in a 24-block zone in Harlem, an area of 13,000 people and 3,000 children. With an Americorp program helping fix buildings, an employment center for adults, after-school programs, and efforts to provide computers in every school, the center is “trying to re-connect with the most vulnerable parts of the community by getting boys actively involved in rebuilding this neighborhood.”
- **Barbara Clinton**, director of the Center for Health Services, Vanderbilt University, drew participants’ attention to the rural American tradition of neighbors helping neighbors and respect for the natural environment. Paraprofessional home visits, maternal and infant outreach programs, and efforts such as Meals on Wheels for the elderly are sensible policy approaches that build on the first tradition. And recycling, save-the-stream campaigns, community support for environmental cleanup, are the kinds of efforts that resonate in rural areas.
- **Frances Lucerna**, founder of El Puente’s Academy for Peace and Justice, Brooklyn, told of how a decade ago a teenager commented on the need for a school that teaches children how to be peacemakers. The result, nine years later, was the establishment of the El Puente’s Academy, where children “come not to study history, but to make history.” El Puente, Spanish for bridge, spans the gap between the rootlessness of too many communities and the promise and potential present in every child.
- **Jose Szapocznik, M.D.**, director of a center for family studies at the University of Miami, described the need for architectural environments that are sensitive to culture and strengthen family and community life. Neighborhoods are dominated by cars, not public spaces, isolating families and children. Common areas, so important to community life, are missing in public housing projects. What is needed is good design that addresses the interrelationship between the built environment and the role of communities and families.
- **Robert Ross, M.D.**, director of San Diego County Health and Human Services, had complained at last year’s conference that “we are serving pieces of kids and pieces of problems with pieces of programs” and called for re-engineering services to be truly comprehensive and family-centered. Crediting the Vice President with immediate responsiveness, Dr. Ross proudly pointed to a new national demonstration program, Boost 4 Kids, as an outcome of Family Re-Union 7. “I have never been to a conference before where I made a suggestion and it became a national program in a week.”

Youth and Community: Working Together

Following the community traditions discussion, Tipper Gore introduced the film “Community Is...,” created and produced by Michael Stevenson of Boston University, in which young people describe what they understand to be important about community. The film delivered a powerful message about the importance of family and community to children. As Mrs. Gore noted, “With all we hear from the experts...it’s always the voices of the children that cut straight to the heart of the matter.”

She then introduced six young people and drew them into a conversation about their contributions to community:

- **Matthew Cavedon** of Berlin, Connecticut is a ten-year-old who has helped develop playground equipment that is completely accessible to children of all needs and abilities, including children, like himself, in wheelchairs. Through his efforts, the Hasbro Foundation has been encouraged to sponsor a National Fund for Boundless Playgrounds, designed to be at least 70 percent accessible. Matthew was joined on stage by seven-year-old Daniel Barzak, the son of the founder of Boundless Playgrounds, who presented Mrs. Gore with a student-produced book on why boundless playgrounds are important to all children.
- **Jennifer Chang**, Nashville, Tennessee, an Ingram scholar at Vanderbilt, created a program for Aiding Inmate Mothers (AIM) after volunteering to teach in a woman’s prison, and realizing that what the women missed most were their children. AIM volunteers take tape recorders and children’s books into the Tennessee Prison for Women so that the mother can read the book out loud, after which AIM sends the book and the tape to the child.
- **Greg Mason** is from Louis King’s Summit Academy in Minneapolis, Minnesota. A former gang member he now works with 60 youth, aged 10 to 18, helping turn their lives around and, in the process, turning himself around too.
- **Ross Godwin**, thirteen years old, from Bethesda, Maryland, contributes the service hours that the State of Maryland requires for high school graduation by teaching older people how to use a computer in an after-school program.
- **Kim Anderson** of Mahnomen, Minnesota, discouraged by poverty on the White Earth reservation, left to earn a degree in horticulture from the University of Minnesota. She returned home to join three generations of her family in working in a Community Planning Circle. Through community gardening projects, nutrition classes, and youth programs, she helps spread Native American agricultural concepts and attack high rates of diabetes and cancer in Native American communities.

- **Felicia Mickles of Franklin**, Louisiana became a single mother at 16, yet she worked her way through college and helped other young people throughout the state by developing an educational program for teenage girls and their families. The program began as a way to provide information about adolescent sexuality, but developed into an in-depth discussion program that brings together teenagers and their parents to discuss a wide range of issues, problems, and choices.

These panels revealed that both youth and adults are capable of being active participants in building and sustaining strong communities, and that a community is only as strong as its most vulnerable member. Progress in community building is greatly multiplied when generations work together.

Breaking the Misery Cycle

“At the Summit Academy, we aim to increase community livability. If there’s anything that we don’t want, it’s for families to get on their feet and then say, ‘We’re leaving the city.’ That just repeats the misery cycle.

“Therefore, we send our young people out, under the leadership of other young people, and they paint the houses, they clean the streets, they build Adirondack chairs.

They set an example so that their neighbors understand they don’t have to be afraid of them, that youth are part of the community, and they are responsible for not only making it a better place today, but taking over tomorrow from us.

“One example of a very successful partnership is our work in the Central neighborhood of Minneapolis. We partnered with a community-based organiza-

tion, the Central Neighborhood Improvement Association, our neighborhood housing service, and the James Ford Bell Foundation to focus on one corridor, one street in this community, where a few years ago, the newspapers talked about how folks were being shot and killed on the streets.

“Today, they are planting flowers, rehabbing homes, painting homes—and the

residents have a sense of place again. And the young people are very much involved in that. And I’m proud to be a part of it, because if our community is to be healthy, adults must work and children must learn.”

Louis King II
President and CEO, Summit Academy OIC
 Minneapolis, Minnesota

RESTORING THE WEB: COMMITMENTS FOR THE FUTURE

During the planning process for Family Re-Union 8, the Vice President had heard community leaders say they needed people trained in a variety of different disciplines who understood how to build community. Before the conference, he challenged university and college leaders to respond and was gratified to see an impressive assembly of academic representatives at the final session. Academic leaders described an array of interdisciplinary teaching and community outreach occurring on their campuses, but all agreed that a new university-community compact and a new kind of scholarship was necessary to engage academic institutions as full partners in the larger community. The days when town and gown were separated by campus walls are long gone; universities today need to be *of* the community, not simply *in* it.

The essential idea to which these academic leaders committed their colleges and universities was the development of a new generation of trained community builders and professionals.

- **Neal Halfon**, professor of pediatrics at UCLA, has begun to plan a national kick-off event to bring together a group of university presidents, foundation and community leaders, to discuss how best to increase academic involvement in community development and create new holistic curricular approaches. Bridging schools of law, public policy, education, urban planning, medicine and public health, this effort will develop new strategies for productive academic engagement with the community.
- **Elizabeth Hollander**, director of Campus Compact in Providence, Rhode Island, represents 620 campuses working to educate students for citizenship through service. Noting that campuses are now using their economic power (purchasing, employment, and investment) to improve local communities, Hollander noted that Campus Compact will be advancing the civic responsibili-

“We normally like to think of a community as a web of relationships that looks like a beautiful spider’s web. But the web that we often see in our communities looks like a bird flew through it. The web is really broken. We need to restore the web of promise with our communities.”

*Professor Dennis Orthner
Jordan Institute for Families
University of North Carolina,
Chapel Hill*

ties of higher education in the coming year in the hope that all 3,500 institutions of higher education take up the challenge.

- **Cindy Ballard** of the coalition of Community Foundations for Youth in Kansas City, speaking also on behalf of the American Association of Community Colleges, reported the commitment of the two organizations to spread a community-building curriculum developed at Cambridge College to all 1,200 community colleges around the country.
- **Eileen Moran Brown**, president of Cambridge College, described her campus as dedicated to serving adults, mostly from low- and moderate-income backgrounds. In conjunction with local community groups, family centers, and the philanthropic community, the college has developed a two-year curriculum for training community leaders.
- **Earl Richardson**, president of Morgan State University, spoke of the nation's historically black colleges and universities as a major part of the African-American community, with a mission of instilling in graduates a desire to do something about community problems—poverty, illiteracy, inadequate housing, and lack of health care. This coalition of academic institutions is now working to establish “urban land-grant university centers” where resources can be concentrated to address issues in urban life.
- **Frederick Humphries**, president of Florida A&M, described a similar program supported by Florida A&M, one designed to make the institution an “urban land-grant center” delivering services in ten major metropolitan areas within the state.
- **Laurel Raimondo**, Vanderbilt Volunteer Coordinator, described how service activities not only help the community but also improve the education of students involved, since this experience helps prepare graduates who are ready to go out and make a difference in the world.
- **Raymond Paredes**, UCLA Associate Vice Chancellor, is heading an initiative for the nine-campus University of California system to create community education and resource centers, an educational initiative to provide all children in the state with access to the university and equal educational opportunity. The centers will address educational issues by looking at community empowerment and economic development, with the ultimate goal of improving academic achievement of students in K-12.
- **Jill Iscol**, president of the Iscol Foundation and Chair of Family Re-Union, suggested that universities think of ways of involving the philanthropic community in these efforts, since small foundations, in particular, are always looking for ways to be strategic and make an impact on large problems.

- **Claire Wurtzel**, director of education initiatives in schools, Bank Street College, described a dual degree program in special education and social work (offered in conjunction with Columbia University's school of social work) and argued for professionals in the schools and community who are trained to understand special-needs children and their families.
- **Jose Szapocznik**, professor of pediatrics, University of Miami, spoke of his university's interest in these issues, pointing to progress in work with AIDS, maternal and child health, poverty and drug addiction, and **Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk's** work in the college of architecture to encourage buildings that enhance community and family life.
- **Eugene Grigsby**, professor at UCLA's School of Public Policy, noted that the urban planning program had traditionally required community service. Recently, the school has developed a program that's on the Internet, Neighborhood Knowledge, Los Angeles, an early warning system of community dis-investment.
- **John Eckenrode**, professor of human development, Cornell University, looked forward to a day when investment in research would yield a headline about "science making a breakthrough in families and communities."
- **James Hefner**, president of Tennessee State University, noted that his institution, like Florida A&M, Morgan State, and Cornell, works directly with local communities. In Tennessee State's case the emphasis is on pre-school programs and on reaching children and families with the message that higher education is an attainable, reasonable goal.
- **Dennis Orthner**, professor of social work and policy analysis at the Jordan Institute for Families, University of North Carolina, provided a vivid image of the community as akin to a beautiful spider web, delicately constructed of many different interconnections and lines radiating out in every direction. If a single strand of the web is touched anywhere, the entire web vibrates in response. "That's the image of what we want a community to look like," said Dr. Orthner. "But the reality is, in many cases, the webs that we normally see when we look at the network of how agencies work together (or frankly, how our departments and colleges work together on our campuses) looks more like a bird flew through it. The web is broken." Restoring that web and making it whole again are integral tasks of community building that lie ahead.

Concluding Remarks: Vice President Gore

In closing the conference, the Vice President emphasized that every year he and his wife leave Family Re-Union inspired and stimulated by the challenges addressed. "Martin Luther King, Jr., used to talk about the 'beloved community.' It was described as a community where love and justice

prevail, where we are tied together in the single garment of destiny, an inescapable network of mutuality—a web, if you will. Each of us in our hearts wants to create that beloved community.”

What this conference revealed, said Mr. Gore, is that “so many of our communities have been suffering slow-motion disasters. The lessons we’ve learned here, and the commitments we have made, are geared toward helping communities overcome those disasters.”

To that end, the Vice President announced several new efforts:

- a **Resource Guide and website** for citizens who want to build more livable communities (www.livablecommunities.gov);
- a new **Safe Cities Network** to expand community-based efforts to reduce gun violence;
- a **community safety campaign** to increase the use of seat belts and child safety seats through a partnership between the U.S. Department of Transportation and the National Football League Players Association.
- a \$20 million **self-help housing program** designed to help 2,000 families build their own homes;
- an interagency task force led by the National Partnership for Reinventing Government to develop **community mapping tools** to help communities solve problems and build on their strengths;
- the creation of a **nationwide higher education initiative** to educate a new generation of community builders trained in interdisciplinary skills, through partnerships among government, foundations, and academic institutions.

Participants affirmed that community grows out of creative partnerships—partnerships between government and the private sector, between communities and academic institutions, and between neighborhood leaders and community-based organizations. But community is more than that. Family Re-Union 8 reminded us that community is all about maintaining the dream, staying with the struggle, and insisting on fairness, because when justice speaks in our democracy, its great voice speaks through our families and communities.

AFTERWORD: EIGHT YEARS OF FAMILY RE-UNION

As I think back to the first Family Re-Union conference in 1992, I am dazzled with how far we've come — how much more we know today than we did then about how to make life better for American children, families, and communities. I believe there are four important things we know now that we didn't know at the time of the first Family Re-Union conference, seven years ago — understandings that can become the basis of an action agenda.

The first is reflected in the theme of this conference: We know how closely family and community are intertwined, and that where community connections are missing, we have to create them. We know that for children to grow up healthy and whole there is no substitute for family — no substitute for an adult in each kid's life who is irrationally crazy about the kid. But the ability of parents to do right by their children is powerfully dependent on whether their child-rearing efforts are supported or undermined by the environments in which they live. My husband and I are eternally grateful that the values we tried to instill in our two children — including a commitment to education, hard work, personal responsibility, and lifelong service — were reinforced by the schools they attended, by other institutions in our community, and by the fine people who are our friends and neighbors.

Second, we know so much more than we did about how to build social capital and how to build communities of which we can be proud. We are learning what it takes to re-connect, in Robert Kennedy's words, "the thousand invisible strands of common experience and purpose, affection and respect, which tie us to our fellows and create the community where children can play and adults work together and join in the pleasures and responsibilities of the place where they live."

People engaged in community building today use a comprehensive lens to look at the world, and put together enough of what works to restore hope in depleted neighborhoods, be it through early

*Remarks at Family Re-Union 8
Experts Forum by
Lisbeth B. Schorr, Director,
Harvard University's Project on
Effective Interventions and
Co-chair of the Aspen Institute's
Roundtable on Comprehensive
Community Initiatives for
Children and Families.*

education, school reform, faith-based efforts, family preservation, community policing, or expanding economic opportunity.

We have learned that outsiders cannot build community. Neither can insiders — local residents — if they are left to themselves. After years of arguing between top down and bottom up, we have finally learned that the interventions that change lives require both. As Vice President Gore reminded us, the messages from the neighborhood have to be heard. That's why we need new vertical alliances between the community people whose local wisdom is essential, and the outsiders who have assembled and analyzed the lessons from elsewhere, and who can help sustain local efforts because they can reach the policy levers to change how accountability is maintained, how to make the money flow more flexibly, how the regulations are written, and how leaders and practitioners are trained.

Third, we now have stronger evidence than ever before of how crucial are the years, zero to five. We now know the importance of early child development and of how we care for our babies — not only for school readiness and for life-long learning, but also for the ability to feel empathy and a sense of belonging. Given what we now know about attachment and child development, it is untenable for government to make mothers leave their babies in the care of others — as early as 12 weeks of age — without being able to assure that these babies' future prospects will not be damaged. The findings of the new national study of child care, released just a couple of weeks ago, remind us that children's experiences in out of home care can — when the care is of poor quality — seriously jeopardize their own chances to become productive and successful adults. The alternative is to build on our rich new knowledge to create the kind of universal preschool and early childhood structures that would allow all American families to assure that their children will have the early experiences that will equip them for success in school and in life.

Fourth and last, we know now that to reach the goals we value, we have to think more broadly, more boldly, and more strategically. We have to think clearly about how our activities connect to results. We cannot simply mobilize a collection of disjointed programs, not even if they are a bunch of high quality, comprehensive programs, and hope to realize our goals.

Bill Shore, the founder of Share Our Strength, points out in his wonderful new book, *The Cathedral Within*, that we will not succeed in making life better for the children who are being left behind and the young people who have lost hope unless we think in long-range, strategic terms. Like the cathedral builders of old, who worked backward from a grand vision, we too must be willing to commit to “a cause we may not realize in our own lifetimes.” But like the ancient cathedral builders, we must work from a strategic blueprint, so that we can see the fit between our long-term goals and the work we can complete. As we begin to think more boldly and more strategically than we have in the past, as we think beyond just supporting exemplary programs, we will see that our common purposes go beyond making our government more efficient and our programs more effective. We have the potential to make our democracy more just. And that, as I see it, is the ultimate goal that must pervade our efforts to strengthen families and rebuild communities.

SELECTED OUTCOMES

Family Re-Union 8: Family and Community has inspired many federal, state, and local initiatives, programs, and policy discussions. In the tradition of the Family Re-Union series, this conference has been a dynamic and on-going process that has the capacity to fundamentally change our understanding of family and community issues. Below is a list of selected outcomes that were announced at the conference or have developed in the subsequent months.

- The Vice President announced a **nationwide initiative to educate a new generation of community builders** with the broad array of skills necessary to build communities for the 21st century and to promote service learning and partnerships between communities and institutions of higher education. The Vice President also announced a new partnership with Campus Compact, a coalition of more than 620 college and university presidents working to build sound communities. UCLA has taken the lead on this project and plans a meeting of university leaders to formulate action steps.
- A **new partnership between the Coalition of Community Foundations for Children and Youth and the American Association of Community Colleges, and a new curriculum** produced by the Boston Foundation and Cambridge College were also announced.
- The US Department of Housing and Urban Development's Center for Community and Interfaith Partnerships will provide technical assistance in **a renewed effort to strengthen the effectiveness of faith-based organizations in community building**. The Center will sponsor five conferences for faith-based and community organizations, twenty technical assistance workshops, and assist in the development of community building curricula.

- The Clinton-Gore administration has proposed to **double the amount of funding for the Community Outreach Partnership Centers** from \$7.5 million in FY99 to \$15 million in FY 2000. Under the COPC program, colleges and universities form partnerships with residents to solve neighborhood programs.
- The administration also proposes **to increase the dissemination of community development skills by expanding the number of technical assistance providers.** 40% of the technical assistance grants distributed by HUD will go to providers who have never before participated in the program.
- The **“Safe Cities Network” an initiative to help communities reduce gun violence** will leverage information technology to use existing funding and resources more effectively and to provide communities with technical assistance, and partnerships with Federal agencies and law enforcement.
- The Vice President announced that all US Attorneys and ATF Special Agents in Charge have been asked to develop **comprehensive plans to reduce gun violence in all 94 judicial districts.** They will work with local leaders, educators, private business, social service providers, members of the faith and medical communities, and other community organizations.
- The **resource guide**, “Building Livable Communities,” and its companion website (www.livablecommunities.gov) will give communities a first-ever, one-stop guide to all federal resources available to meet challenges like protecting open spaces, revitalizing neighborhoods, curbing urban sprawl, and strengthening local economies.
- A **joint initiative** by the U.S. Department of Transportation’s National Highway Safety Administration and the National Football League Players Association will help protect families and children by persuading more motorists to buckle up and use child safety seats. NFL players will appear at community events in the 31 NFL franchise cities across the country to promote transportation safety.

CONFERENCE AGENDA

WELCOME

June 21, 1999

Joe Wyatt, Chancellor, Vanderbilt University

Judge Andy Shookhoff, Associate Director, Child and Family Policy Center at the Vanderbilt Institute for Public Policy Studies

Martha Farrell Erickson, Ph.D., Director of the Children, Youth & Family Consortium, University of Minnesota

1:00-1:20 p.m.

FILM COLLAGE

“A Place . . . A Town . . . A Home . . .”

Produced by **Dr. Jeffrey Cole** and **Jim Reynolds**, UCLA Center for Communication Policy

Vice President Gore's Remarks

“A Challenge to the Conference”

1:20-1:40 p.m.

“WHAT DO FAMILIES WANT IN A COMMUNITY?”

Vice President Al Gore and **Tipper Gore** lead a community roundtable.

1:40-2:40 p.m.

Diane Bock, Director, Community Cousins, Oliverhain, Calif.

Lucia Diaz, Executive Director, Mar Vista Family Center and Mar Vista Institute, Culver City, Calif.

Janet Hartey, Executive Director, Coastal Caregivers, Ft. Pleasant Beach, N.J.

Carole L. Kennedy, Principal, John B. Lange Middle School, Columbia, Mo.

Louis King II, President and CEO, Summit Academy OIC, Minneapolis, Minn.

Cameron Macdonald, Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of Connecticut, Storrs, Conn.

Moises Perez, Executive Director, Alianza Dominicana, Inc., New York, N.Y.

Cal Turner, Chairman, President and CEO, Dollar General Corp., Nashville, Tenn.

Anthony Wallace, President, Security Dads, Inc., Indianapolis, Ind.

Ralph Smith, Vice President, Annie E. Casey Foundation, Baltimore, Maryland.

Lily Yeh, Executive Director, Village of Arts & Humanities, Philadelphia, Pa.

2:40-3:30 p.m.

“SAFETY AND STRENGTH IN OUR HOMES, STREETS AND SCHOOLS”

Vice President Al Gore, **Tipper Gore**, Secretary of Transportation **Rodney Slater** and Tennessee Titans player **Eddie George** lead a discussion on partnerships for community safety.

Judge Loretta Biggs, Executive Assistant U.S. Attorney, Winston-Salem, N.C.

Jim Bueermann, Chief of Police and Director of Housing, Recreation and Senior Services, Redlands Police Department, Redlands, Calif.

J.B. Payton, Director, MLK Jr. Educational and Cultural Center, Memphis, Tenn.

Rev. Gene Rivers III, Pastor, Azusa Christian Community and Director, Ella J. Baker House, Boston, Mass.

3:50-4:50p.m.

“OWNING THE DREAM: ECONOMIC VITALITY AND EDUCATION FOR LEADERSHIP”

Vice President Al Gore with **Alvin Brown**, Executive Director of the Community Empowerment Board, lead an interactive session with four videoteleconference sites.

1. Stairstep Initiative Companies, Minneapolis, Minn.
Alfred Babington-Johnson, President and CEO
2. McCormack Baron & Associates, St. Louis, Mo.
Richard Baron, President and CEO
3. Operation HOPE, Los Angeles, Calif.
John Bryant, Chair, Founder, CEO
4. Department of Architecture, University of California-Berkeley, Berkeley, Calif.
Mary C. Comerio, Professor

3:45-5:15 p.m.

ROUNDTABLE SESSIONS

These roundtable sessions are concurrent with the Vice President's interactive videoteleconference session. Participants will define goals, best practices and recommended actions.

1. **SAFE HOMES, SCHOOLS, AND STREETS: A COMMUNITY ETHIC THAT VALUES FAMILIES AND DISCOURAGES VIOLENCE**

Dennis Dresang, Ph.D., Director, LaFollette Institute, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wis.

Pamela Eakes, Founder and President, Mothers Against Violence in America, Seattle, Wash.

Jackie Greenwood, Ed.D., Principal, Arlington High School, Security Dads, Indianapolis, Ind.

Bill Johnston, Senior Program Associate, Facing History and Ourselves, Brookline, Mass.

Ricardo Martinez, M.D., Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, Washington, D.C.

2. ATTRACTIVE, AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO OWN A HOME

Elinor Bacon, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Public Housing Investment and Director, HOPE VI, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington, D.C.

Bart Harvey, Chairman and CEO, Enterprise Foundation, Columbia, Md.

Cheryl McAfee, President, Charles F. McAfee FAIA NOMA PA, Architects, Planners and Program Managers, Atlanta, Ga.

Keith Richardson, Community-Builder Fellow, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Knoxville, Tenn.

3. EXCELLENT SCHOOLS, CHILD CARE, AND HEALTH CENTERS THAT SUPPORT FAMILY AND COMMUNITY LIFE

Mike Nolan, Founder and President, Kids Corporation, Morristown, N.J.

Deborah Reeve, Ed.D., Associate Executive Director for Development and Special Projects, National Association of Elementary School Principals, Washington, D.C.

Ariela Rodriguez, Ph.D., Director, Health and Social Services, Little Havana Activities & Nutrition Centers, Miami, Fla.

Elizabeth Valdez, M.D., Founder, President and CEO, Concilio Latino de Salud, Inc., Phoenix, Ariz.

4. ECONOMIC VITALITY: GOOD JOBS, FAMILY-FRIENDLY WORKPLACES, ACCESSIBLE SHOPPING AND FINANCIAL SERVICES, THRIVING COMMERCIAL CENTERS

Alvin Brown, Executive Director, Community Empowerment Board, Washington, D.C.

5. WELL-DESIGNED NEIGHBORHOODS WITH CLEAN AIR AND WATER, GREEN SPACES, PLAY SPACES, AND VIBRANT ARTS, SPORTS AND RECREATION FOR ALL AGES

Karen Alschuler, Principal and Director of Planning and Urban Design,

Simon Martin-Vegue Winkelstein Morris, San Francisco, Calif.

Amy Barzach, Executive Director, National Center for Boundless Playgrounds, Broomfield, Conn.

Sydney Butler, Executive Director, American Zoo and Aquarium Association, Silver Springs, Md.

Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk, Co-founder and Principal, Duany Plater-Zyberk & Co. and Dean, University of Miami School of Architecture, Miami, Fla.

6. ACTIVE FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS AND OTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR FELLOWSHIP INVOLVING FAMILIES

Nancy Fuchs-Kreimer, Ph.D., Rabbi, Jewish Family and Children's Services, Philadelphia, Pa.

Father Joseph Hacala, Special Assistant and Director, Center for Community & Interfaith Partnership, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington, D.C.

Karen Olson, Founder and President, National Interfaith Hospitality Network, Summit, N.J.

Madeline Rogero, Executive Director, Knoxville's Promise, Knoxville, Tenn.

7. CARING COMMUNITY OF MUTUAL RESPECT: COMMUNITY CENTERS AND COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMS FOR FAMILIES

Cathy Dodd, Executive Director, Woodbine Community Organization, Nashville, Tenn.

Luis Garden-Acosta, Founder and President, El Puento, Brooklyn, N.Y.

James Johnson, Executive Director, Mutual Assistance Network of Del Paso Heights, Sacramento, Calif.

Enid Ray, Program Officer, Brighter Futures Initiative, Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, Hartford, Conn.

8. OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND SERVICE FOR ALL GENERATIONS AND ALL PEOPLE

Donna Butts, Executive Director, Generations United, Washington, D.C.

Julie Falender, Youth Volunteer Assistant, Peer Educator, Oasis Center, Nashville, Tenn.

Abiola Laniya, Coordinator, Homefriends Program, Temple University, Philadelphia, Pa.

Judge Andy Shookhoff, Associate Director, Child and Family Policy Center, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn.

9. EFFICIENT LINKS BETWEEN PEOPLE AND NEIGHBORHOODS: TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATION AND ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY

Paula Antonovich, Communications Director, Benton Foundation, Washington, D.C.

David Fachetti, Senior Vice President and General Manager, Family Education Company's Family Education Network, Boston, Mass.

Rhonda Phillippi, R.N., Tennessee Statewide Project Coordinator, Emergency Medical Services for Children, Nashville, Tenn.

Neal Halfon M.D., MPH, Professor of Pediatrics and Community Health Services, Director, UCLA Center for Healthier Children, Families and Communities, University of California, Los Angeles, Calif.

10. EFFICIENT RESPONSE TO COMMUNITY NEEDS BY LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND BY FOUNDATIONS

Mayor Clarence Anthony, President, National League of Cities, South Bay, Fla.

Cindy Ballard, Executive Director, Coalition of Community Foundations for Youth, Kansas City, Mo.

Gaetana Ebbale, Executive Director, Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County, West Palm Beach, Fla.

Grantland Johnson, Secretary, California Health and Human Services Agency, Sacramento, Calif.

RECEPTION WITH VICE PRESIDENT AL GORE AND TIPPER GORE

5:15-7:00 p.m.

Welcome by **Elliott Moore**, Chair, Tennessee Steering Committee for Family Re-Union 8

Music provided by **Robert Percy** and the **Hunters Lane String Band**,
Hunters Lane Comprehensive High School, Nashville, Tenn.

WELCOME

Harry Jacobson, M.D., Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs,
Vanderbilt University Medical School

Jill Iscol, Ed.D., Family Re-Union Conference Chair

June 22, 1999

8:30-8:45 a.m.

“NEW STRATEGIES FROM COMMUNITY TRADITIONS”

8:45-9:30 a.m.

A discussion led by Vice President Al Gore.

Geoffrey Canada, President and CEO, Rheedlen Centers for Children and Families, New York, N.Y.

Barbara Clinton, Director, Center for Health Services, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn.

Rev. Robert Franklin, Ph.D., President, Interdenominational Theological Center, Atlanta, Ga.

Frances Lucerna, Founder and Principal, El Puente's Academy for Peace and Justice, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Robert Ross, M.D., Director, San Diego County Health and Human Services, San Diego, Calif.

Jose Szapocznik, M.D., Professor and Director, Center for Family Studies and the Spanish Family Guidance Center, University of Miami, Miami, Fla.

DOCUMENTARY FILM

9:30-9:55 a.m.

“Community Is. . .”

Created and Produced by **Michael Stevenson**

Introduced by **Tipper Gore**

“YOUTH AND COMMUNITY: WORKING TOGETHER”

9:55-10:45 a.m.

Tipper Gore leads a discussion with young people.

Kim Anderson, Mahanomen, Minnesota.

Matthew Cavedon, Berlin, Connecticut.

Jennifer Chang, Nashville, Tennessee.

Ross Godwin, Bethesda, Maryland.

Greg Mason, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Felicia Mickles, Lafayette, Louisiana.

“COMMITMENTS FOR THE FUTURE: EDUCATION FOR COMMUNITY BUILDING”

10:45 a.m.-11:45 a.m.

Vice President Gore, Tipper Gore and leaders of colleges and universities respond to the Vice President's challenge supporting a major initiative in education for community building.

Cindy Ballard, Executive Director, Coalition of Community Foundations for Youth,
Kansas City, Mo.

Eileen Moran Brown, President, Cambridge College

Dr. Jeffrey Cole, Director, UCLA Center for Communication Policy and Director, Center for Digital Innovation, Adjunct Professor, Anderson Graduate School of Management and College of Letters and Sciences and Head, Entertainment, Media and Communications Track (EMC), Anderson School

Dr. Dennis Dresang Professor, University of Wisconsin

Dr. John Eckenrode, Professor, Chair of Human Development and Co-Director of the Cornell Family Life Development Center, Cornell University

Dr. Martha Farrell Erickson, Director of Children, Youth & Family Consortium, University of Minnesota

Dr. Eugene Grigsby, Professor, School of Public Policy, Social Research and Urban Planning and Director of Advanced Policy Institute, University of California, Los Angeles

Neal Halfon M.D., MPH, Professor of Pediatrics and Community Health Services, Director, UCLA Center for Healthier Children, Families and Communities, University of California, Los Angeles

Dr. James Hefner, President, Tennessee State University

Elizabeth Hollander, Executive Director, CampusCompact, Providence, R.I.

Dr. Frederick Humphries, President, Florida A&M

Dr. Jill Iscol, Chair of Family Re-Union, President, Iscol Family Foundation, Member, President's Advisory Council, Teachers College, Columbia University

Dr. Dennis Orthner, Professor of Social Work and Public Policy Analysis and Associate Director, Jordan Institute for Families, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, N.C.

Dr. Raymond Paredes, Professor of English and Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Development and Director for Community Resource Development Project, University of California, Los Angeles

Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk, Co-founder and Principal, Duany Plater-Zyberk & Co. and Dean, University of Miami School of Architecture, Miami, Fla.

Laurel Raimondo, Program Coordinator, Office of Volunteer Activities, Vanderbilt University

Dr. Earl Richardson, President, Morgan State University and Chair, President's Council for Historically Black Colleges and Universities

Dr. Michael Stegman, MacRae Professor of Public Policy and Business and Director of the Center for Community Capitalism, University of North Carolina

Dr. Jose Szapocznik, Professor of Pediatrics and Behavioral Sciences, Psychology, Counseling Psychology and Educational Research, and Director, Center for Family Studies, University of Miami

Dr. Claire Wurtzel, Director, General and Special Education Initiatives in Schools, Bank Street College

CONCLUDING REMARKS BY VICE PRESIDENT AL GORE

11:45 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

KAREN ALSCHULER is a Principal and Director of Planning and Urban Design for Simon Martin-Vegue Winkelstein Moris (SMWM), an architecture, planning and urban-design firm in San Francisco, California. As a principal for SMWM, Ms. Alschuler has developed a national practice tackling some of the most interesting and urgent urban issues. These issues include: defining the new generation of urban waterfronts; framing the design and market-based parameters for intensification and transformation of large downtown districts; planning for expanded cultural and educational facilities; defining the terms of urban stewardship and public places which welcome a diverse population; and seeking a critical balance between physical planning and fiscally responsible economic development. Ms. Alschuler's projects range from the precedent-setting waterfront mixed-use projects at Rows Wharf in Boston, to Dock 20 in Cleveland, to Mission Bay in San Francisco. Before joining SMWM, Ms. Alschuler was a Partner at Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, where she directed award-winning planning and urban-design teams. Ms. Alschuler is a past President of Commercial Real Estate Women - San Francisco and serves on the Design Review Board of the Bay Conservation and Development Commission. She has taught classes and continuing education seminars at Harvard University, the University of California, Berkeley and other institutions.

KIM ANDERSON is a member of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe who was born and raised on the White Earth Reservation in Northern Minnesota. She is part of the Aki Planning Circle, which is composed of reservation personnel and community volunteers. In response to its goal of promoting the overall health of the community, the Planning Circle recognized the prevalence of cases of diabetes and cancer as a growing concern on the reservation. To combat these diseases in their community, the Planning Circle is promoting a better way of life through gardening and improved nutrition. Ms. Anderson is supporting this effort by teaching classes in nutrition and horticulture, fostering intergenerational bonds and overseeing several community gardens. Ms. Anderson learned to garden from her grandparents, who were both master gardeners, and her parents, who coordinate the yearly Harvest Festival at the reservation. She is also a volunteer firefighter, and she and her husband are foster parents.

CLARENCE ANTHONY is Mayor of the City of South Bay, Florida, a position he has held since 1984, and President of the National League of Cities (NLC). As President of the NLC, Mayor Anthony initiated the 1998 NLC Futures Report, Building a Nation of Communities. That report, which Mayor Anthony will draw upon as a resource for the coming year, stresses the importance of inclusiveness, interactivity, shared responsibility and mutual obligation as essential elements of a healthy community. The

report also contains the five factors rated by city leaders and community-based organizations (CBOs) as most important for effective collaboration. They are: city government understands specific needs; city government and CBOs communicate effectively; city government and CBOs trust and respect each other; CBOs understand specific community needs, and city government has the capacity to achieve results. Mayor Anthony is also Chairman of the Federal Government Ecosystem Task Force and the Directions Committee of the Palm Beach County Municipal League and a member of the Florida Constitution Revision Commission and the State of Florida Environmental Land Management Study Committee. He is a recipient of numerous honors and awards including the South Florida Business Journal's Up and Comer's Award and the Florida Jaycees Mayor of the Year for the State of Florida.

PAULA ANTONOVICH is Communications Director at the Benton Foundation in Washington, D.C., a foundation that focuses on communications in the public interest. Her primary responsibilities include serving as co-director of Connect for Kids, the foundation's flagship children's program. Connect for Kids brings together the powers of the Internet, public service advertising, and original journalism to focus attention on issues that matter to children and families. Prior to joining the Benton Foundation, Ms. Antonovich served as Senior Communications Manager on a project for the Department of Health and Human Services that focused on the application of communications and social marketing models to social issues. She is co-author of Marketing Matters: Building an Effective Communications Program.

ALFRED BABINGTON-JOHNSON is President and Chief Executive Officer of the Stairstep Initiative Companies, which include Stairstep Foundation, Stairstep, Inc., Gye Nyame Tires Plus, and Step Up, Inc. The Stairstep Initiative brings together African-Americans of all income and resource levels in the Twin Cities metropolitan area to participate in the articulation of community values, and in the operation of businesses consistent with those values. Mr. Babington-Johnson is a member of numerous boards, including the Advisory Board of Humphrey Institute the University of Minnesota. He previously served as a Minneapolis Public Housing Commissioner, was co-

chair of the Mayor's Task Force on Business Regulation, and was past President of the National Association of Minority Contractors of Minnesota. Mr. Babington-Johnson is also an associate minister at Grace Temple Deliverance Center. In 1996, Mr. Babington-Johnson, his wife, Denise, and their three children were honored as Family of the Year by the Minneapolis Urban League.

ELINOR BACON is Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Office of Public Housing Investment of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. She administers the \$3.2 billion HOPE VI Program and other Capital Improvement Public Housing programs, with annual appropriations of approximately \$2.5 billion. Before joining HUD, Ms. Bacon was a real estate developer and consultant in Baltimore. Her firm, Bacon & Company, specialized in affordable housing, adaptive reuse, historic preservation and project management of public-purpose urban projects. Among other projects, she served as Development Director for the \$160 million Columbus Center for Marine Research and Explorations and the \$29 million Baltimore Children's Museum. She was also Co-Development Manager for Washington Square, a 59-unit new and rehabilitated residential moderate-income project in East Baltimore. Prior to forming her company, Ms. Bacon worked for more than 10 years in public-sector housing and community development at HUD, Johns Hopkins Hospital, and the Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development.

CINDY BALLARD is Executive Director of the Coalition of Community Foundations for Youth in Kansas City, Missouri, a position she has held since 1993. The Coalition is an association of more than 120 community foundations dedicated to improving conditions for children, youth and families at the local level. Over its seven-year history, the Coalition has provided coaching, technical assistance, and grants totaling million of dollars to more than 80 community foundations. Prior to assuming her position with the Coalition, Ms. Ballard was a law clerk for Judge Ross Roberts of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Missouri, and a partner in a Kansas City law firm. She also worked for the Texas Office of State-Federal Relations in Washington, D.C., and was the Executive Director of Adolescent Resources Corporation in Kansas City.

RICHARD BARON is Founder, President and Chief Executive Officer of McCormack Baron & Associates in St. Louis, Missouri, a firm specializing in the development and management of low- and moderate-income housing with an emphasis on large-scale redevelopment projects in central city locations. The firm has developed 71 projects in 22 cities throughout the country. McCormack Baron worked closely with former HUD Secretary Henry Cisneros and his staff to design the Hope VI program, and is currently involved in seven Hope VI projects nationally. Mr. Baron is also the founder and developer of the Center of Contemporary Arts in University City, a community-based visual and performing arts center that serves more than 50,000 children annually. Mr. Baron has been a consultant to the Urban Land Institute, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Ford Foundation. He is a member of the Board of Trustees for the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Advisory Board for the Center on Urban and Metropolitan Policy of The Brookings Institution. He has published 12 books and articles.

AMY BARZACH is Co-founder and Executive Director of the National Center for Boundless Playgrounds in Broomfield, Connecticut. Boundless Playgrounds is an organization committed to helping communities throughout the country create safe, challenging and fun playgrounds that are also universally accessible to children of all abilities. The first Boundless Playground, Jonathan's Dream, was created by a large team of volunteers. The organization's goal is to have one such playground within an hour's drive of every child in the United States. Recently Ms. Barzach's work and organization were nationally recognized and honored by Parenting magazine. In 1997, the National Recreation & Park Association honored Ms. Barzach with the ROSE Award for "outstanding efforts in advancing parks and recreation."

LORETTA BIGGS is an Executive Assistant United States Attorney in the Middle District of North Carolina. She serves as a principal adviser to the United States Attorney in the areas of crime prevention and intervention strategies. She is the supervising attorney of the Winston-Salem branch office and is also responsible for the office's federal child support enforcement and child exploitation cases. Ms. Biggs is a former District Court

Judge as well as a former state Assistant District Attorney. She was recently appointed by Governor James Hunt to serve as a member of the North Carolina State Advisory Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and to the Governor's Task Force on Youth, Violence and Community Safety. She is co-chair of the Partnership for a Drug Free North Carolina with U.S. Congressman Richard Burr and Secretary of Crime Control and Public Safety Richard Moore.

DIANE BOCK is Founder and Director of Community Cousins, a non-profit organization to combat racism that serves more than 200 families in Oliverhain, California. After the riots in Los Angeles, Ms. Bock decided to fight racism on an individual level by helping people of different races to become acquainted. Community Cousins pairs families of different races who initially meet at an all-cousins gathering which is held once a month. The families are then encouraged to interact in any way that fits their lifestyles and time schedules. For example, they may attend each others' birthday parties and ball games, share recipes, dinners or a movie. Community Cousins is now offered by the YMCA as one of its programs. Ms. Bock's two children, ages 10 and 7, have benefited from the many friendships they have made through Community Cousins. Ms. Bock previously worked for the Carnation Company in London, England, and in advertising and publishing in Los Angeles, California.

ALVIN BROWN is Executive Director of the Community Empowerment Board (CEB) in Washington, D.C., a position he has held since February 1999. He is responsible for leading the Clinton/Gore Administration's overall community empowerment initiatives, with special emphasis on the Empowerment Zone and the Enterprise Community program. The first 11 Empowerment Zones and 94 Enterprise Communities were established in 1994. To date they have generated more than \$8 billion in private investments to the designated communities and unprecedented levels of public-private partnership. Another 20 Empowerment Zones were designated in January 1999. These new Zones are expected to create or retain about 90,000 jobs and stimulate more than \$20.3 billion in private and public investments over the next 10 years. Prior to his recent appointment to CEB, Mr. Brown was the Director of the Office of Special Actions for HUD Secretary

Andrew Cuomo. Other positions within the Clinton/Gore Administration that Mr. Brown has held include Senior Adviser for Economic Development for the late Commerce Secretary Ron Brown and Deputy Associate Director for the White House Office of Presidential Personnel. Prior to his federal service, Mr. Brown worked in the private sector for several Fortune 500 companies.

JOHN BRYANT is Founder, Chairman of the Board, and Chief Executive Officer of Operation HOPE, Inc., in Los Angeles, California, America's first non-profit investment banking organization. He also serves as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the growing network of Operation HOPE Banking Centers, which are for-profit subsidiaries of Operation HOPE, Inc., and an innovative model for banking in under served communities. In August 1998, Mr. Bryant was appointed United Nations Goodwill Ambassador for the Partners for Development Initiative to the United States of America by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. In 1994, he was selected by Time magazine as "One of America's 50 Most Promising Leaders of the Future." Mr. Bryant serves on the Board of Directors of several corporations including Southern Pacific Bank and has received numerous awards. He has also served as a United States delegate on business and cultural exchanges in Japan, China, Korea, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

JIM BUEERMANN is Chief of Police and Director of Housing, Recreation and Senior Services in Redlands, California. Prior to his appointment to these positions in May 1998, Chief Bueermann worked for the Redlands Police Department for 20 years. In 1994, he directed the development and implementation of Community Policing in Redlands. In 1997, he supervised the consolidation of Housing, Recreation and Senior Services into the police department as a preventive strategy for reducing crime and problem adolescent behavior in Redlands. Chief Bueermann subsequently directed the research and development of Risk Focused Policing as a crime prevention model and community building tool. He is currently involved in projects to integrate the concepts of healthy cities and sustainable communities into community policing.

SYDNEY BUTLER is Executive Director of the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA), which represents more than 180 major zoos and aquariums, more than 200 commercial members, 38 societies, 25 related organizations, as well as 6,000 individual members throughout North America. Prior to becoming Executive Director of the AZA, Mr. Butler chaired a fund-raising campaign for the League of Conservation Voters, a non-partisan national organization that supports pro-environment candidates for the U.S. Congress. He was also Vice President for Conservation of the Wilderness Society, a 400,000-member national environmental organization, where he served as chief campaign and legislative strategist and was responsible for 14 field offices throughout the United States. Mr. Butler served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Food and Consumer Services from 1977 to 1981. He also represented national, international, and environmental clients before the courts, Congress, and federal agencies as part of his law practices in Memphis, Tennessee, and Washington, D.C.

DONNA BUTTS is Executive Director of Generations United, the only national membership organization focused solely on promoting intergenerational policies, strategies and programs in Washington, D.C. Generations United fosters communication and collaboration and brings together groups representing youth as well as elders and grandparents. The organization is supported by more than 100 national organizations, numerous state and local organizations and hundreds of individuals. Prior to joining Generations United, Ms. Butts was the Executive Director of the National Organization on Adolescent Pregnancy, Parenting and Prevention. Ms. Butts was recently appointed to serve on the National Kinship Care Advisory Panel by Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala. She has authored many articles and chapters on youth issues, fund development and intergenerational programs, public policy and related issues.

GEOFFREY CANADA is President and CEO of Rheedlen Centers for Children and Families in New York City, which develops and operates a network of school-based violence- and crime-prevention programs in Central Harlem, Manhattan's Upper West Side and Hell's Kitchen areas. The programs provide services to youth and families to keep young people in school and

to reach beyond the needs of individuals to support the communities in which they live. Community support programs include the Peacemakers Program and East Coast Coordination for the Black Community Crusade for Children, organized by the Children's Defense Fund. Mr. Canada's special initiatives include Rheedlen's Beacon School, which provides 12-hour-per-day, 365-day-per-year support to children and families, and the Harlem Children's Zone, which works with all families in a 23-block section of Central Harlem. Mr. Canada has written two books: *Fist, Stick, Knife, and Gun: A Personal History of Violence in America* and *Reaching Up for Manhood*. He has also received a number of awards and two honorary degrees.

MATTHEW CAVEDON is a 10-year-old who recently completed the fourth grade at the Willard School in Berlin, Connecticut. He is also an intern at Boundless Playgrounds, an organization that helps communities develop their own universally accessible playgrounds. Matthew has worked to promote awareness of the need for fully integrated playgrounds through public speaking, playground tours and interviews with local and national media. He is a member of the Boundless Playgrounds' Junior Advisory Board, a panel of 12 children, ages 5 to 15, who review and evaluate potential playground designs. Matthew relied upon his own experiences in playgrounds to design a "boat swing" for Boundless Playgrounds. The swing, which is large enough for Matthew to get on with his wheelchair, is one of the most popular parts of "Jonathan's Dream," the first Boundless Playground. Matthew also enjoys Challenger division baseball, swimming, horseback riding and attending Winners on Wheels, a Scout-style group for children who use wheelchairs.

JENNIFER CHANG is a senior at Vanderbilt University majoring in Psychology and Economics with a concentration in Business Administration. She has previously worked with issues such as HIV/AIDS awareness and education, mentoring inner-city youth, GED tutoring for male inmates, and life skills training for juvenile delinquents. As the result of volunteer work with female inmates, Ms. Chang founded Aiding Inmate Mothers (AIM), a program in which volunteers help mothers at the Tennessee Prison for Women make audio tapes of books for their children. The books and the audio tapes are then sent to the inmates' children. The

program has helped to strengthen the familial relationships between the inmate mothers and their children and improved the literacy of the participants. Last spring, 22 volunteers participated, and more than 30 children received books and tapes in the mail. Ms. Chang is a recipient of the Ingram Scholarship, which encourages students to develop and implement creative service projects that address community needs.

BARBARA CLINTON is Director of the Center for Health Services at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee. The Center links university resources to local health initiatives in Appalachia and the Mississippi Delta. The Center's award-winning Maternal Infant Health Outreach Worker Project has mobilized more than 500 community residents in Tennessee, Kentucky, Virginia and West Virginia to initiate family health programs. Ms. Clinton is an adviser to the Tennessee Commission on Aging, the National Center for Children in Poverty and the Appalachian Rural Science Initiative of the National Science Foundation. She has been active in all the Family Re-Union conferences and is a board member of "Father to Father," which was inspired by Family Re-Union 3.

MARY C. COMERIO is a Professor and Vice Chair of the Department of Architecture at the University of California, Berkeley. She has designed numerous public and private facilities including market rate and affordable housing. She is a leading authority on post-disaster reconstruction, and her research on the costs and benefits of seismic rehabilitation for existing buildings has been widely published. Ms. Comerio's work for the cities of Los Angeles and San Francisco established a precedent for evaluating the economic impacts of building codes for existing structures and resulted in a \$250 million state bond issue and a \$350 million San Francisco bond issue dedicated to seismic rehabilitation. In 1997, she was part of the international team that investigated the impacts of the earthquake in Assisi, Italy. Her book, *Disaster Hits Home, New Policy for Urban Housing Recovery*, was published by University of California Press in 1998.

LUCIA DIAZ is Executive Director of the Mar Vista Family Center and the Mar Vista Institute in Culver City, California. The Mar Vista Family Center was founded in 1977 as a parent par-

ticipation preschool adjacent to the Mar Vista Gardens Federal Housing Project. It serves an at-risk community populated primarily by low-income Latino and African-American families. In 1981, Ms. Diaz came to Mar Vista Family Center as a parent participant with her children in the child care program. She then enrolled in the UCLA Extension Program at the Center to earn her certificate as a preschool teacher. In 1985, Ms. Diaz began serving as a Mar Vista Family Center head teacher and the following year she was promoted to the position of Program Director. She became the Executive Director of the Center in 1995. Ms. Diaz has trained more than 100 community leaders, and developed a youth leadership program that hosted its second annual citywide youth-led conference this year. She has received many awards including the Pioneer Woman award from the Los Angeles City Council and the Martin Luther King Jr. Westside Coalition Champion for Peace Award in 1998. Ms. Diaz serves on numerous advisory boards including Sabin Productions Children's Educational Television and Playa Vista Capital. She is coordinator of programs for the California Highway Patrol and Los Angeles Board of Public Works.

CATHY DODD is Executive Director of Woodbine Community Organization (WCO) in Nashville, Tennessee. WCO offers Summer Youth Camp, activities for senior citizens, Head Start, English as a Second Language and Spanish classes, Micro Lending groups, Individual Development Account group meetings and many other job training classes. WCO also develops housing for sale and rental. More than 5,000 low- to moderate-income people are served in some capacity at the center each year. As Executive Director, Ms. Dodd initiated a highly successful program called Homebuyers Club that helps low- to moderate-income people purchase housing. In 1996, the Governor's office gave Ms. Dodd the Partners in Housing Award for her contributions in the area of housing.

DENNIS DRESANG, Ph.D., is a Professor of Political Science and Public Affairs and the Founding Director of the La Follette Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Dr. Dresang has worked with local and tribal governments on gang and youth violence, with numerous state and local governments on pay equity legislation, and with all

levels of government on personnel reform. He is the author of Public Personnel Management and Public Policy and co-author of American Politics: The People and the Polity and Politics and Policy in American States and Communities. He is the former chair of the Wisconsin Task Force on Comparable Worth and is a recipient of several awards for his work to eliminate gender and race discrimination in pay.

PAMELA EAKES is Founder and President of Mothers Against Violence in America (MAVIA). Headquartered in Seattle, Washington, MAVIA is a national network of mothers, fathers, students and others working together to prevent violence by and against children. MAVIA's primary goals are to 1) encourage investment in prevention before young people are affected by violence and 2) to advocate for changes that support a safer America for all children. For her efforts with the organization she has received the 1999 Woman of Achievement Award from Women in Communications, the 1995 YMCA Isabel Coleman Pierce Community Service Award, the 1995 City of Seattle and Providence Medical Center Violence Prevention Award, the 1995 Citizen of the Year from Mercer Island and the Seattle Times 1994 Best of Puget Sound Citizen. In addition to her commitment to MAVIA, Ms. Eakes is co-chair of the SafeFutures Community Planning Board, a national initiative of the Office of Juvenile Justice, Crime and Delinquency, serves on the Advisory Committees for the National Center for Safe Schools and the U.S. Department of Education's "America Goes Back to Schools and the Governor's Council on Juvenile Justice.

GAETANA EBBOLE is Executive Director of the Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County, West Palm Beach, Florida. In this position, she has worked with funders, providers and citizens to develop services designed to enhance families' abilities to successfully raise children to become physically, socially and emotionally healthy adults. Prior to joining the Children's Services Council in 1989, Ms. Ebbolle held several positions at Nova University in Florida where she was part of the Institute for Social Services to Families. While there, she developed and implemented 1) community education programs of team building, case management and supervisory training for New Mexico's Department of Social Services' foster care program and

2) a comprehensive foster care training program for the Province of Saskatchewan, Canada. Ms. Ebbole also previously developed programs for Virginia's foster care system, investigated child abuse and neglect referrals in southeast Texas, and worked to improve the foster care system in Saskatchewan Province, Canada.

MARTHA FARRELL ERICKSON, Ph.D., Director of the Children, Youth & Family Consortium at the University of Minnesota, promotes university-community partnerships that link research to practice and policy for the well-being of children and families. Her longitudinal research on parent-child attachment and strategies for breaking intergenerational cycles of abuse has informed the work of health care providers, family support professionals, and policy makers in the U.S. and abroad. In addition to publishing in professional journals, Dr. Erickson writes the parenting column "Growing Concerns," which is featured in family publications across the country, and she appears weekly on the KARE-TV Today Show. In October, Guilford Press will publish her new book, *Infants, Toddlers & Families: a Framework for Support and Intervention*.

DAVID FACHETTI is Senior Vice President and General Manager of the Family Education Company's Family Education Network in Boston, Massachusetts, the leading Web site connecting educators and parents online. Mr. Fachetti is responsible for the Company's services that provide schools and community groups with the ability to create and host Web sites within the company's Family Education Network Site. He has been instrumental in developing the company's long-range strategy. He also created a strategic marketing partnership with America Online and NBC. Mr. Fachetti was previously President of Trans National Loyalty Management, a subsidiary of Trans National Group. He also worked at Price Waterhouse as a senior consultant in its Comprehensive Professional Services Division.

JULIE FALENDER is Youth Volunteer Assistant at the Oasis Center, a local counseling center and shelter for teens in Nashville, Tennessee. Ms. Falender played an active role in creating People United Leading and Serving Everywhere (PULSE) which is a youth volunteer program. She also helped to create PULSE Day 1998 and 1999 which brought together hundreds of

Nashville teens to serve the community. Ms. Falender is leading a group of teens in partnership with Nashville's Mayor Phil Bredesen to form a Mayor's Youth Council. The council will act as a voice for Nashville's youth in the community and government. She is a recent graduate of Hume-Fogg Academic Magnet High School, where she was the Senior Class President. This fall, Ms. Falender will attend Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island.

REVEREND ROBERT FRANKLIN, Ph.D., is President of the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC) in Atlanta, Georgia, the nation's foremost center of African-American religious training and graduate education. Prior to assuming the presidency of ITC, Dr. Franklin was a program officer at the Ford Foundation, where he had primary responsibility for grants to African-American churches engaged in the delivery of secular social services. Dr. Franklin is also an ordained clergy person who preaches and lectures across the nation. He is the author of two books, *Liberating Visions: Human Fulfillment and Social Justice in African American Thought* and *Another Day's Journey: Black Churches Confront the American Crisis*. Dr. Franklin is on the Board of Directors of many organizations, including the Congress of National Black Churches, the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, and the Urban League of Atlanta.

RABBI NANCY FUCHS-KREIMER, Ph.D., has worked for 15 years at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, most recently as Director of the Religious Studies Program. She is currently on leave and working for 18 months at the Jewish Family and Children's Service of greater Philadelphia as the Director of the Jewish Identity Program. Her work is supported by a grant from the Jewish Federation. She is the author of *Parenting as a Spiritual Journey* as well as numerous articles on religion, inter-religious affairs and family issues.

LUIS GARDEN-ACOSTA is Founder and President of El Puente, a school and neighborhood center in Brooklyn, New York. In 1981, 48 young people lost their lives in the Williamsburg neighborhood of Brooklyn, New York. At that time, Williamsburg was recognized as the state's largest and one of its poorest Latino communities and was known as the gang capital of New York City.

In response, Mr. Garden-Acosta founded El Puente, an organization which currently helps more than 10,000 community members access the arts, medicine, education, sports, green spaces, communications and other community resources. The organization focuses on development rather than treatment. Rather than looking at young people as being at risk, they challenge young people to become artists, educators, scholars, health promoters and leaders. Mr. Garden-Acosta is a past recipient of the Heinz Award in the Human Condition for profoundly influencing the nature of community building and youth development.

EDDIE GEORGE is a Running Back who plays with the Tennessee Titans, formerly the Houston Oilers, in the National Football League (NFL). He is widely regarded as one of the NFL's top running backs and has started in every game of his NFL career. In 1996, Mr. George was awarded NFL Rookie-of-the-Year honors by the Professional Football Writers of America, The Sporting News, Sports Illustrated, and Newspaper Enterprise Association. In 1995, he was the recipient of the Heisman Trophy, given to the top player in college football. Mr. George is also an actor who has appeared on CBS's *Nash Bridges*, WB's *In the House* and several commercials including Adidas and Sony Playstation.

ROSS GODWIN recently completed the seventh grade at Westland Middle School in Bethesda, Maryland. This past year, Ross participated in a program called OASIS, in which he taught senior citizens how to use computers and the Internet. An after-school program called Bar-T Kids Club drove Ross to and from the OASIS site so that he could volunteer with the elderly while his mother was still at work. Ross enjoyed this volunteer experience and appreciated the opportunity to give back to the community he feels has given him so much. Many people helped Ross and his family after Ross's father died of cancer when he was three years old. Big Brothers of America was particularly supportive. Ross and his big brother have been together for five years.

JACKIE GREENWOOD, Ed.D., is Principal of Arlington High School in Indianapolis, Indiana. Since 1987, Dr. Greenwood has transformed Arlington High from a school plagued with gang violence and other deviant behavior into an institution that stresses parental and community involvement.

She initiated the Security Dads program at Arlington High, in which volunteer fathers chaperone all of the school's social and athletic events. Security Dads also tutor students, monitor the hallways during class time, plan fund-raisers for college tours and provide annual scholarships for two deserving students. In 1994, Dr. Greenwood and Arlington High School received the U.S. Department of Education's Drug-Free Recognition Award, which was presented by President Clinton. Dr. Greenwood is a member of the Board of Directors of many organizations including the Community Council of Indianapolis and the Center for Leadership Development. Dr. Greenwood has received many awards, including the Touchstone Award from Girls, Incorporated; the B'nai B'rith Isidore Feibleman Award; and the 1995 Indianapolis Education Association's Human Rights Award for Leadership in Education.

FATHER JOSEPH HACALA is Special Assistant for Interfaith and Community Outreach in the Office of the Secretary and Director of the Center for Community and Interfaith Partnership at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Father Hacala also serves on a regular basis at a Jesuit inner-city parish near Capitol Hill. From 1996 to 1997 he was the Frank W. Considine Visiting Professor in Applied Ethics at Loyola University, Chicago. He also served a five-year term as Executive Director of the Campaign for Human Development at the United States Catholic Conference in Washington, D.C. From 1980 to 1984, Father Hacala served as Rector of the Jesuit Community and Adjunct Professor of Sociology at Wheeling Jesuit College in West Virginia. For nine years he was involved in ministry in Appalachia. He is the editor/author of three publications: "Dream of the Mountains' Struggle;" "The Appalachian Pastoral Five Years Later;" "The Appalachian Land Ownership Study: from Colonialism to Stewardship;" and "Empowerment and Hope: 25 Years of Turning Lives Around," as well as a variety of articles.

NEAL HALFON, M.D., MPH, is Professor of Pediatrics in the School of Medicine and Professor of Community Health Sciences in the School of Public Health at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). Dr. Halfon is currently Director of the UCLA Center for Healthier Children, Families and

Communities and Director of the Child and Family Health Program in the School of Public Health at UCLA. He also directs the federally funded Maternal and Child Health Bureau's National Center for Infancy and Early Childhood Health Policy Research. Dr. Halfon has published investigations concerning many childhood health-related topics including immunizations for inner-city children, health care needs of children in foster care, trends in chronic illnesses for children, and the delivery of health care services for children with asthma. Dr. Halfon was recently co-chair of the research agenda setting conference for the Association for Health Services Research. He also serves on the Pediatric Measurement Advisory Panel for the National Committee on Quality Assurance and the Foundation for Accountability.

JANET HARTEY is Executive Director of Coastal Caregivers in Point Pleasant Beach, New Jersey. Coastal Caregivers provides free, supportive home care services to the frail, elderly, disabled and homebound. Ms. Hartey recruits and trains volunteers from a coalition of congregations and communities to help seniors and disabled individuals live independently and safely in their homes. The volunteers have become advocates in the community for those they serve. Ms. Hartey is currently working with public officials on legislation that would provide better protection for seniors receiving volunteer care in New Jersey.

BART HARVEY is Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Enterprise Foundation in Columbia, Maryland. The Foundation works with more than 1,100 nonprofit neighborhood groups in more than 400 locations to give low-income families fit and affordable housing and the opportunity to work themselves up and out of poverty. In order to achieve its goals, the Foundation has committed more than \$3 billion in equity, grants and loans to help produce more than 100,000 units of housing for very low-income families. Mr. Harvey assisted James Rouse on the work of the National Housing Task Force and was appointed to the Mitchell-Danforth Task Force on the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit. He is a member of numerous boards including the Board of Directors of the Enterprise Social Investment Corporation, the Enterprise Development Company, the Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta and the Baltimore Educational Scholarship Trust. Mr. Harvey previously served as Managing Director of Corporate Finance at Dean Witter Reynolds investment bank.

JILL ISCOL, Ed.D., is an activist interested in education, social and economic justice, child and family policy and social change through philanthropy. She serves as a trustee of the Bank Street College of Education, Prep for Prep, Horizon's Student Enrichment Program and is a member of the Advisory Boards of Facing History and Ourselves, the New York Children's Defense Fund, and the Institute on Education and Government of Teachers College, Columbia University, as well as its President's Council. Dr. Iscol is also on the Executive Council of the Northeast Chapter of the Women's Leadership Forum of the Democratic National Committee and is a contributor to the Progressive Policy Institute of the Democratic Leadership Council. Currently, Dr. Iscol is chair of the Annual Family Re-Union Conference in Tennessee which is co-sponsored by the Children, Youth & Family Consortium of the University of Minnesota and the Child and Family Policy Center at Vanderbilt University. The conference is moderated by Vice President Al Gore and Tipper Gore. Dr. Iscol received her doctorate from Teachers College, Columbia University and an A.B.D. in Sociology from Yale. She is a former member of the graduate faculty at Bank Street College and was a co-director of the pre-service program in childhood education at Teachers College, Columbia University.

HARRY R. JACOBSON, M.D., is Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs and Professor of Medicine at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, Tennessee. Dr. Jacobson received his M.D. from the University of Illinois and completed his residency in medicine at Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Jacobson has conducted extensive research on nephrology, contributed to numerous medical textbooks, and edits *The Principles and Practices of Nephrology*.

BILL JOHNSTON is Senior Associate for Police and Community Programming for Facing History and Ourselves in Brookline, Massachusetts. Facing History is a national educational and professional development organization which engages students in examining racism, prejudice and anti-semitism to promote a more humane and informed citizenry. Mr. Johnston has been selected by the Federal Bureau of Investigation to serve throughout the country as a lecturer on civil rights investigations and to teach at the National Academy. He has also trained agents for the Immigration and Naturalization Service as well as the

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. He is the author of the Civil Rights Training Course for the Massachusetts Criminal Justice Training Council, a member of former Governor William Weld's Advisory Council on Hate Crimes, and a past member of the Board of Overseers of Facing History and Ourselves. Mr. Johnston has been the recipient of numerous police and civic awards, including the First Annual Civil Rights Award presented by the International Association of Chiefs of Police in 1997 and the U.S. Department of Justice Award for Outstanding Performance and Invaluable Support presented by U.S. Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights Deval Patrick in 1996. He is also a 31-year veteran of the Boston Police Department who retired with the rank of Deputy Superintendent in July 1997.

GRANTLAND JOHNSON is Secretary of the California Health and Human Services Agency in Sacramento, California, a position he has held since January 1999, when he was appointed by Governor Gray Davis. Mr. Johnson is a member of the Governor's Cabinet and serves as his chief adviser on health, social service, and employment policies. He manages an agency with more than 42,000 employees and a total budget of more than \$48 billion. In 1993, Mr. Johnson was appointed by Federal Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala as regional Director for Region IX of the Department of Health and Human Services. He was elected in 1987 to the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors and served on that board for seven years. From 1983 to 1986, he was a member of the Sacramento City Council.

JAMES JOHNSON is Executive Director of the Mutual Assistance Network (MAN) of Del Paso Heights. Located in Sacramento, California, MAN is a community development agency that has initiated programs to build healthy families, encourage youth development, create businesses and increase employment opportunities in high-risk neighborhoods like Del Paso. Programs initiated by MAN include parent support groups, a block grandparent program, youth support groups, an employment program, job retention services, a contingency loan program, community gardens and a childcare provider network. Mr. Johnson was previously an eligibility worker for Aid to Families with Dependent Children in the Sacramento County Department of Human Assistance.

CAROLE L. KENNEDY is Principal of the John B. Lange Middle School in Columbia, Missouri. She was also recently named Principal-in-Residence at the U.S. Department of Education, where her two-year tenure will begin in July 1999. Ms. Kennedy has been an educator in the Missouri public schools for 36 years, 17 of which she was an elementary school principal and 2 as a middle school principal. Ms. Kennedy served as President of the National Association of Elementary School Principals from 1996 to 1997. She was also a member of the U.S. Department of Education's America Goes Back to School Steering Committee. Ms. Kennedy was named Executive Educator as one of America's 100 Outstanding Education Administrators in 1990. In 1988, she was chosen Missouri's National Distinguished Principal.

LOUIS KING II is President and CEO of Summit Academy OIC, a non-profit, educational and vocational training institute that empowers residents of the Twin Cities to become self-reliant, employed members of their community. Students at Summit Academy learn to create better communities through programs that teach self-sufficiency, responsibility, accountability and leadership. Mr. King is also currently serving a four-year term on the Minneapolis School Board. He previously served in the U.S. Army for 10 years and achieved the rank of Captain.

ABIOLA LANIYA is Coordinator of the Homefriends Program, a child abuse prevention initiative in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In this position, she recruits, trains and supervises older adult mentors who provide weekly counseling and support to families primarily in West and Southwest Philadelphia. She previously worked as the Director of the Supervised Independent Living Program for pregnant and parenting teenagers and supervised Services to Children in Their Own Homes (SCOH) for more than 40 families annually. Ms. Laniya has provided support and services to at-risk youth and families for the past 12 years.

FRANCES LUCERNA, is Founder and Principal of El Puente's Academy for Peace and Justice in the Williamburg neighborhood in Brooklyn, New York. The Academy challenges young people to become artists, educators, scholars, health promoters and leaders rather than treating them as being at risk. Students are also encouraged to return to the community that nurtured and raised them so that they may help another generation. Ms. Lucerna is a

past recipient of the Heinz Award in the Human Condition for profoundly influencing the nature of community building and youth development.

CAMERON MACDONALD is Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Connecticut. Her research interests include all aspects of care work. She co-edited *Working in the Service Society*, an anthology that documents the experiences of service sector workers. Currently, she is completing *Shadow Mothers: Nannies, AuPairs, and the Social Construction of Mothering*, a book on child-care, which will be published by the University of California Press. Over the past two years, she has also created a voluntary network of caregivers to support herself and her husband in his fight against cancer.

RICARDO MARTINEZ, M.D., is Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) in Washington, D.C. He is a board-certified emergency room physician who has dedicated his career to trauma care and automotive injury prevention with an emphasis on children's issues and community health. Dr. Martinez set four specific goals for NHTSA: (1) Make injury prevention the priority; (2) modernize the agency; (3) provide science-based decisions; and (4) streamline the rulemaking process. The agency has since increased productivity, overhauled and reinvented programs and services, expanded its constituency, improved internal and external communications, and dramatically shortened the time for processing rulemakings. Under Dr. Martinez's leadership, the NHTSA has pioneered Safe Communities, a nationwide program that helps communities identify their injury problems, implement solutions, create coalitions and prevent injury to their children and families. Safe Communities has been successful because it joins together law enforcement, the medical community, local governments and safety groups to embrace safety programs that fit the unique customs of the community. Today there are more than 450 Safe Communities, and the goal is to increase the number to 600 by the year 2000.

GREG MASON is a Neighborhood Coordinator for Summit Academy OIC, a non-profit, educational and vocational training institute that empowers residents of the Twin Cities to become self-reliant, employed members of their community. Students at

Summit Academy learn to create better communities through programs that teach self-sufficiency, responsibility, accountability and leadership. Mr. Mason, who describes his previous lifestyle as "inconsistent with community values," became involved with Summit Academy OIC through the Youth Build program. He is a past President of the Academy's Policy Committee, and he is the current coordinator of its summer program. In 1998, he received Summit Academy's Student Leadership Award for the student who best represents the Academy's mission and academic goals.

CHERYL MCAFEE is President of Charles F. McAfee FAIA NOMA PA, Architects, Planners and Program Managers in Atlanta, Georgia, one of the nation's leading architectural design firms. Ms. McAfee is responsible for the company's offices in Georgia, Kansas, Texas and Oklahoma, as well as the firm's international projects. She is also currently developing the firm's regional and national initiatives for housing, community revitalization and assisted living facilities. Among Ms. McAfee's noted accomplishments is her oversight of the planning, design and construction of the Olympic facilities in Atlanta with construction costs of \$650 million. She has been featured in many national magazines and newspapers including *Ebony*, *The New York Times*, *USA Today*, and *The Wall Street Journal*, as well as the noted books *African American Architects in Current Practice* by Jack Travis and *Black Genius* by Dick Russell.

FELICIA MICKLES is a senior at the University of Southwestern Louisiana majoring in Elementary Education and is the mother of a young child. She is a recipient of a Critical Difference Scholarship from the Southern Mutual Help Association. Ms. Mickles has developed and conducted parenting and sex education workshops for young girls. Twenty students have graduated from her program. The workshops are funded by a grant from the Foundation for the Midsouth. Ms. Mickles is a board member of Southern Mutual Housing Development Corporation, an organization that seeks to build rural communities through partnerships and self-development. She is also an active member of the Saints Temple Church of God in Christ. She hopes to receive a master's degree in Administration and become a high school principal.

MICHAEL NOLAN is Founder and President of Kids Corporation, a non-profit that creates and manages after-school, summer and weekend academic programs in Morristown, New Jersey. He is currently developing an educational partnership between local corporations, colleges and non-profits, the Archdiocese of Newark and the Newark New Jersey Public School system. This partnership, known as the Schools of Promise Initiative, utilizes existing resources to provide each child in several public and private schools with five fundamental opportunities: a safe place to learn and grow, a personal ongoing relationship with a caring adult, a healthy start including medical and dental screening, meaningful academic programs, and an opportunity to give back to the community through service. The Initiative, which is supported by Lucent Technologies, Bristol-Myers Squibb and the MCJ Foundation, has already fundamentally changed the relationships between schools, teachers, students and parents in Newark. Mr. Nolan previously taught in the Newark public schools. He is currently a senior partner at Pitney, Hardin, Kipp & Szuch, New Jersey's second largest law firm.

KAREN OLSON is Founder and President of the National Interfaith Hospitality Network in Summit, New Jersey. In 1986, Ms. Olson formed the first Interfaith Hospitality Network, a program that provides shelter, meals and assistance to homeless families. The program mobilizes existing community resources like churches and synagogues for overnight lodging, congregations for volunteers and social service agencies for screening and referrals. Each host congregation furnishes overnight lodging and meals for three to five families for one week every two to three months on a rotating schedule. The goal of the program is to help families regain their independence, and approximately 70 percent of the guests find permanent housing. In 1988, Ms. Olson founded the National Interfaith Hospitality Network to provide technical expertise, educational tools, personal support and a link to other local programs to communities interested in forming their own Network. Currently there are 70 Interfaith Hospitality Networks in 24 states with many more in development. The Networks involve more than 60,000 volunteers and more than 1,200 congregations providing service for more than 12,000 individuals annually. Ms. Olson is a recipient of the New Jersey Governor's Pride Award in Social Service, the Jefferson Award from the

American Institute for Public Service, and the Association for Children of New Jersey Volunteer Award.

J.B. PAYTON is Director of the Martin Luther King Jr. Educational and Cultural Center ("the MLK Center") in Memphis, Tennessee. At the MLK Center individuals are able to take advantage of educational opportunities, as well as receive assistance in other areas such as housing, income supplement for utilities, psychological intervention for domestic violence, and parenting classes. The Center's programs and services include: adult basic education, a mentoring program for 9- to-12-year-old male students, a homeless assistance program, classes in visual and performance arts, teen childbirth classes, and a one-room drop-in school. During the 30 years that Mr. Payton has worked for the Memphis City School System, he has also served as Assistant Principal at Kansas Vocational Technical Center and Guidance Counselor at Southwest Vocational Technical Center. He has received numerous awards and honors from governmental and community leaders and organizations.

MOISES PEREZ is Founder and Executive Director of Alianza Dominicana, Inc. (ADI), a multiservice, community-based organization for children, youth and families. With a staff of 150, ADI has evolved into one of the largest and most comprehensive community development organizations in north Manhattan, New York. ADI offers a wide range of programs and services including: La Familia Unida Daycare and After School Program; the Center for Employment and Training; the Center for Rehabilitation, Education, and Orientation; and the Family Assistance Program. Mr. Perez has also played a founding role in several other organizations: The Door - A Center of Alternatives for Youth, El Puente, and City as School, an alternative high school of the New York City Board of Education. Mr. Perez was one of 12 National Urban League George Edmund Haynes Fellows, an 18-month fellowship created by Vernon Jordon to train young leaders in community work. He has also received numerous awards including the Governor's Award for Hispanic Americans of Distinction and the Ellen Lurie Award for Community Service.

RHONDA PHILLIPPI, R.N., is Tennessee's Statewide Project Coordinator for Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMS-C) and was recently appointed Assistant in Pediatrics at Vanderbilt Children's Hospital in Nashville. Tennessee EMS-C is part of a national initiative designed to reduce child and youth disability and death due to severe illness or injury. Tennessee is the only state in the nation to enact legislation requiring appropriate pediatric education and equipment requirements for emergency departments and pre-hospital providers. One of Ms. Phillippi's two sons has developmental disabilities and has benefited from the system of enhanced emergency medical services for children system. Ms. Phillippi was honored as the Tennessee Rural Health Association's 1998 Presidential Award recipient and is also active in the state and local PTA organizations.

ELIZABETH PLATER-ZYBERK is Co-founder and Principal of Duany Plater-Zyberk & Company and Dean of the University of Miami School of Architecture. She is also the Director of the Center for Urban and Community Design at the University of Miami. The firm of Duany Plater-Zyberk has designed nearly 200 urban and architectural projects. In addition to receiving more than 30 awards and honors from professional journals, government organizations, and universities, the firm has been recognized with 20 national, state and regional awards from the American Institute of Architects. Ms. Plater-Zyberk is a founding member and Chair of the Board of Directors of the Congress for the New Urbanism. She was instrumental in the creation of the Traditional Neighborhood Development Ordinance, a prescription for compact, mixed-use, and pedestrian-oriented urban growth that offers an antidote to suburban sprawl. Ms. Plater-Zyberk is also a Trustee of Princeton University.

ENID RAY is a Program Officer at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving in Hartford, Connecticut. The Brighter Futures Initiative of the Hartford Foundation supported the creation of four parent-designed neighborhood Family Centers. The Foundation provided parents with sufficient resources to create neighborhood Family Centers by initially investing in parents and not in community-based organizations. At the beginning of the project, parents from four Hartford neighborhoods crafted neighborhood plans for Family Centers that were designed to enrich the

community and help parents prepare their children for school. The project created a direct link between the funding community and parents by giving parents support and resources to make informed decisions about programs that affect their children and themselves. Ms. Ray is a bilingual/bicultural Puertorriquena who was raised in the same neighborhoods where she now provides technical assistance to families planning neighborhood family support centers.

DEBORAH REEVE, Ed.D., is Associate Executive Director for Development and Special Projects for the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP). NAESP is a 28,500-member professional organization that represents principals serving more than 33 million children in our nation's elementary and middle schools. Dr. Reeve directs the development of strategic alliances with corporations, foundations and governmental agencies, the administration of association and foundation grants, and the planning and development of new initiatives that directly contribute to the growth and prosperity of the Association. Dr. Reeve has been an educator for more than 20 years. Her teaching experiences range from pre-kindergarten through the high school level and she held an adjunct faculty position in the graduate school at Lesley College in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Dr. Reeve serves as a member of President Clinton's Coalition for America Reads, the U.S. Department of Education's Coalition for Family Involvement, and the Task Force on Early Learning and the Arts.

KEITH RICHARDSON is a Community-Builder Fellow at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in Knoxville, Tennessee, a position he has held since October 1998. Mr. Richardson previously served as Executive Director of the Partnership for Neighborhood Improvement (PNI), an organization that addresses issues challenging Knoxville's low-income neighborhoods such as affordable housing, crime, violence, substance abuse and living wages. Under Mr. Richardson's leadership, PNI identified the benchmarks of healthy neighborhoods and expanded and created a variety of public and private resources to invest in Knoxville's inner city. As a result, HUD selected Knoxville as one of 15 Urban Empowerment Zones to receive \$100 million over the next 10 years. Mr. Richardson also

previously directed an inter-faith center for the homeless, worked as a private consultant in housing and corrections, directed an inner-city neighborhood revitalization program, and served as a housing specialist for a regional planning agency. He has served on the Boards of Directors of many community agencies including Catholic Charities and AIDS Housing Authority.

REVEREND GENE RIVERS III is Pastor of the Azusa Christian Community in Four Corners, an inner-city section of Boston, Massachusetts and Director of the Ella J. Baker House. He is the author of the Ten Point Plan for a National Church Mobilization to Combat Black-On-Black Violence and a co-founder of the internationally recognized Boston Ten Point Coalition. As co-chair of the National Ten Point Leadership Foundation, he is currently working to cultivate new grassroots church leadership in 40 of the most violent inner-city neighborhoods in the country by 2006. Reverend Rivers is also working with the World Council of Churches Program to Overcome Violence to adapt the U.S. violence prevention model to local conditions in various international cities. He is a contributing editor to Sojourners magazine and the author of two forthcoming collections of essays titled "On the Responsibility of Intellectuals in the Age of Crack" and "Beyond the Nationalism of Fools: A Manifesto for a New Black Movement."

ARIELA RODRIGUEZ, Ph.D., is Director of Health and Social Services at Little Havana Activities & Nutrition Centers of Dade County, Inc., in Miami, Florida. The Little Havana Activities and Nutrition Centers offer intergenerational programs that serve elderly persons and their families through 17 multipurpose neighborhood senior centers, four adult day-care facilities, a health care facility, two intergenerational pre-school centers, and an employment case management and resource service. As Director, Dr. Rodriguez has participated in national, state, and local health and social services-related task forces. She has also alerted communities and legislators to the deleterious consequences of legislation such as Welfare reform and immigration reform. Dr. Rodriguez previously worked as a Family Counselor for the Neonatal Intensive Nursery Unit of an urban hospital in Orlando, Florida. Her work experience spans the life cycle from preemies and their families to frail elderly persons and their caregivers.

MADELINE ROGERO is Executive Director of Knoxville's Promise - The Alliance for Youth in Knoxville, Tennessee. Knoxville's Promise is an initiative to mobilize community assets to help provide the five fundamental resources identified by America's Promise, the organization created under the leadership of retired U.S. Army General Colin Powell. Those five resources are: an ongoing relationship with a caring adult; safe places and structured activities during non-school hours; a healthy start; a marketable skill through effective education; and an opportunity to give back through community service. Knoxville's Promise hopes to reach 2,000 local children with new resources by the end of the year 2000. Ms. Rogero has worked for non-profits and foundations on children's issues and community development for 25 years. Most recently she served as Executive Director of the Dollywood Foundation (Dolly Parton's foundation in Sevier County, Tennessee) and as Executive Director of the Community Partnership Center at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Ms. Rogero was elected to Knox County Commission and served two terms from 1990 to 1998.

ROBERT ROSS, M.D., is Director of the San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency which serves children, families and the veteran community. Current agency initiatives include the planning and implementation of the County's Welfare Reform Strategic Plan, integration of health and human service delivery for children and families, the implementation of a managed care delivery model for Medi-Cal recipients, and child abuse prevention through home visiting. Dr. Ross previously served as Commissioner of the Philadelphia Department of Public Health. As Commissioner, he created the Division of Health Promotion and Disease Prevention, institutionalized the "Philadelphia Injury Prevention Program" and co-founded Operation Peace, a violence prevention effort. Dr. Ross is a board member of the California Endowment, the United Way, and the National Conference.

JUDGE ANDY SHOOKHOFF is Associate Director of the Child and Family Policy Center at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee. He previously served as the Juvenile Court Judge of Davidson County, Tennessee, from 1990 to 1998. Under Judge Shookhoff's stewardship the Juvenile Court implemented a neighborhood-based probation program, developed a nationally recognized early truancy intervention program, introduced family

group conferencing, and constructed the new Davidson County Juvenile Justice Center. Judge Shookhoff directed the Juvenile Law Clinic at Vanderbilt Law School from 1980 to 1990. Before 1980, he was an attorney for the Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee. He was one of 10 people appointed by President Clinton to serve on the National Commission on Crime Control and Prevention. He was also appointed by Nashville Mayor Phil Bredesen to serve on the Mayor's Crime Commission.

RODNEY SLATER is U.S. Secretary of Transportation, a position he has held since February 1997. Secretary Slater oversees a department that has 100,000 employees and a budget of more than \$40 billion. He believes that "transportation is about more than concrete, asphalt, and steel. It is truly about people and providing them the opportunity to be successful and responsible individuals." Under Secretary Slater's leadership, the Department of Transportation developed a strategic plan that Congress rated the best among all federal agencies. He also worked with Congress to increase investments in infrastructure by 12 percent in fiscal 1998, to the highest levels in history. In Secretary Slater's first year, the Department helped 600 million people fly, had 100 miles of transit lines under construction; repaired thousand's of America's bridges, acted aggressively to improve the safety of America's rail system and averted a strike by Amtrak, initiated a program to get all Americans to buckle seat belts, and saved more than 5,000 lives at sea. He is currently working to ensure that former Welfare recipients have public transportation to get to their new jobs. Secretary Slater also recently launched the Garrett A. Morgan Technology and Transportation Futures Program, aimed at attracting a million youths into careers in transportation. Before becoming Secretary of Transportation, he was Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration. Secretary Slater has received numerous awards and honors in recent years, including, in 1999, an Honorary Doctorate from Howard University, the Albert Schweitzer Leadership Award, and the Lamplighter Award for Public Service from the Black Leadership Forum.

JOSE SZAPOCZNIK, M.D., is Director of the Center for Family Studies and the Spanish Family Guidance Center at the University of Miami School of Medicine. He is Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences (School of Medicine), Psychology (School of Arts and Sciences), and Counseling Psychology and Educational Research (School of Education) all at

the University of Miami. His accomplishments over the past 25 years include: service to more than 25,000 minority families in Miami-Dade County; direction of the Spanish Family Guidance Center/Center for Family Studies, a major program of intervention, research and student training with minority families; and principal investigator on more than 30 different competitive research grants. Dr. Szapocznik has developed theoretically based interventions specifically targeted at overcoming culturally related stressors in Hispanic immigrants. A current area of study is the interrelationship between the built environment, the role of neighborhoods, block level social processes, and their impact on parents' ability to be effective family leaders.

CAL TURNER is Chairman, President, and CEO of the Dollar General Corporation, a chain of 3,595 neighborhood stores with 43,000 employees in 24 states, headquartered in Nashville, Tennessee. Mr. Turner has initiated a wide variety of education and literacy programs throughout his stores, including GED and Learn-to-Read programs. As a result, he received the Presidential Award for Private Sector Initiative in 1988. Mr. Turner also serves on the Board of Directors of a number of civic and charitable organizations and has received awards for his contributions in management and community service.

ELIZABETH VALDEZ, M.D., is the Founder, President and CEO of Concilio Latino de Salud, Inc., a non-profit, community-based organization dedicated to improving the overall health of the Hispanic/Latino community in Maricopa County, Arizona. She is also co-founder of Cultural Communities United in Health and Wellness. Dr. Valdez previously served as Hispanic Health Consultant for Maricopa County Public Health Services for more than 10 years where she was known for her expertise in community mobilization and coalition building. Dr. Valdez is one of 12 members of the Women & Life Stress - Technical Effort Group of the National Women's Resource Center for the Prevention & Treatment of Alcohol, Tobacco, & Other Drug Abuse & Mental Illness. She serves on the Board of Directors of many organizations including Planned Parenthood of Central Arizona and the American Red Cross, Central Arizona Chapter.

ANTHONY WALLACE is President of Security Dads, a program in Indianapolis, Indiana, that organizes fathers to attend and provide a visible parental presence at school-sponsored

sporting events, dances, parties and other student activities. The program was founded by Mr. Wallace's wife, Linda, to involve more fathers in school activities by giving them a specific role. Volunteer fathers attend school events wearing a Security Dads T-shirt, walk around and talk to the students. Typically about two dozen Security Dads attend the events at Arlington High School in Indianapolis. Their presence discourages inappropriate behavior and increases security, and students often approach them for advice or to talk about problems in their lives. The volunteers are also examples to the community of caring, involved fathers. In addition to his work with Security Dads, Mr. Wallace works 12-hour-a-day shifts at the White River Environmental Partnership, where he has been employed for 18 years.

JOHN WARDLAW is Executive Director of the Housing Authority of the City of Hartford, Connecticut, a position he has held since 1977. During the many years that Mr. Wardlaw has been Director of the Authority, he has learned that reuniting the family is central to public housing's mission of helping rather than hurting people. As a result, Mr. Wardlaw recently established a "Family Investment Center" in one of the Authority's largest developments. In response to the Million Man March and in the belief that the absence of the father in a family is the root of many social ills, the Authority also developed a Family Reunification Program, which calls upon fathers to be responsible and holds them contractually accountable for providing for their families. The Authority seeks to redevelop each of its public housing units by the year 2000. Over 2,200 units of obsolete public housing have already been deconstructed or decommissioned in the last 30 months. A growing number of new and significantly remodeled single-family and duplex homes are taking their place. Under Mr. Wardlaw's direction, the Hartford Housing Authority has joined the elite rank of HUD's "high performers" and ranks among the very best managed authorities in the nation.

JOE WYATT is the Chancellor of Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn., and has been Chief Executive Officer since 1982. He has served as Chairman of the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce, and sits on the boards of Sonat Corporation, the Universities Research Association, Advanced Network & Services, Inc., Ingram Micro, and the Reynolds Metals Company. He is co-author of a book titled Financial Planning Models and the

author of numerous papers and articles in fields relating to technology, management and education. Mr. Wyatt has received numerous awards and honors, including the Governor's Outstanding Tennessean Award.

LILY YEH is an internationally celebrated artist and the Executive Director of the Village of Arts and Humanities in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She was born in China and studied classical Chinese landscape painting in Taiwan. Over the past 13 years, Ms. Yeh has established the Village of Arts and Humanities on the site of a previously abandoned lot in Philadelphia. Most of the public art in the village has been created by other artists and community residents under the guidance of Ms. Yeh's vision and sensibility. She has transformed urban blight into beauty, hope and urban renewal. From 1993 to the present, Ms. Yeh has been working with people living in Korogocho, a settlement near a huge garbage dump on the outskirts of Nairobi. During her residency in Korogocho, Ms. Yeh converted a barren and dusty church and schoolyard into a colorful garden of painted and sculpted angels and flowers. In 1999, Ms. Yeh will be traveling to Dzegvi village near Tbilisi in the Georgian Republic to conduct workshops for 110 street children. In June, she will travel to Matera, Italy, to conduct workshops for children who used to live in the ancient caves in Sassi. Ms. Yeh has received many awards, including a Pew Fellowship in the Arts in 1992 and a Lila Wallace-Arts International Fellowship in 1993.

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The University of Minnesota's Children, Youth & Family Consortium is a catalyst for university-community partnerships across a wide range of children, youth and family issues. Through symposia, cross-disciplinary education, publications, innovative use of technology, and ongoing grassroots initiative, the Consortium supports communities in addressing their needs and concerns about children and families. The Consortium ensures that communities gain easy access to the latest research and, equally important, that academic teaching and research are informed by the rich knowledge and experience of practitioners and concerned citizens in local communities.

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The Vanderbilt Institute for Public Policy Studies created the Child and Family Policy Center in 1996 to assist policymakers in developing state and local strategies to meet the challenges of children and families. The Center has developed national visibility through its work with the Danforth Foundation's Policymakers' Program and co-sponsorship of the Family Re-Union conferences. The Center is regularly involved in programs sponsored by the National Conference of State Legislatures and the national Governors' Association, and it provides training and technical assistance to states and local communities interested in developing programs and policies to benefit children and families.

