FAMILY VOICES

OUR MISSION
Family Voices aims to achieve family-centered care for all children and youth with special health care needs and/or disabilities.

Through our national network, we provide families tools to make informed decisions, advocate for improved public and private policies, build partnerships among professionals and families, and serve as a trusted resource on health care.

OUR VISION
Every child and youth with special needs receives family-centered care.

ASSOCIATION OF MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH PROGRAMS (AMCHP)

OUR MISSION
AMCHP supports state maternal and child health programs and provides national leadership on issues affecting women and children.

OUR VISION
AMCHP envisions a society where healthy children and healthy families live in healthy communities. AMCHP embraces these core values as part of its vision: leadership; social justice; diversity; equity; integrity; partnership & empowerment; and honesty.
“Leadership is much more an art, a belief, a condition of the heart, than a set of things to do. The visible signs of artful leadership are expressed, ultimately, in its practice.”

Max Depree

Welcome to “A Legacy of Leadership.”

Tonight we celebrate a Legacy of Leadership by honoring the work of two individuals whose commitment to improving healthcare for children has served as an inspiration for family leaders and professional partners alike.

Polly Arango, our dear friend and co-founder of Family Voices, was a proponent of family-centered care and advocated for a significant role for parents in designing and delivering services for children. Polly dedicated her life’s work to ensuring that children and families remain at the center of healthcare. Upon her untimely passing in June 2010, she has left behind a legacy of compassion and commitment to working on behalf of the most vulnerable in our society.

Representative John Dingell (MI) has also dedicated his professional life to serving children and families. His ultimate goal is to ensure access to quality, affordable health care for every American, and as a result has sponsored healthcare legislation every year since he first joined Congress in 1955. Family Voices and AMCHP truly appreciate John’s steadfast commitment to public service and healthcare reform.

We also honor YOU, family leaders and advocates in the states who continue to provide invaluable family-to-family support, timely resources and quality information to other families who must navigate a complex health care system. You are helping keep families at the center of children’s healthcare, where we belong!

Our children’s future health and prosperity is directly dependent upon the work we do today. Polly Arango and Representative John Dingell exemplify artful leadership, and tonight we celebrate their contributions. Their dedication and unwavering support for our children has made the world a better place, and their work will continue to inspire the future leaders in our movement.

On behalf of Family Voices and AMCHP, we hope you enjoy yourselves and are inspired as we are by “A Legacy of Leadership.”

Sophie Arao-Nguyen, PhD
Executive Director
Family Voices, Inc.

Ruth R. Walden
President, Board of Directors
Family Voices, Inc.

Michael R. Fraser, PhD, CAE
Chief Executive Officer, AMCHP

Phyllis Sloyer, RN, PhD, FAAP
President, AMCHP
POLLY ARANGO

Polly Arango is remembered as a passionate, visionary, persistent, powerful, humble, and tireless mother, grandmother, advocate, mentor and friend whose belief in the power of community was exemplified in her lifetime of work for families and children. In the late 1960’s, while in the Peace Corps with her husband John, Polly began her career as an advocate for children, working to place Ecuadorian orphans with families in the United States and in Europe. Once back in the states with her family, including her adopted son, Nicolas, who was found to have a severe developmental disability, Polly focused on ensuring that children and youth with special health care needs had full access to education and health care. A natural leader and organizer, Polly, along with Sallie VanCuren, Loretta Armenta and others, co-founded Parents Reaching Out (PRO) in NM.

When the Clinton Health Reform effort failed to take account of the needs of children with disabilities, Polly, Julie Beckett, Josie Wohl, and a group of advocates from around the country founded Family Voices to improve access and quality of health care for children with special health care needs and disabilities. Polly served as the first Executive Director of Family Voices. She worked closely with family leaders and elected officials in New Mexico and throughout the country and the world. She counted officials within the federal Health and Human Services Administration as colleagues and friends as together they promoted and advanced the concepts of family/professional partnerships, family-centered care and the medical home. Polly co-authored articles, chapters and books and was sought after to speak on issues affecting all children. In all her work, Polly advocated for a significant role for parents in designing and delivering services for children and for reasonableness and transparency in government. As we honor and celebrate Polly's legacy of leadership this evening, her words continue to resonate with us—

"Let us remember as each of us makes decisions that will affect children—whether we are parents, educators, health professionals, or government officials—-it is our duty to consider if that decision either affirms or denies a child’s most basic human rights."
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT HONOREE

The longest-serving Member in the history of the US House of Representatives, Congressman John D. Dingell has represented Michigan’s 15th Congressional District since 1955, following his father’s death while still a Member of the US House of Representatives. Representative Dingell is the Chairman Emeritus of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, one of five ‘exclusive’ committees in the U.S. House. During the 111th Congress, Dingell had the lead role in crafting national health insurance legislation. His work includes fighting for the working families that keep America's economy going, including making health care more affordable and accessible to all families and protecting our nation’s natural heritage.

Over the last five decades, Congressman Dingell has written some of the best-known laws protecting our health and our environment, as well as the rights of workers and consumers. One notable example is the 1990 Clean Air Act, credited with cleaning up the air we breathe while still preserving American competitiveness. Congressman Dingell has fought for the passage of laws that address America’s most pressing needs, such as the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and the Mammography Quality Standards Act.

Congressman Dingell has long been a strong proponent of a patients’ bill of rights, including the formal statement included in the recent health care reform law, helping ensure that patients’ care is in the hands of doctors rather than HMOs and insurance companies. Representative John Dingell remains a tireless advocate for affordable health care for children and families, and this evening we honor him.
Since 2008, AMCHP has presented the Merle McPherson Award, developed to honor retired visionary MCHB leader, Dr. Merle McPherson, who led the way in creating a new model of family-centered health care delivery for children and youth with special health care needs, and expanded the model internationally. This award is presented to a deserving family leader or professional who has demonstrated leadership in promoting and advancing family involvement in state MCH programs and/or AMCHP, and who has actively contributed to AMCHP and the organization’s efforts to advance the inclusion of families. Past award recipients include: Bob Cook (2008); Ruth Walden (2009); and Susan Colburn (2010).

This year, in lieu of honoring an individual, AMCHP recognizes all family leaders for their hard work on behalf of women, children and families. Without their commitment to and passion for improving systems of care, maternal and child health would not have advanced as significantly as it has over the last 75 years. We are honored to include families as partners in our work, and this evening we thank you for your efforts and dedication.
PROGRAM

6:30 pm  Cocktails* & Gallery Show

7:00 pm  Welcome
Merle McPherson, MD, Emcee
Sophie Arao-Nguyen, PhD,
Executive Director, Family Voices
Michael Fraser, PhD, CAE,
Chief Executive Officer, AMCHP

Dinner

Presentation of the Family Voices Lifetime Achievement Award
Representative John Dingell (MI),
presented by Dianna Rigato

Presentation of the Family Voices and AMCHP Legacy of Leadership Award
Polly Arango, posthumously, presented by
Sophie Arao-Nguyen

Presentation of the AMCHP Merle McPherson Family Leadership Award
Family leaders, presented by Michael Fraser

9:20 pm  Program Close
Merle McPherson, Emcee
Ruth Walden, Family Voices Board President
Phyllis Sloyer, RN, PhD, President, AMCHP

*Cash bar will be open from 6:30-9:30 pm.
A longtime advocate for family-centered care and children and families, Dr. Merle McPherson, the former Director of the Division of Services for CYSHCN, MCHB, HRSA, DHHS, remains committed to improving services for children and families. Merle's career focused upon children and families, particularly upon those with special health care needs, and her interest continues.

Since retirement Dr. McPherson has maintained contacts with her professional colleagues at AAP and AMCHP as well as foundations and other children's organizations. A friend of Family Voices for many years, Merle currently serves on the Family Voices Board of Directors. During her tenure on the Family Voices Board of Directors Merle would like to increase Family Voices' leadership in moving research and policy to the service level. Merle lives in Arlington, Virginia, where she was active in the development of the Arlington Pediatric Center which serves underinsured and uninsured children, and she remains a very active supporter of the center.

Merle fully supports the “every child deserves a medical home” initiative, and she continues to work towards the implementation of a model of family-centered, culturally competent, community-based comprehensive care. At this very moment in America, Merle's passion is to expand and strengthen the health care service system for all children and their families so that it is universal, equitable and sustainable. We are honored to have Merle share this special evening with us!
DIANNA RIGATO

If you want to know how tenacious Dianna Rigato is, consider this: she has six daughters and eleven grandchildren. Dianna first became involved as a health advocate when her daughter, Didi, was diagnosed with seizures at age two, and then with brain cancer at age six. Later, a series of strokes left Didi more and more dependent. Dianna jumped in with both feet, working hard to connect people to necessary resources and in creating and sustaining peer support for grandparents, siblings and other family members who may be overlooked.

One might draw a natural conclusion that people in Michigan’s 15th district are just like that. Dianna has been a constituent of Congressman John Dingell since 1966. He’s a pretty tenacious guy, too. Dianna is especially proud to be represented in Congress by the man who introduced health care reform legislation every single year since he took office in 1955.

SOPHIE ARAO-NGUYEN, PhD

Sophie Arao-Nguyen, PhD, Executive Director, Family Voices, is a parent of two young adults with ADHD and Autism. She has been the Executive Director of Family Voices, Inc. since 2007. She completed her PhD in Transpersonal Psychology at the Institute of Transpersonal Psychology (ITP) in 1996, and continues to serve as an adjunct research faculty member at ITP. Since 1978, Sophie has worked as a cultural competency and organizational development consultant to various programs and industries. Sophie’s work experience includes serving as Director of Satellite Services, Training & Technical Assistance for Parents Helping Parents (PHP) in California. She also served as the Executive Director of the Filipino Youth Coalition, Inc. (FYC, Inc.), a non-profit agency whose mission is to work with high-risk youth and their families in various high schools in Santa Clara County, CA. Prior to her work as the ED of Family Voices, Sophie worked as the Clinical Supervisor for Asian American Recovery Services, Inc. in the Bay Area. Leading by example, Sophie has worked to see that Family Voices reaches the next level—developing a strong, field-based organizational infrastructure, and building upon current and future partnerships to ensure that families and children remain at the center of health care. Her focus has been to oversee the implementation of Family Voices’ four strategic directions for the period 2008 to 2011.
MICHAEL R. FRASER, PhD

Michael Fraser, PhD, CAE, Chief Executive Officer, Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs, has over 14 years of public health agency and national association experience supporting and serving Federal, state, and local public health agencies. Dr. Fraser has served as the Chief Executive Officer of the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs in Washington, DC, since August, 2007. He received his doctorate in sociology from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst in May, 1997. Prior to joining AMCHP, Dr. Fraser was the Deputy Executive Director of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) from 2002 to 2007. He has also worked as a Regional Program Manager with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), a Senior Staff Fellow at the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), and a Senior Research Analyst and Program Manager with NACCHO. In 2009, he received a “Young and Aspiring CEO” award from Association Trends magazine and in 2010 he earned his Certified Association Executive (CAE) credential. During his tenure, AMCHP has been nationally recognized for its work in supporting state maternal and child health programs, most recently by receiving the Maternal and Child Health Bureau’s Director’s Award in October, 2010 and the American Public Health Association’s MCH Section “Outstanding Leadership and Advocacy” award in November, 2010.
When George S. Patton, Jr. was growing up, his identification as a mentally challenged individual seemed to defer ambitions for future success in life. Comparisons to his famous grandfather of the same name were inevitable, but George, a self-starter from the beginning, soon gave evidence that he would find his own strengths and would learn to excel in them.

Over the years, George has built on his interests and talents in many ways. Several years ago, encouraged by art teachers in the Northeast Arc programs and through the group, Special Friends, that is sponsored by Community Services of Hamilton and Wenham, Inc., George began exploring another interest: painting. While his work was on display with other special needs artists at Rotary Club exhibitions in Massachusetts, he came to the attention of artist, author, and teacher, Lenice Strohmeier, who invited George to begin formal lessons under her tutelage.

George is an exhibiting member of the Guild of Beverly artists and in the 2003 GBA Spring Show he won an Honorable mention Award in the watercolor division. He has been a member of the ArcWorks guild since its inception in 2004.
CONTRIBUTING ARTISTS

Richard Sasnett, “Meadow Flowers”

Richard is a man who likes to dream; a man who even when the possibilities have seemed limited for him, still saw them in his own mind. He has dreamed of racing cars, flying planes, and sailing boats with the sky and sparkling water all around him. A couple of years ago, Richard discovered painting on canvas, and with a paint brush in hand, has found a way to experience those dreams and to share them with others. He has perfected a careful style that builds layers of color. You can readily see in his paintings the peace that he has found in his art form. Aside from the local area and Florida, his art and art prints have found homes in Texas, Michigan, and England.

Jalyn Bishop Weston, “Breaking Tradition”

Jalyn is an 8 year old 3rd grader living with autism in Sweetwater, TN. He began drawing prior to his second birthday and continues to experiment with markers, watercolor, acrylics, pastels, and more recently clay and ink.

Jalyn loves cartoons and created the Superhero Jalyn, an alter ego for himself who is depicted in many of his drawings and stories. He also loves dinosaurs and reads everything about them, incorporating descriptions and theories into his drawings while dreaming of becoming a paleontologist.

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SPECIAL THANKS

Family Voices and AMCHP extend a heartfelt thank you to the Artists at the ARTiculate Gallery and Studios, a program at Very Special Arts Washington, DC, that serves youth and young adults with disabilities. The artwork is a beautiful addition to a wonderful celebration of children and families.

VSA DC's ARTiculate Employment Training Program provides arts-infused programs and services for individuals with disabilities and other special needs and is designed to develop vocational, social and life-management skills. The goal of ARTiculate is to increase participants’ independence, productivity and inclusion into their communities through creative learning activities and integrate adult education with art experiences. The focus of ARTiculate’s services is on developing social and life skills and employment readiness, and on assisting participants in gaining a greater sense of self-awareness, social esteem, and creative potential.
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Jonathan Bates
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Carolyn Richardson
I honor Whitney, Alex, Moses, Cj, Jenny, Cara, Steven and their families who taught me, a young teacher, so much. I celebrate my two girls, Diana and Carolina, and Carlos who continue to teach and inspire me.

With love, Karen

Dedicated to all Children with Special Health Care Needs

Amber, Ryan and Elise Lindig

Move-in Day for Micah at Oakland University January 2010! Honoring all those who participated in the 504 sit-in at the federal HEW building in California for 28 days in April 1977 to ensure that Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act was enacted. Because of their vision and persistence, thousands of people have benefited, including Micah! Lead On! To read more about both events: www.throughthesamedoor.com and http://www.dread.org/504site/504home.html.

Ryan P. and Ryan C. were friends for life! Proverbs 17:17 “A friend loves at all times.”
THANK YOU
FAMILY VOICES AND AMCHP,
FOR ALL YOU DO
TO KEEP CHILDREN HEALTHY AND FAMILIES STRONG.

Institute for Healthcare Improvement

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www.IHI.org
Polly Arango, Rep. John Dingell
and all Family Leaders!

Thank you for your dedication,
service and advocacy over the years.

The Family Voices Board congratulates Polly Arango, Rep. John Dingell and all Family Leaders! Thank you for your dedication, service and advocacy over the years.

We are pleased to honor you!

Pachamama joins Family Voices and AMCHP in celebrating A Legacy of Leadership and salutes your advocacy, dedication and service on behalf of women, children and families.