



THE NEW YORK STATE CITIZENS' COALITION FOR CHILDREN, INC.

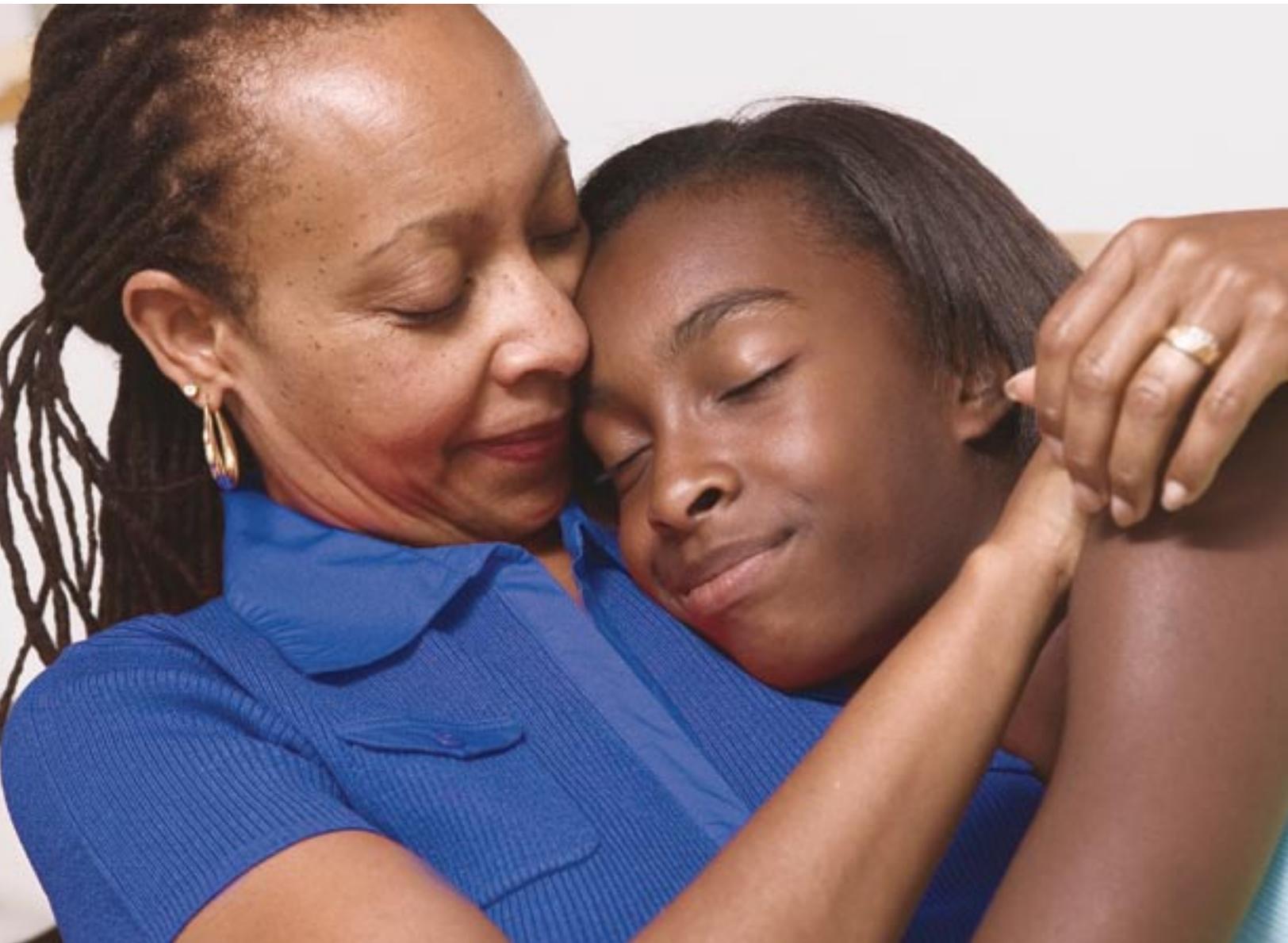
P R E S E N T S

# ADOPTION 2006

## *There's No Place Like Home*

**MAY 11-13, 2006** / MARRIOTT HOTEL / ALBANY, NY

**FEATURING** / RUTH G. McROY / PAT O'BRIEN / HOLLY VAN GULDEN



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## ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The theme of our 17<sup>th</sup> annual statewide conference, *There's No Place Like Home*, is intended to emphasize the importance of home to *every* waiting child, whatever their special needs, history, circumstances, and no matter how old they are. A permanent, nurturing home with a parent or two to love them unconditionally and throughout their lives is the right of all children. Our plenary speakers and all of the workshop presenters have been selected because of their knowledge and expertise and because they too share the belief that there's no place like home for *every* child.

The conference will feature a half-day Institute on Thursday afternoon presented by Kevin Campbell, an expert in locating relatives and others who have a connection to foster care children and youth. (See page 6 for Institute description.)

Plenary addresses will be presented by nationally known speakers Ruth McRoy, Pat O'Brien, and Holly van Gulden. The conference also features 30 workshops delivered by experts in child welfare and related fields. On Friday evening, a film from the award winning MTV *True Life* series, "I Have Gay Parents," will be featured with a discussion following.

All who can benefit from up-to-date information on the most important issues in adoption today are urged to attend. The conference will provide you with renewed energy and the tools to better serve adoptive and foster children and their families.

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## ACCOMMODATIONS

The conference will be held at the Marriott Hotel in Albany, NY. To make your reservation, use the reservation form included, or telephone the hotel. If you call for reservations, be sure to identify yourself as part of the CCC Adoption Conference so that you will receive the special conference rate of \$101 plus applicable taxes. This rate is available for May 10-14, 2006.

The Marriott Hotel is adjacent to Interstate 87 near Exit 4, two minutes from the I-87/I-90 interchange, and six miles from downtown Albany.

We urge you to make reservations immediately! *Reservations must be received by the hotel no later than April 21, 2006.* Reservations made after April 21 are subject to availability only.

**ALBANY MARRIOTT HOTEL** • 189 Wolf Road • Albany, NY 12205 • 518-458-8444 • 800-443-8952

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## USEFUL INFORMATION

- Extra copies of the conference brochure are available from the Coalition office or online at <www.nysccc.org>.
- If you attend the conference with a friend, spouse or colleague, consider attending different workshops in order to multiply conference benefits.
- Temperature in conference rooms can vary, so be sure to bring a sweater or jacket to ensure your comfort.
- A limited number of exhibit tables are available. There will also be tables available to display free resource materials. Contact the Coalition office for details regarding reservations and fees.
- The conference will feature a large adoption and foster care bookstore plus sales of many popular CCC items. VISA, MasterCard, and American Express credit cards are welcome.
- Attendees will have the opportunity to purchase raffle tickets for an original quilted wall hanging designed especially for the conference and donated by award winning fabric artist Aafke Steenhuis of Ithaca, NY.
- Continuing Education credit is available for \$15. See the Registration Form for details.
- Audiotapes of conference proceedings will be for sale at the conference and afterwards. The recordings provide an excellent opportunity to "attend" all of the workshops and to share the information with others.
- Door prizes will be awarded at the closing session! You must be present to win.

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## ABOUT THE COALITION

The New York State Citizens' Coalition for Children is an advocacy organization of concerned individuals, agencies, and nearly 140 adoptive and foster parent groups and associations throughout the state. We represent the citizen's viewpoint and speak for the children who have no voice. We believe *every* child has the right to a permanent, loving family. Our activities include:

- adoption and foster care reform
- administrative and legislative advocacy
- parent group development and support
- information and referral services
- education and training



**NYS CITIZENS' COALITION FOR CHILDREN, INC.**

Judith Ashton, *Executive Director*  
410 East Upland Road, Ithaca, NY 14850  
607-272-0034 • Fax 607-272-0035  
office@nysccc.org • www.nysccc.org

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## FEATURED SPEAKERS

**RUTH G. McROY, PHD**, is a Research Professor and the Ruby Lee Piester Centennial Professor Emeritus at the University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work. Until her retirement in 2005, she was a member of the UT Academy of Distinguished Professors. During her 25 years on the UT faculty, she held a joint appointment with the Center for African and African American Studies. Author of many influential books and articles and an internationally known consultant on adoption issues, Dr. McRoy is also the recipient of numerous prestigious awards for excellence.

**PAT O'BRIEN, MSW**, is an adoptive parent and the founder and Executive Director of You Gotta Believe! The Older Child Permanency Movement, a Brooklyn agency that exclusively places foster children aged 10 and over for adoption. Pat received his MSW degree from Columbia University School of Social Work. He has worked for over 15 years to provide lifelong family connections for foster care youth, and he is nationally known for his innovative methods, trainings, and consultations. His work motivates others to assure that every youth can find a permanent family.

**HOLLY VAN GULDEN** is the Co-Director of the Adoptive Family Counseling Center in Minneapolis, MN, co-author of *Real Parents, Real Children: Parenting the Adopted Child*, and author of a new guide for parents, *Learning the Dance of Attachment*. As a counselor, consultant, and trainer, Ms. van Gulden has presented workshops and seminars for professionals and parents in nearly every state, five Canadian provinces, England, and Scotland. Ms. van Gulden is an adoptive parent who grew up in a family with nine siblings, four of whom were adopted, and numerous foster children.

**SAVE THE DATES!**  
**NEXT YEAR: May 10–12, 2007**  
**18th Annual NYS CCC**  
**Adoption Conference**  
**ALBANY, NY**

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## SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

### THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2006

- 1:00 p.m. INSTITUTE  
KEVIN CAMPBELL, *Family Finding*
- 7:30 p.m. NYS CCC ANNUAL MEETING  
For Parent Group Representatives  
and CCC members

### FRIDAY, MAY 12, 2006

- 8:00 a.m. REGISTRATION/EXHIBITS
- 9:00 a.m. OPENING SESSION  
*WELCOME*  
STEWART BLECHNER, *President, NYS CCC*  
*KEYNOTE PRESENTATION*  
RUTH G. McROY PHD  
*McRoy Davis and Associates*
- 10:00 a.m. BEVERAGE BREAK
- 10:30 a.m. WORKSHOP PERIOD 1
- 12:15 p.m. LUNCH  
*PLENARY ADDRESS*  
PAT O'BRIEN, *You Gotta Believe!*
- 1:45 p.m. WORKSHOP PERIOD 2
- 3:15 p.m. BEVERAGE BREAK
- 3:35 p.m. WORKSHOP PERIOD 3
- 5:15 p.m. RECEPTION
- 6:15 p.m. DINNER *on your own*
- 7:45 p.m. "I HAVE GAY PARENTS"  
*An MTV True Life Special*

### SATURDAY, MAY 13, 2006

- 8:00 a.m. REGISTRATION/EXHIBITS
- 8:30 a.m. WORKSHOP PERIOD 4
- 9:50 a.m. BEVERAGE BREAK
- 10:05 a.m. WORKSHOP PERIOD 5
- 11:40 a.m. WORKSHOP PERIOD 6
- 1:00 p.m. LUNCH  
*CLOSING SESSION*  
JUDITH ASHTON, *Executive Director*  
NYS CCC  
*CLOSING ADDRESS*  
HOLLY VAN GULDEN  
*Adoptive Family Counseling Center*

## ADOPTION 2006

# There's No Place Like Home

FRIDAY, MAY 12, 2006

### WORKSHOP PERIOD 1

10:30-12:00 NOON

#### 1. The Color of Child Welfare Policy

An examination of the disproportionate number of children of color in foster care. An overview of the data on and causes of overrepresentation. Suggestions for addressing this growing problem. *Ruth McRoy, McRoy Davis and Associates*

#### 2. Permanent Parents for Teens in Group Care

You Gotta Believe! Family Permanency Advocates based at residential treatment centers and group homes describe success in finding permanent parents for resident youth. *Panel. Pat O'Brien, Moderator, You Gotta Believe!*

#### 3. Mediation for Child Permanency

A report on NYS's child welfare mediation projects. How are they doing? What are the outcomes for children and families? *Frank Woods, NYS Unified Court System*

#### 4. Adoptive Family Therapy: A New Approach

Presenting a new therapeutic model with four key components. Intervention strategies and tips for success. *Barry Chaffkin, CT Wocat (Changing the World One Child at a Time)*

#### 5. Separation and Loss: The Aftereffects

The impact of separation and loss on adopted and foster children throughout life's stages, including the effects on life choices and adult relationships. *Sue Badeau, Badeau Consulting*

FRIDAY, MAY 12, 2006

### WORKSHOP PERIOD 2

1:45-3:15 P.M.

#### 6. Open Adoption: Over the Long Run

Longitudinal and other studies provide valuable information regarding the long term impact of open adoption on children and family relationships. Implications for policy and practice. *Ruth McRoy, McRoy Davis and Associates*

#### 7. Square Peg Teens in Round Hole Programs: Let's Stop the Insanity

An exploration of the urgent need for permanent families—not short term placements—for teens before they leave foster care. *Pat O'Brien, You Gotta Believe!*

#### 8. ICAMA: The Benefits to Children and Families

The value of the Interstate Compact on Adoption and Medical Assistance (ICAMA), how it works, and advantages of NYS membership. *Sharen Ford, Colorado Department of Human Services*

#### 9. Inducement and Acting Out Behaviors

Understanding inducement and the impact of abandonment on multiply rejected children to help families deal with negative behaviors and strengthen relationships. *Tito Del Pilar, Family Focus Adoption Services*

#### 10. Children of Incarcerated Parents

Understanding the feelings of prisoners' children. What to say, how to assist, and an overview of NYS prison practice and policy. *Alison Coleman, Prison Families of NY, Inc.*

FRIDAY, MAY 12, 2006

### WORKSHOP PERIOD 3

3:35-5:05 P.M.

#### 11. Special Needs Adoptions: What Have We Learned?

A discussion of the factors associated with successful adoptive families. What works, and what challenges remain. *Ruth McRoy, McRoy Davis and Associates*

#### 12. Unconditional Commitment: The Only Love that Matters

Unconditional commitment is the true source of healing for any child. How to make sure every placement sticks. *Pat O'Brien, You Gotta Believe!*

#### 13. Adoptive Parents' Right to Information

Entitlement to your child's health, social, and placement history, health history of birthparents and other relevant information. Implications for adoption subsidy. What is your recourse when there are problems? *Michael Neff*

#### 14. Marriage as a Balance Beam

Suggestions for increasing the satisfactions and keeping the stressors under control in any parenting partnership, even with challenging kids. *Maris Blechner, Family Focus Adoption Services*

#### 15. "My Life, My Voice, My Future": Involving Youth in Family Court

Why it's important to involve foster care youth in the court and how to implement an effective program. *Sue Badeau, Badeau Consulting; Madelyn Freundlich, Excal Consulting Partners*

**PLEASE JOIN US FRIDAY EVENING!**

RECEPTION, 5:15 P.M.

"I HAVE GAY PARENTS," *An MTV Film Special*, 7:45 P.M.

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SATURDAY, MAY 13, 2006

## WORKSHOP PERIOD 4

8:30-9:50 A.M.

### 16. "I'm at My Wit's End": Discipline and Special Needs Adoption

Therapeutic parenting skills to survive the daily challenges and help children change their way of being in the world.

*Holly van Gulden, Adoptive Family Counseling Center*

### 17. NYS's New Permanency Procedures

Important changes in permanency hearing laws, the foster parent's roles and responsibilities, and benefits to children.

*Margaret Burt*

### 18. Lifebooks: Preserving Your Child's Story

The importance of a Lifebook to document a foster or adopted child's history, build attachment, work through old hurts, and develop positive self identity. *Diane DiGiorgio, SUNY Albany*

### 19. "Let's All Play Nice": Teamwork Benefits Children!

Developing trust, clarifying roles, and sharing a vision to best meet the needs of children and families. *Maris Blechner, Family Focus Adoption Services; Barry Chaffkin, CT Wocat (Changing the World One Child at a Time)*

### 20. Retaining Prospective Adoptive and Foster Parents

Hundreds of NYS families have been recruited through the national AdoptUsKids campaign. How have they fared? What we've learned from their experiences. *Judith Ashton, NYS Citizens' Coalition for Children, Inc.*

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SATURDAY, MAY 13, 2006

## WORKSHOP PERIOD 5

10:05-11:25 A.M.

### 21. Understanding Adolescence

Fundamental issues for all adolescents and the added baggage for adopted adolescents. Strategies to support and guide young adults through the challenges. *Holly van Gulden, Adoptive Family Counseling Center*

### 22. The ABCs of TPRs

Understanding termination of parental rights proceedings, and the new legal procedures to advance permanent outcomes for foster children. *Margaret Burt*

### 23. When Your Child Has Significant Mental Health Issues

What adoptive parents need, how to support them, and how they can access services. Ways to help avoid out of home placements. *Suzanne d'Aversa, Parsons Child and Family Center; Lisa Trudeau, adoptive parent*

### 24. Sharing the Spotlight: Non-Adopted White Siblings in Transracial Families

Research findings and compelling testimonies on racism and their parents' decisions to adopt from white adults who grew up with brothers and sisters of color. *John Raible, University of Massachusetts*

### 25. When Adoption and Learning/Attention Difficulties Overlap

The interaction between LD/ADHD and adoption. How families can best manage the issues involved. *Sue Badeau, Badeau Consulting*

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SATURDAY, MAY 13, 2006

## WORKSHOP PERIOD 6

11:40-1:00 P.M.

### 26. Learning the Dance of Attachment

A guide to building and maintaining healthy attachments, and techniques for responding to difficult behaviors. *Holly van Gulden, Adoptive Family Counseling Center*

### 27. Conditional Surrenders

A discussion of the new enforceability standards and other recent changes in NYS law that affect conditional surrenders and open adoptions. *Margaret Burt*

### 28. You're a What? Issues of Gay and Lesbian Identity

What are the strengths of LGBTQ youth? How to deal with issues of disclosure and build supports and programs to meet their needs. *Miriam Yeung, The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center*

### 29. When Foster Children Go Home: Preparation Tools

How foster parents and others can help assure a smooth transition for children who go home to birth parents, relatives, adoptive parents, or others. *Madhu Kapoor, Family Support Systems Unlimited*

### 30. Effects of Abuse/Neglect on Early Brain Development

What areas of the brain are most affected? What are the effects in later life? A discussion in layman's terms to understand why some behavior patterns can be hard to change. *Suzanne d'Aversa, Parsons Child and Family Center*

## THANK YOU!

- To the National Resource Center for Family-Centered Practice and Permanency Planning for sponsoring the permanency options workshops
- To the NYS Office of Children and Family Services for overall conference support

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## INSTITUTE

### “FAMILY FINDING: Lighting the Fire of Urgency”

Thursday, May 11, 2006 • 1:00-5:00 p.m.

Presented by Kevin Campbell,  
EMQ Children and Family Services

Kevin Campbell presents a model for finding relatives for youth who may otherwise exit the foster care system without permanent connections to caring adults. His methods have proved very successful in connecting youth to as many as 50 concerned family members as well as in finding permanent relative placements for children earlier in their child welfare involvement.

Participants will learn about the new technology and practices that have been used in projects across the U.S. to identify relatives and non-custodial fathers for some of the longest waiting young people in foster care. Search strategies, reports, and engagement techniques will be reviewed. Participants will also receive telephone call scripts, letters, and an orientation to the six steps of family finding.

The presenter is Vice President of EMQ Children and Family Services in Campbell, CA. He has been a human services administrator for 20 years. The primary author of *Lighting the Fire of Urgency: Families Lost and Found in America's Child Welfare Systems*, Kevin is also a nationally known lecturer and trainer.

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## SPECIAL EVENT

### “I HAVE GAY PARENTS”

An MTV True Life Special

Friday, May 12, 2006 • 7:45 p.m.

What's it like being raised by gay parents? This special *True Life* documentary focuses its lens on the lives of three such teens and discovers the simple truth – that their worlds aren't much different than many of their peers with straight parents – full of joy, angst, confusion, despair, and, above all, love.

You'll meet Hope, an African American 18 year old who was adopted by two white dads. She wants to be independent, but her parents object to her desire to get a tattoo. Cooper's two moms are supporting him in his search for his sperm donor father, to fill a void he feels through not having had a father. Aidan practices for her audition as drum major of her school's marching band and deals sensitively with subtle prejudices in her conservative town.

This heart-warming film touches on many issues that are relevant to the adoption/foster care community today, from the point of view of the youths themselves.

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## REGISTRATION INFORMATION

**Registration fees include** all instructional materials and refreshment break for the Institute. For the two-day conference (Friday and Saturday), registration fees include all instructional materials, refreshment breaks, two lunches, reception, Friday evening special event, and any other scheduled conference activities.

**Continuing Education Credit** is available for an additional fee of \$15. A certificate granting 1 continuing education credit (10 contact hours equal 1 CEU) will be awarded by Tompkins Cortland Community College to those attending the full 2-day conference on Friday and Saturday. For those attending the Institute, an additional .4 credit will be awarded. A Certificate of Attendance will be available after the conference, at no charge, upon request only.

**Cancellation Policy:** A \$35 administrative fee will be charged on all cancellations. The balance of the registration fee will be refunded if written cancellation is received by April 28, 2006. Refunds will be issued after the conference. Any registration may be transferred to another person with advance notice to the Coalition. *No refunds will be given for cancellations after April 28, 2006. No-Shows will be billed! Agencies are responsible for paying purchase orders for any No-Shows.*

**Team Discount:** Groups of three or more from the same organization or agency may take a 10% discount on each registration if all registrations are received before April 21, 2006, and all are registering for both days. *There is no team discount on membership fees.*

**CCC Members are those** who currently hold a 2006 membership or those who join CCC when registering for the conference. **Important:** *Parent groups and agencies that are 2006 members are entitled to send only one representative at the CCC member price.* All other representatives from the same parent group or agency must either join as individuals or pay the non-member rate.

**Please calculate registration fees carefully!** Any overpayment will be considered a donation to the Coalition.

**Do not use the member rate unless** you are certain you are a paid-up member for 2006. To verify membership status, contact the Coalition office, [office@nysccc.org](mailto:office@nysccc.org) or 607-272-0034.

**Submit a separate Registration Form**, including workshop selections, for each attendee. Feel free to make copies of the Registration Form.

**Do not fax or mail any registrations after May 5!** After May 5, registrations are accepted at the door only.

# CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

Registration for the conference should be made on this form. Use a separate form for each registrant. Feel free to copy the form as needed. Written confirmation will be mailed to all registrants. Full payment, authorized purchase order/voucher, or credit card information must accompany all registrations. All purchase orders/vouchers are payable within 45 days.

**No faxed registrations will be processed unless accompanied by full payment.**

Please type or print clearly:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Group or Agency Affiliation (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

**CIRCLE the appropriate dollar amount for each option selected.**

Event Registration	CCC Member		Non-Member	
	Before 4/21/06	After 4/21/06	Before 4/21/06	After 4/21/06
Institute (Thursday)	\$35.00	\$40.00	\$40.00	\$45.00
2-Day Conference (Friday & Saturday)	\$125.00	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$175.00
Friday Only	\$100.00	\$125.00	\$125.00	\$150.00
Saturday Only	\$80.00	\$105.00	\$105.00	\$130.00
<b>Registration Subtotal</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>

Individual CCC Membership	add \$20.00	\$
Parent Group or Agency Membership	add \$35.00	\$
Continuing Education Credit	add \$15.00	\$
<b>Add Registration Subtotal (from above)</b>	<b>\$</b>	
<b>Total Amount Enclosed</b>	<b>\$</b>	

## Method of Payment:

- Check** *Make checks payable to:  
NYS Citizens' Coalition for Children, Inc.*
- Purchase Order/Voucher – Payable within 45 days**  
NYSCCC Federal ID #51-0194916
- Visa**    **MasterCard**    **American Express**

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Be sure to indicate workshop choices on reverse.**

# HOTEL RESERVATION FORM

Mail Hotel Reservation Form to:

Albany Marriott Hotel, 189 Wolf Road, Albany, NY 12205 • Telephone: 518-458-8444 • 800-443-8952

Reservations **MUST** be received by April 21, 2006 to guarantee availability at the special conference rate.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Arrival Date \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Room rate \$101:    Single    Double    Triple    Quad   Sharing room with \_\_\_\_\_

To guarantee reservation past 6:00 p.m., send deposit equal to one night's stay or credit card name and number.

Credit Card Name \_\_\_\_\_ Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_



## WORKSHOP CHOICES

Using the chart below, please circle the number of the workshop you plan to attend in each Workshop Period. (See inside for descriptions of workshops.)

Friday			Saturday		
Workshop Period 1	Workshop Period 2	Workshop Period 3	Workshop Period 4	Workshop Period 5	Workshop Period 6
1.	6.	11.	16.	21.	26.
2.	7.	12.	17.	22.	27.
3.	8.	13.	18.	23.	28.
4.	9.	14.	19.	24.	29.
5.	10.	15.	20.	25.	30.

Mail or fax Conference Registration Form, including Workshop Choices and full payment or authorized purchase order or voucher to:

**New York State Citizens' Coalition for Children, Inc.**  
410 East Upland Road, Ithaca, NY 14850, Fax 607-272-0035



**New York State Citizens'  
Coalition for Children, Inc.**

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# FIRST CLASS

**ADOPTION 2006**

*There's No Place  
Like Home*

