

Protecting Our Children's Tomorrow Today



Spring 2019 Newsletter

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.

Continuing to Build 393 parents have participated in twenty-nine workshops between July 1, 2018 - May 1, 2019. Several reunions of recent participants will conclude the year and provide parents with further support and P4NV with feedback.

1524 Parents have been beneficiaries of programs since 2012.

Profile of Workshops & Attendees

July 1, 2018- May 1, 2019

- Participants are generally African American and Latino with presentations in English and Spanish.
- Host sites include - Chicago Public Schools, Catholic Charities Child Development sites, Youth Outreach Services sites for families of foster children, Cook County's Juvenile Justice and its Department of Corrections, Precious Blood Ministries, St Agatha Church and several other social service agencies.
- Offered 29 parenting education workshops to support and prepare parents through every stage and step in their efforts to become strong families. Programs include: 24/7 Dad Fatherhood, Parenting of Teens, Parenting of 5-12 year olds, and Parenting of Preschoolers.

Family Money Skills was introduced at one site and is scheduled at another.

- Challenges that parent participants were facing ranged from normal disciplinary and communication challenges to the more severe such as alienation from child due to imprisonment, or the need for more guidance and support in helping children on court-mandated probation.

New Program

In fall 2018, we piloted a new curriculum *Family Money Skills – Know & Grow*, in response to participant needs and interests. The workshop content is based on Next Generation Personal Finance (NGPF) and National Endowment for Financial Education (NeFe) curricula. The content includes this sampling of topics: understanding credit and managing debt, creating a budget, financial pitfalls such as payday loans and high interest loans, savings strategies, spending leaks and understanding insurance. Many of the families we serve have limited employment skills or a lack of work experience – whether from issues of family history of chronic poverty, limited access to education, learning or physical disabilities – they may have jobs but exist on the margins of employment. According to NeFe, due to a lack of financial sophistication, this workshop audience is particularly vulnerable to making poor choices and becoming victims of scams. This new workshop helps families of modest income achieve long-term stability in their work, family, and financial lives by providing basics on managing money, preventing financial mistakes, and setting and achieving realistic goals. A second site has scheduled this program and so our menu expands.

The Need Continues

Parenting education continues to be promoted in professional publications and in P4NV facilitator reports.

- The Juvenile Justice Center reports that 2500 to 3000 teens are on probation in Cook County in any given year.
- The National Association of Social Workers notes the negative outcomes from emotional abuse/neglect of children and reports this is often a generational problem. "Family's conditions need to be changed and they must get services" (Kulfarni, NASW news, Oct. 2017)
- Facilitators report that desperate parents have little support from the community or extended family and often have no training in disciplinary or communication skills. That often leads them to resort to violence which often is imitated by the children in the home and spreads to the community.

Awareness

The documentary on P4NV, spear-headed by Advisory Council member and documentarian Pat Werhane of Big Questions Productions, was shown to invited guests on November 18, 2018. Sixty people attended which demonstrates the interest from the public in initiatives with goals of stemming the youth violence in Chicago. The goal is to promote P4NV and the value of parenting education for all, regardless of ethnicity or economic level, and to dispel any stigma attached to such education. Excerpts from a note from a documentary attendee: *"It was wonderful to view your compelling new video. I love the mission and your method. I am thankful that you and your team have the courage to actually tackle this pressing problem and to not just wring your hands or "analyze it" alone. P4NV is faith in action."*

Operations

As a welcome to many new readers, P4NV is providing a quick overview of the delivery system of our programs.

How do we recruit the parents?



Initially, P4NV established partnerships with Catholic parishes and Catholic Charity sites. We now offer our programs to the broader community, mainly schools and social service agencies. All these host sites then recruit the parents, using P4NV crafted materials for marketing, and provide the space for the meetings. *P4NV is unique in that we come to the parents rather than parents traveling to us which eliminates the travel hurdle and gathers the attendees in a familiar milieu. The willingness of facilitators to travel to the site and the collaboration with host sites account for a large part of our success in reaching families.* Parent graduates of a workshop have now become a key part of recruitment. P4NV sees a surge in attendee numbers at a given site after an initial introduction to our programs.

I want to take a quick second to thank you for allowing us to have these amazing workshops for our parents!! Luis and Milly are amazing!!! Parents are very pleased with them and of course the principal and I as well. Please don't forget about us. We would love to continue having them here.

CPS School Coordinator

Who are our facilitators? What are their qualifications?

All facilitators reflect the culture of the communities they serve. Facilitators, Luis Chavez and Milly Gutierrez Cortez, along with trainees Carmen Munguia, Elliot and Monica Salinas are leaders in Latino communities. LaQuesha Allen, Annette Kelly, Frederick Cooper and Derek Brown are leaders in the African American communities. Some have college degrees and all are professionally trained to deliver the curricula.

However, the primary qualifications are experience leading groups, passion about our mission, and ability to connect with the audience. Parents are not looking for academic expertise. Active Parenting Publishers and the National Fatherhood Initiative program provide the initial facilitator training. P4NV continues the training by requiring co-teaching with an experienced facilitator, followed by observation and constructive feedback.

How are programs funded?

P4NV seeks funding to support our programs. At this time, we request no fees as cost could be a deterrent to parent participation. Parents in the communities we serve are generally not in a financial position to contribute.

P4NV purchases Active Parenting and Fatherhood programs, pays for facilitator training and the parent handbooks, creates marketing materials, often provides the technology, and pays stipends to facilitators and child care providers when the latter are not available. Meals, which act as an attendance incentive and which provide a caring, congenial atmosphere, are provided by P4NV but are increasingly contributed in part by the host sites when funds are available.

Did you know...

You can make a donation using money from your 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 ordinary income, and obviously P4NV will benefit from your donation. This is especially useful due to the new tax law which has increased the Standard Deduction such that many can no longer benefit from itemizing deductions. You can still get the benefit of a Charitable Contribution without itemizing. For further information please consult your IRA Trustee or Plan Administrator.

Does P4NV develop the programs?

The Fatherhood Initiative 24/7 Dad and Active Parenting Publisher's programs are purchased, and are evidence-based. *Family Money Skills, program is being adapted by P4NV to create a format that is familiar and comfortable for our families and facilitators.* P4NV continues to seek researched and evidenced based programs based on parent requests.

Who runs the show?

P4NV has no employees but relies on the working Board, Advisory Council committees, and contract workers – facilitators and a site coordinator.

Interested in joining us? New Board and Council members are always welcome.

P4NV welcomes new council members Judy McEvoy, Erica Wilkerson, and Joan Wrenn.

We gratefully thank the members whose terms have expired and who have not elected to serve another term: Dr. Lendell Richardson, Bill Yacullo, and Jennifer Bobay

We thank all who have made our outreach possible.
Small non-profits cannot thrive without you!
November 1, 2018 – May 31, 2019

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