

# Protecting Our Children's Tomorrow Today



## Fall 2019 Newsletter

The mission of Parenting for Non-Violence (P4NV) is to educate and support parents to raise their children in emotionally healthy ways so that their children can thrive personally, socially and academically.

*Our vision is to improve the parent-child relationships, thus strengthening families and communities. Youth will feel free to discuss problems with their parents, commit to school learning, and engage in healthy peer relationships. The end goal is to have violent free communities, and we believe the first line of defense is the family.*

### THANK YOU, THANK YOU

This fall issue of our newsletter is about collaboration and the many indispensable arms of the organization that reach out to support the vision.

*Thank you, thank you,* Board of Directors, Advisory Council, Facilitators, Publishers of Evidence-Based Programs and Researchers, Sites and Site-coordinators, Parents and Donors. **1662** parents and their children would not have benefited by evidence-based research on best parenting practices without all of YOU. P4NV is America at its best – multi-cultural, economically diverse – all working together to be instruments of change AND, in the process, learning about and respecting each other.

### HIGHLIGHTS from EACH TEAM



The **BOARD OF DIRECTORS** run the operation. There are no employees. We few have worked hard and well together to support so many families. Thanks so

much to the Rev. Chuck Dahm, Rosemary White, Rita Kattner, Ev McHugh, Mary Lou Wilhelm, Karen Purves, Tiffany Swann Covington, Deacon Alfred Coleman, and, of course, our President, Teresa Pennix Gill. The spotlight in this issue shines on **Sheila Mickus**, an MBA from University of Chicago, our treasurer. Years ago, Sheila brought her considerable skill to streamline our operation and ensure accuracy of all financial transactions. Thank you, Sheila!

**ADVISORY COUNCIL** members donate their time and share their expertise two Saturday mornings a year. Of the many who serve on committees, we highlight **Marjorie Stephan and Judy McEvoy**, who established a volunteer recruitment and development structure that will help provide the people needed to continue to meet the growing requests for our programs and our ongoing progress in building the Board of Directors. *Interested in joining us? New Board, Council members and other volunteers are always welcome. Contact Judy McEvoy at [judymcevoy05@gmail.com](mailto:judymcevoy05@gmail.com) or Marjorie Stephan [mhstephan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mhstephan@sbcglobal.net)*

P4NV must also acknowledge and thank Catholic Theological Union for the provision of meeting space for our two Saturday morning Council meetings each year – gratis – along with tech support.

**FACILITATORS** are the public face of our organization. Each deserves so much more recognition than space allows. A column would not suffice to share their skills, their ability to connect with parents, and to log all the time given. **Milly Cortez and Luis Chavez**, probably others, teach in the morning and then proceed to another job. P4NV would not be reaching Spanish speaking parents without the help of Milly and Luis. **Derek Brown and Fred Cooper** have ongoing groups at the Cook County Department of Correction (DOC), as well as facilitating other programs. The DOC would love to

support two workshops per week, so valued are these two. **Annette Kelly and LaQuesha Allen** willingly take on new sites, new programs and new roles, providing site coordination, conducting FOCUS groups and one-on-one interviews with participants at various P4NV locations. P4NV recently welcomed **Heather Brown**, who joins husband, Derek, in presenting Parenting of Teens. Another newcomer is **Carmen Munguia**, recently from Mexico where she worked as an attorney and as a high school teacher; Carmen is facilitating the Spanish language version of *First Five Years*. The very able **Tarra McIntyre**, after a long hiatus, is back and welcomed with enthusiasm. Each one of them deserves a whole page! They facilitate because they believe in the Mission

Thank you, **ACADEMIA**, for research into most effective parenting and family practices. Without you, for example, we may not understand that punishment is demeaning, demoralizing, ineffective and often a reflection of parental anger and desperation. Positive Discipline is the new norm now. And thanks to the **MANY PUBLISHERS** who understood the value of the research and provide us with programs and materials to help deliver the results of the research. The specific gratitude of P4NV is extended to the organizations that provide our programs: Active Parenting Publishers, The National Fatherhood Initiative, NGPF Next Generation Personal Finance and NEFE National Endowment for Family Education.



*Family Money Skills - Know and Grow*, which was piloted last year, is the current program at three sites and, responding to requests, will be translated into Spanish. Families are provided the basics on managing money, preventing financial mistakes especially

as it relates to credit, while setting and achieving reasonable goals. To ensure that families have the support to implement the program concepts, P4NV has partnered with **Operation Hope** which is providing a financial well-being coach to the program graduates at Olive Branch Missions and St. Agatha.



**CHANGE** is our current pilot program at the Juvenile Temporary Detention Center – where you will again find LaQuesha and Fred. The Phoenix/New Freedom curriculum is used nationwide to address the risk factors underlying gang recruitment and gang involvement. The young men look at the decisions many make to continue hanging out with high risk individuals versus trying to make positive changes in their lives such as completing or continuing schooling.

**SITES AND SITE COORDINATORS** Schools, social service agencies and churches open their doors to us, provide the space, and recruit parents. So much of the success of a workshop depends ALSO on the communication and recruiting skills of the contacts at these sites – our most essential collaborators.

This writer's experience with coordinators of programs through Parent University at Chicago Public Schools has been outstanding with prompt replies to emails, graciousness about problems (of which there are very few), and of course recruiting. Currently, **Ms. Maria Ramirez** and her team at **Benito Juarez Community Academy** registered 25 parents for Parenting of Teens. Wow!

At **St. Agatha Catholic Church** in N. Lawndale, **Rev. Larry Dowling** recruited some of our first facilitators in 2012 and hosted the P4NV's very first workshop. Fr. Larry subsequently introduced us to Fred, Derek and now Heather – current facilitators. At any given week, a workshop is in process at St. Agatha.

Other collaborating sites last summer and this fall include **Olive Branch Missions, Youth Outreach Services (Pilsen and Irving Park), Better Boys Foundation, Catholic Charities Child Development sites: Chicago Lawn, and**

**St. Joseph.** Previously mentioned were **Cook County Department of Corrections and the Juvenile Justice Office of Probation and Temporary Detention Center.** Several sites have offered more than one workshop.

*New sites* are continually added to our calendar. This year **WES Health Systems** welcomed our program, *First Five Years*, at their Sacramento Ave. site. WES is a national organization that provides behavioral health care and human services to persons living in areas plagued by high crime and unemployment. After a presentation of First Five Years to the case managers, WES indicated that two or three workshops of this program would be made available to pregnant women. Fathers are welcome.

**PARENTS** who have attended our programs are among the best recruiters of parents, even introducing us to new sites. Their feedback confirms the value of our work. Sharing of their stories guides us in seeking out and introducing new programs. Focus groups and interviews are being piloted as a replacement for lengthy pre- and post-surveys. WES Health parents in a focus group agreed that understanding different parenting styles made some realize they were acting as doormats; others shared they will modify their heavy-handedness.

Did you know...You can make a donation using money from you IRA that will count as part or all of your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) for the year. You will benefit because that portion of your RMD will not be taxed as income, and P4NV will benefit from your donation. Due to the new tax law which has increased the Standard Deduction many can no longer benefit from itemizing deductions. You can still get the benefit of a Charitable Contribution without itemizing. You should request that your contribution be coded as a Qualified Charitable Distribution for Income Tax reporting purposes, and be sure to show your name on the check. For further information please consult your IRA Trustee or Plan Administrator.

### **DONORS** You, dear reader!!

**Parenting for Non-Violence continues to provide our programs to sites and parents free of charge! Requesting a fee from organizations and parents who live and operate in the neighborhoods we serve would result in very low attendance.**

The system we have orchestrated would not function without your financial support.

Several foundations have been truly the foundation of our finances since inception of our programs. Although P4NV is not affiliated with any religious organization, the Catholic church launched our programs in 2012 with significant grants from the Campaign for Human Development. Several other organizations within the Archdiocese have continued that support – the Cardinal's Instrument of Peace Fund with a generous donation last year and the CRS Rice Bowl several years running.

The financial support from individual donors has tripled since fiscal year 2016-2017, thanks to the awareness programs planned and implemented by **Evilin McHugh**. Last year, one-third of all funding came from individuals. All of us who have raised children know that challenges may be constant – even when extended family, community support, and finances are available. The struggle to raise children, not only without these supports but also with surrounding violence, is unimaginable. Stories break our hearts and we open our wallets. There but for the grace of God would be us. We ask, with much gratitude, that you continue to support us. P4NV has the capacity to offer many more programs, only dependent on the funds available.

We thank all who have made our outreach possible.  
Small non-profits cannot thrive without you!  
January 1, 2019 – October 31, 2019

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