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For Immediate Release

Noted authorities on child development in rare gathering to present on sustainable strategies for wellbeing

API, an international parenting nonprofit, assembles parenting experts from across the United States on August 29 at Belmont University

Nashville, TN – July 17, 2009 –Child development pioneers from across the country will gather on August 29 at 3:00 pm to collaborate on strategy to sustain and scale-up understanding about raising children in think-tank event organized by international nonprofit parenting support organization, API, and hosted by Belmont University.

The current economic situation has pushed families and communities into crisis. With social support eroding, how can we help children build the precious resource of emotional resilience that moves them from surviving to thriving? How does this action help sustain our world?

Recognizing the need to feel at least as passionate about investing in children as we do in our environment, economy and education, the theme of the think-tank event is "Making an Impact Now: Creating a Sustainable Legacy for Children."

This never-before assembled group of experts in the fields of education, medicine, psychology, anthropology, academia, and parenting will discuss how we can reach out to caregivers and communities to encourage healthy, secure attachments with children, build resilience and improve individual and social health and welfare.

Authors Dr. William Sears, pediatrician, and Martha Sears, nurse, sleep expert from Notre Dame University Dr. James McKenna, La Leche League founder Mary Ann Cahill, leading parent educator Dr. Stephen Bavolek, psychologist and author Dr. Isabelle Fox, hosted by noted author and television anchor/entrepreneur Lu Hanessian, and honored participants, API founders and authors Barbara Nicholson and Lysa Parker, assert that caregivers adopting this approach are not only benefiting their families but also fostering a more compassionate world.

“This cross-discipline event will challenge professionals, practitioners and students, and invite them to engage in creative strategies to better prepare our next generation,” said Art Yuen, coordinator of the event. “For those who want to make a significant and immediate impact, there are few better ways to begin, and we couldn’t be more pleased to partner with Belmont University to create this opportunity.”

Early registrants will be treated to a post-event meet and greet reception with the visiting panelists.

For event registration information visit www.attachmentparenting.org.

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.

