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For Immediate Release

International nonprofit parenting organization celebrates 15 years with new look, new book, and eventful gathering

API, an international parenting nonprofit, observes 15 years of parenting information and support this year with celebration for the fun of it

Nashville, TN – July 17, 2009 –To celebrate its 15th anniversary, API has planned a weekend of fellowship and fun, drawing local families and families from across the country to Nashville on August 29 and 30.

Since 1994, API has been providing support to families, hinged on a network of accredited and dedicated support group Leaders and evidenced-based parenting research. Barbara Nicholson and Lysa Parker cofounded API to bring to parents the information and connections they had gathered over the years, with the goal of improving the wellbeing of children, and as a result, the wellbeing of the community.

Now 15 years later, API has a presence around the world and continues to grow and help build strong families.

The celebration kicks off with a media event and book signing and leads right into a parenting think-tank discussion on Saturday at 2:30 pm titled "Making an Impact Now: Creating a Sustainable Legacy for Children" at Belmont University Troutt Theatre. The first 100 registrants are invited to a meet and greet reception with the guest speakers: Parenting experts Dr. William and Martha Sears, sleep expert Dr. James McKenna, La Leche League founder Mary Ann Cahill, parent education leader Dr. Stephen Bavolek, separation/custody and parenting expert Dr. Isabelle Fox, hosted by noted parenting author and television anchor/entrepreneur Lu Hanessian, and honored participants, API founders and authors Barbara Nicholson and Lysa Parker.

That evening, API will hold a fundraising event at 3rd & Lindsley Bar and Grill featuring Grammy Award-winning performers Vince Gill, Gary Nicholson, and Beth Chapman and their respective children Jenny Gill, Luke Nicholson, and Earnest Chapman. Tickets are available, including Gold Circle seating, through 3rd & Lindsley Bar and Grill.

Throughout the weekend, Music with Mommie, Gymboree, Music City Music Together, and Stroller Strides of Nashville are holding free family activities for local and out of town attendees.

Sunday begins with a hot topic discussion on custody and separation with Dr. Isabelle Fox, psychologist and author, at Belmont University Troutt Theatre at 11:00 am. At 2:00 pm, the API silent auction is open and available for bids all the way through the Roger Day family concert that begins 3:00, and closes at 4:45 pm.

To cap it all off, API is pleased to present Roger Day's family fun music in honor of all of API's dedicated volunteers and their families, only $8 a ticket and children under 1 are free. Roger Day CDs and DVDs will be available for purchase as well.

API anticipates a great weekend with parents, professionals, experts, students, children, with plenty of time to interact and connect, and invites groups and individuals to register now at www.attachmentparenting.org.

The parenting think-tank event is open to the public and part of a weekend celebration of API's 15th anniversary. Additional weekend events include a book signing, special performance by Grammy Award-winning performers

Vince Gill, Gary Nicholson, and Beth Chapman, with their adult children; a family concert with the award-winning Roger Day; a silent auction; and special classes and offerings from local, family-friendly businesses Gymboree, Music with Mommy, Music City Music Together, and Stroller Strides Nashville; and more. Event sponsors and partners include API, Belmont University, Jan Hunt and The Natural Child Project, Holiday Inn Select Nashville, Roger Day, 3rd and Lindsley Bar and Grille, Belmont Heights Baptist Church, and The Copper Kettle. For event registration information visit www.attachmentparenting.org. For a free copy of the most recent *The Attached Family* magazine and more on the founding of API and 15th anniversary, visit http://www.attachmentparenting.org/attachedattheheart/journal_aath.pdf.

Attachment Parenting is based in the practice of nurturing parenting methods that create strong emotional bonds, also known as secure attachment, between children and their parent(s). This style of parenting encourages responsiveness to children's emotional needs, enabling children to develop trust that their needs will be met. As a result, this strong attachment helps children develop the capacity for secure, empathic, peaceful, and enduring relationships that follow them into adulthood.

Attachment Parenting International (API) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit member organization founded in 1994 to network with parents, professionals and like-minded organizations around the world. API's mission is to educate and support all parents in raising secure, joyful and empathic children in order to strengthen families and create a more compassionate world. In addition to providing assistance in forming Attachment Parenting support groups, API functions as a clearinghouse providing educational materials, research information, consultative, referral and speaker services to promote Attachment Parenting concepts.

API board and advisory board members include such noted parenting authors as Dr. William Sears and Martha Sears, R.N., co-sleeping specialist Dr. James McKenna, Lu Hanessian of LetTheBabyDrive.com, author Alice Miller and Jan Hunt of the Natural Child Project, among others.

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