



The 28th Annual Children Come First Conference

“HOPE!”

November 13 - 14, 2017

Glacier Canyon Lodge, Wisconsin Dells

www.ccfconference.org

3 Keynote Speakers, 20 Workshops, & 8 Advanced Seminars

Registration
Open



JESSIE BENASH

Jessie Benash, LCSW, is an outpatient child therapist, an adjunct professor at UW-Whitewater and a motivational speaker. She served on the executive board of YES! (Youth Emotional Stability) in Rock County and co-wrote a grant for the first annual suicide awareness and prevention event for Rock County. Jessie has been involved in Wisconsin's Trauma-Informed Care movement for almost ten years and is involved with the Wisconsin School Mental Health Initiative. Jessie shares her story so others can see that no matter what happens, there is always hope. She was an outgoing 15 year old cheerleader when she was in a motorcycle accident that left her disabled and angry. She struggled to finish high school, but she beat the odds and eventually became a licensed clinical social worker. When she was 34 years old, her leg was amputated and she faced new struggles. Instead of giving up, she continues to live her life every day, going to work and being a mother and wife. She got to where she is because people didn't give up on her, and she didn't give up on herself.



DARRIN L. HARRIS

Darrin L. Harris, a native of New Orleans, is the Chief Executive Officer of Ekhaya Leadership Institute. After a life-changing visit to Africa in 2007, he began Ekhaya Youth Project, Inc. - a nonprofit that supports youth and their families. In 2014, Mr. Harris expanded the mental health component of the organization by providing clinical support services through the Ekhaya Fresh Start Behavioral Health Program. Darrin has been on the front line of social reforms - getting aid to young people who've aged out of foster care, helping those who live with debilitating illnesses, caring for the homeless, assisting the disenfranchised and marginalized in our society, and supporting youth living with mental or behavioral challenges. He is the author of Living Life, Leaving Legacy. Everyone who attends the conference will receive a free copy. Darrin is a dynamic and passionate speaker who shares compelling stories from personal experience.



TAMRA OMAN

Tamra is a living example that even the seemingly insurmountable is possible if you KEEP HOPE ALIVE! If you woke up this morning, there's hope! Imagine if we spent as much energy focusing on all of our amazing possibilities as we do on all of the challenges we face. Tamra has come to realize that some of her greatest moments of growth and change have come out of some of her darkest times. She believes that all of those moments have become some of her greatest assets in her life's work of loving and helping others. You are beautiful. You are worth it. You deserve it! KEEP HOPE ALIVE!

HOPE = Having Opportunities and Possibilities Everyday!!

The Children Come First Conference is for those caring for, working with, or interested in the well-being of children and youth with social, emotional, or behavioral challenges.

Conference features a youth track with special discounted pricing for youth ages 12-26.

For more information visit our conference website www.ccfconference.org

If you have questions contact

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