



Parent leadership graduation ceremony at New London Senior Center

By 1992, the scientific evidence left no doubt: One of the best ways to ensure the health, safety, and education of children was to help their parents develop the skills needed to lead in their communities. Armed with that knowledge, the Connecticut Commission on Children and its partners formed the Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI), a first-of-its-kind family civics program. In the 20 years since PLTI began, more than 2,500 other parents, grandparents, foster parents, guardians, and other caring adults have gone through this intensive, 20-week democracy school.

The New London Community & Campus Coalition with New London Youth Affairs and funding from the Connecticut Commission on Children, Liberty Bank Foundation, and support from the City of New London, has graduated 12 adults in the class of 2012. On June 12, 2012, the a graduation ceremony was held honoring graduates Michelle Allen, Tara Bernoudy, Beloved Grace Carter, Mongi Dhaouadi, Morell Johnson, Mirna Lis Martinez, Aleida Milan, Corinna Nedzel, Rev. Herman Polard, Karina Sanchez, Kelsey Wolfe, and Joane Woodhall.

Meeting one night a week, they've learned the skills needed to become strong, effective voices for children. Graduates have put their training to use on all levels of Connecticut life, serving with parent-teacher organizations, school governance councils, state advisory boards, non-profit boards, school boards, city councils—even the state legislature.

Parents SEE

A sister program, Parents Supporting Educational Excellence (Parents SEE), which the Commission developed in 2005 with the Center for School Change to provide parents with the skills and understanding necessary to become leaders and change agents in education at the school, district, and state levels, is being offered this fall based on state funding.

NLCCC Interventions: Environmental / Community Strategies Completed in 2011-2012

Every year the NLCCC reviews data and develops a series of logic models, action plans, and strategies that are environmental (community-wide) in nature. For our current fiscal year, we were able to accomplish the following;

Education:

- Coalition Newsletter
- Bookmarks & Note Pads
- Town Hall Meetings / Parent Forums
- Seller-Server Training
- Creation of Teens Against Destructive Decisions (T.A.D.D.)
Provided support for; Peer training, Women's Center Violence Is Preventable (V.I.P.) Program and Writer's Block

Enforcement:

- Compliance Checks
- Juvenile Review Board (JRB)
- Purchase of a Drug Take-Back box at NLPD Lobby
- City walk-around to distribute materials

Media: Social Norms Messaging

- Southeastern Connecticut Bus Signage (SEAT)
- Posters & Banners
- New Logo & Messaging
- New website (www.mynlccc.org) and revisions
- Bottled Water

Policy Changes (we are working on):

- Ordinance for tobacco free parks, playgrounds, beaches, and within 30' of City building's entrances & exits with a designated smoking area after 30'
- Ordinance to have all liquor permit tees take a seller-server course (S.M.A.R.T. or T.I.P.S.)

Capacity / Practices Building:

- Trainings- Cultural Competence, Social Norms Marketing, Drug Trends in SECT, MADD Power of Parents
- Orientation Packet
- Added new members
- Facilitated meetings between youth serving groups
Meetings with various community groups

Assessment & Evaluation:

- Youth Survey – May 2012, almost 900 NL youth surveyed on substance abuse & quality of life issues
- Community Survey – summer 2012
- COMET (federal) & PBPS (state) Reporting

Community Peace Training

By Genesis Cubilette, age 15, member of T.A.D.D.

NLCCC formed a group of youth, called TADD (Teens Against Destructive Decisions), which I am part of. In April we, along with other youth from New London, went out into the woods for a peace experience. I was part of the group and, even not knowing a lot of people there I still enjoyed my time, got to know new people, and had fun. At the same time I learned about what peace really is and how to find it within our everyday struggles.

At this camp we all bonded together, got used to each other, and talked about what we all struggled with, whether it was at home or in our community. We then worked together to put that all into solutions on how to make things work with peace and how to help not only ourselves but the people around us and in our community.

We did activities to get to know each other and formed small groups, which were: the cows, the chickens, the sheep, and the pigs. In these groups we had wonderful facilitators cooperating with us for the supervision of each group and provided lots of help as group leaders. These small groups helped us to create a better, more clear vision on what peace is and what problems, in our community and in each one of us, we have that can be solved by using peace. When we were asked to share back with the larger group, we would either create a poster or even make our own little play just to make it more fun while we learn.

In our community there are a lot of common problems; some of them are drugs, racism, discrimination, and peer pressure. We all argued on these topics and told our stories of how we can connect to these problems. We then talked about the solutions that can change all of this into a more happy society with no conflict: like talking about it instead of being aggressive or turning the problem into a more violent and physical argument. Put yourself in the shoes of the other person that you are arguing with and try to understand why they're going against you, instead of just fighting about it because you think that it's best to defend your side of the story.

Everyday we would talk about this, and everyday we made sure that at the end of the night after dinner we would go outside, make a fire together as a big group, make some smores, and sing and dance. By doing this we were practicing a great time using peace within everyone and ourselves. A great time!



NLCCC Mission:

"To engage the City of New London to combat risky behaviors by promoting healthy, vibrant, and productive lifestyles for our teen community."



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