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For Immediate Release

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Parenting experts who started an international movement gather in Nashville

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

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

This never-before assembled group of experts will discuss preparing for pregnancy and birth, breastfeeding, nutrition, child physical and mental wellbeing, discipline, parent education, handling custody and separation, and parent challenges and balance, all to nurture attachment and secure relationships for even greater numbers of families as the best of prevention strategies.

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, assert that parents adopting this approach are not only benefiting their families but also fostering a more compassionate 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."

"API has been in the business of bringing to parents and professionals the definitive parenting information from the leading researchers and practitioners for 15 years," said Art Yuen, coordinator of the event. "It's our privilege to now welcome parents and professionals to encounter these respected leaders and benefit exponentially in their collective thinking."

Parents, professionals, community leaders, students, media attending the event will learn about the evidence-based parenting practices and the research that supports it, while gaining valuable parenting insight and support. The first attendees will be treated to a post-event meet and greet reception with the visiting panelists.

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 Grill](#), [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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