

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## ***Empowered to Connect Conference to provide foster parents and specialists with connection resources***

*Child Bridge hosts simulcast on April 8 & 9  
in Billings, Kalispell and Missoula*

**BIGFORK, MONT. – (March 15, 2016)** Child Bridge, the non-profit finding and supporting foster and adoptive families for Montana children in need, announced today they will host *Empowered to Connect* in Billings, Kalispell and Missoula on April 8 and 9.

The *Empowered to Connect* conference is designed to help foster/adoptive parents, biological parents, child welfare and social workers, CASA's, teachers and ministry leaders better understand childhood trauma and history, attachment and effective methods for cultivating behavioral change. Attendees will also learn about the support and resources available for foster and adoptive parents.

"Every foster child deserves a stable, loving family where they can heal. Unfortunately, guiding the healing process can be challenging and confusing for parents," said Steve Bryan, executive director for Child Bridge. "Having access to the right resources and support can make the difference between success and failure in this journey. Attending a conference such as *Empowered to Connect* with world renowned experts leading us, can help parents make significant strides in building trust and communication in the home."

Communications expert, Dr. Karyn Purvis, director of the TCU Institute of Child Development and coauthor of the best-selling book, *The Connected Child*, heads the conference. Amanda Hiles Howard, assistant professor of psychology at Samford University, and Daren Jones and Henry Milton of the Institute of Child Development will join Dr. Purvis on the speaker panel.

*Empowered to Connect* is a two-day conference designed for everyone seeking better ways to connect with and help heal “children from hard places.” It is also a valuable resource to those considering fostering or adopting. The conference will be presented via simulcast at in each city.

Tickets for the two-day training are \$20 and include 16 hours of expert training, lunch, snacks and course materials. Continuing Education Credits may also be offered to those who qualify.

For a complete schedule of *Empowered to Connect*, including how to register, please visit <http://www.childbridgemontana.org/empowered-to-connect.html>.

### **ABOUT EMPOWERED TO CONNECT**

*Empowered to Connect* is designed for foster or adoptive parents, those considering adoption or foster care, those serving in a supportive role to foster and adoptive families, and biological parents seeking a deeper connection with their children. Hosted by Child Bridge on April 8th and 9th, 2016, this two-day simulcast will be presented in Kalispell, Billings and Missoula, and led by the renowned Dr. Karyn Purvis, director of the TCU Institute of Child Development and coauthor of the best-selling adoption book, *The Connected Child*.

### **ABOUT CHILD BRIDGE**

Bridging the gap between churches, communities and government, Child Bridge is a Montana non-profit organization whose mission is to find and support foster and adoptive families for Montana children in need. Working closely with pastors and congregations, Child Bridge works to assist interested families on the foster/adoptive journey and support those families caring for children from “hard places” by utilizing the natural infrastructure of the church. Child Bridge educates, empowers and equips church leaders and congregations to understand and deliver on the need of “trauma-informed” care for the foster/adoptive population in their church and community. Educational, therapeutic and family support resources and referrals to other child welfare leaders are also provided as needed. For more information, visit [www.childbridgemontana.org](http://www.childbridgemontana.org).

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