



## **National Program Advisory Committee Members**

The National Program Advisory Committee (NPAC) facilitates a dynamic collaborative process between Raising A Reader affiliates and Raising A Reader National Headquarters. It provides a platform for affiliates to advise headquarters on program, products and services, allows for idea exchange on early literacy best practices and provides a forum to disseminate the latest early literacy and headquarters research. Members applied to serve on the Advisory Committee and were chosen for their wealth of best practices in Raising A Reader implementation as well as diversity in subject area expertise and Raising A Reader program models. If you are interested in contacting them with questions regarding program support, please refer to their email addresses below.

### **Betsy Keever**

#### **United Way of the Bay Area, San Francisco, CA**

Betsy Keever is the Director of San Francisco's RAR program. Betsy came to SF-RAR with more than ten years of experience in education reform and community change work. She has taught both adults and children; from preschoolers in Atlanta, homeless middle school students in Bolivia, to adult English-language learners in North Carolina. She directed Community Programs in a rural detention center, and later managed a grassroots campaign for U.S. Congress. In San Francisco, Ms. Keever was Interim Director of Linking San Francisco (LSF), a citywide service learning organization, where she worked with a broad network of schools, community agencies, teachers, students, and families. At LSF, she was responsible for supporting highly successful school programs, as well as creating professional development opportunities for teachers. She is thrilled to be working with RAR, locally, regionally, and nationally, and looks forward to sustaining and expanding a successful program for all of the children, families, and community partners in San Francisco and beyond. She loves the energy of four year-olds and the major impacts from the simple activity of sharing a book with your child. To contact Betsy: [bkeever@uwba.org](mailto:bkeever@uwba.org).

### **Casey Taylor Johnson**

#### **Raising A Reader Massachusetts, Boston MA**

Casey recently moved to Boston and continues her enthusiastic work as Program Director with Raising A Reader Massachusetts. Her previous role for Raising A Reader was the Community Outreach Coordinator for the Raising A Reader program in Marin County. In addition, Casey came to Parent Services Project after working in program and fund development for United Way of the Bay Area and the Girl Scouts in Wyoming.

To contact Casey: [casey@raisingareaderma.org](mailto:casey@raisingareaderma.org).

### **Dorette English**

#### **Plumas County Public Health Agency, Quincy, CA**

Dorette Quintana English was instrumental in launching a small, rural, multi-agency consortium model of Raising A Reader as the First 5 Plumas Coordinator of the Plumas County School Readiness program. She is employed by the Plumas County Public Health Agency as Health Education Coordinator for the New Born House Calls program and the Plumas Community Network of Family Resource Centers & Community Partners. Her background also includes four years as Executive Director of the Roundhouse Council, and its education center for American Indians of all ages. She has a BA in Health Psychology and an MA in English. Program Description: The Plumas County Public Health Agency has put 175 Raising A Reader book bags in circulation through Head Start, Parents as Teachers home visitor programs and programs serving children with special needs. To contact Dorette: [doretteenglish@countyofplumas.com](mailto:doretteenglish@countyofplumas.com).



### **Jane Hills**

#### **Catholic Charities, Santa Clara, CA**

Jane Hills coordinates the Raising A Reader Program throughout Santa Clara County, California and is based at Catholic Charities. She has 15 years active case management experience working with low income/very low income families and single adults at Catholic Charities. Jane has also worked in the agency's Refugee Resettlement, Employment, and Housing Programs; she has a Master's Degree in English, a California Family Development Credential, plus a State of California Lifetime Adult Education Teaching Credential. Jane has teaching experience at college, high school, and pre-kindergarten levels. Program Description: Catholic Charity's goal is to serve 8,352 children in 2006 through preschools, Head Start, childcare centers, family childcare homes, and non-traditional settings including transitional housing parent education classes. To contact Jane: [jhills@ccsj.org](mailto:jhills@ccsj.org).

### **Jennifer Needham**

#### **Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, Coventry, CT**

Jennifer Needham is the Head of Children's Services at the Booth & Dimock Memorial Library in Coventry, CT. She coordinates the library's grant-funded Raising A Reader program in partnership with the local daycare centers and preschools. As the individual responsible for bringing RAR to Coventry, she is dedicated to providing early literacy resources for its children and families. Program Description: Booth & Dimock Memorial Library has implemented Raising A Reader in 3 preschool/daycare centers, which together serve approximately 80 children. Red book bags are also circulated directly from the library. To contact Jennifer: [jneedham@coventryct.org](mailto:jneedham@coventryct.org).

### **Kathy Lathrop**

#### **Pajaro Valley Unified School District, Watsonville, CA**

Kathy Lathrop is currently the Coordinator of Pajaro Valley Unified School District Children Centers and is a Literacy Consultant/ Coach for the First 5 Santa Cruz County Steps to Success School Readiness Initiative. Ms. Lathrop has been an educator for 28 years working with all ages from infants/ toddler programs to parent education and community college, and has worked with professional development training and consultation at all grade levels. She has also worked as a state wide literacy presenter for First 5 California. Program Description: Pajaro Valley Unified School District is in the beginning stages of launching their program. Plans are to roll-out the program community-wide through various channels with the goal of reaching 1,000 children. To contact Kathy: [kathy\\_lathrop@pvusd.net](mailto:kathy_lathrop@pvusd.net).

### **Katie Baker**

#### **Orange County United Way, Irvine, CA**

Katie Baker is the Children and Youth Initiatives Manager for Orange County United Way. Before coming to United Way in 2002, Katie taught preschool for 6 years at an NAEYC Accredited Child Care center in Orange County. Her teaching experience has been a valuable asset to OCUW, working with two youth oriented community initiatives, Success By 6® and Keeping Kids on Track®, as well as managing the Raising A Reader program. Her knowledge of early childhood education and years of classroom experience are important in her role as a liaison between OCUW and the childcare centers in the Success By 6® project. Katie has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Human Development from California State University, Long Beach. Program Description: Orange County United Way is currently serving 475 children at 7 childcare centers associated with Success by 6. The program will expand by 7 sites in fall 2006. To contact Katie: [katieb@unitedwayoc.org](mailto:katieb@unitedwayoc.org).



**Linda Cranor**

**Child Start Inc., Napa & Solano Counties, CA**

Linda Cranor, is the Raising A Reader Manager for Child Start Inc. serving Napa Countywide and Head Start & Early Head Start Programs in Solano County. She has dedicated 20 years in the field of early childhood staff development with an emphasis on parent involvement and early intervention. Linda is the co-founder of Project Exceptional, a best practices training model for the inclusion of children with disabilities in early childhood settings. She previously worked at Sonoma State University directing the national outreach effort for Project Exceptional. Linda has a special interest in working with parents of diverse backgrounds and enjoys advocating for the needs of non-English speaking families in her community. Program Description: Child Start Inc. is currently serving 2,300 children through preschools, home visiting programs including migrant education, children with disabilities, Head Start and Early Head Start, and non-traditional settings including family resource and community centers. To contact Linda: [lcranor@childstartinc.org](mailto:lcranor@childstartinc.org).

**Linda Delles**

**Shasta Family YMCA, Redding, CA**

Linda is serving as the YMCA Outreach Director supervising the Raising A Reader program. Shasta Family YMCA began implementing the program in July 2005. Linda has worked in the early care and education field for 25 years serving as an Administrator and Teacher for the YMCA, Shasta County Office of Education Early Childhood Services, and ROP Careers with Children. Linda is actively involved with the Local Child Care Planning Council, the California Cascade Association for the Education of Young Children, and the Shasta College Mentor Teacher & Director Selection Committee. Program Description: Shasta Family YMCA is currently serving 1,133 children through 60 programs, including family childcare homes, Head Start and preschool classrooms, toddler center classrooms and home visiting programs. To contact Linda: [ldelles@sfyymca.org](mailto:ldelles@sfyymca.org).

**Nell Colburn**

**Multnomah County Library, Portland, OR**

Nell is the Raising A Reader Coordinator at Multnomah County Library in Portland, Oregon. She has worked in children's services in public libraries for over 25 years. She was the children's collection manager for Prince George's County Library System in the Maryland suburbs of Washington, D.C., for 14 years. While in the DC area, she served for many years on the Library of Congress' Books for Children advisory committee. She is active in the Association for Library Service to Children, a division of the American Library Association, and has served on the Newbery, Caldecott, and Notable Children's Books awards committees. Nell edited and contributed to First Steps to Literacy: Library Programs for Parents, Teachers, and Caregivers (ALA, 1990). Currently she is the co-writer of a column on early literacy for School Library Journal. Program Description: Multnomah County Library currently reaches 18,260 children and parents through partnerships with 220 individuals including: childcare centers staff, Head Start staff, nurse home visitors and parent educator programs. Nell is also a current Caldecott Award Selection Chair. To contact Nell: [nellc@multcolib.org](mailto:nellc@multcolib.org).



**Patricia Kennedy**

**Reading Road Show, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA**

Pat coordinates the Reading Road Show and has been with Raising A Reader Harrisonburg since 2003. Under Pat's tutelage, through their mobile literacy vehicle the Gus Bus, Raising A Reader book bags reach over 1,600 children annually. In 2005 the Reading Road Show received a second ELOA grant which will allow them to expand the total number of neighborhoods served by the Gus Bus. Pat has a M.ED in Reading Education. Program Description: The Reading Road Show and the Gus Bus bring Raising A Reader to over 1600 children through preschool classrooms, childcare centers, family childcare homes and less traditional settings in the community such as a local homeless shelter, teen parent program, food pantry, poultry plant, and the Boys and Girls Club. To contact Patricia: [kennedpa@jmu.edu](mailto:kennedpa@jmu.edu).

**Sarah Bishop**

**United Way of South Hampton Roads, Norfolk, VA**

Sarah Bishop is the Director of Success By 6 and Raising A Reader Regional Coordinator. Prior to joining the United Way of South Hampton Roads, she worked for Child Abuse Prevention Services, The Planning Council and a family services agency. Sarah is a devoted volunteer, serving on various Board of Directors including a children's hospital and child abuse program. With a Master's in Social Work from Norfolk State University, Sarah has worked in nonprofits as a social worker since 1978. Program Description: United Way of South Hampton Roads serves 4,200 children through Head Start, public school's preschool programs, an early learning center and a home visiting program. To contact Sarah: [sbishop@unitedwayshr.org](mailto:sbishop@unitedwayshr.org).