

KS Presentation: to 933rd MP Co. National Guard & Families at Cantigny Museum & Parks.

Hello and first, thank you for your service -- Service Members & your Families - your spouses, your children and all your family members.

I know your service is a sacrifice from all of you to our country.

Changing Children's Worlds Foundations is about supporting our children to be healthy & strong, to have empathy for others AND to be strong learners and leaders in life. Our International Child/Parent Development program has been offered in 40 countries around the world - for parents of children 0-13 years, to caregivers of the elderly, to small children from older children, and to parents of children of all ages facing stressors of daily life as well as special circumstances.

We support all parents & other caregivers (including teachers, child care workers, social workers, psychologists, counsellors) to learn how their work can be more empathy-based - because - you know what - while almost everyone will say "I KNOW THAT" -- it is much different to "DO THAT" "LIVE THAT" Empathy-based COMMUNICATIONS, INTERACTIONS & RELATIONSHIPS - than it is to "KNOW THAT."

That's what this program is about - helping us talk about the challenges of having EMPATHY not when it is easy to do -- but when it is hard. When we are tired, stressed, overwhelmed, anxious, depressed, feeling isolated - or when our children seem unreasonable, rebellious, angry, defiant or even scared That's when we can turn to the resources - the knowledge & practice & sharing of experiences from each other in our learning groups -- and try to bring out our best efforts, because we have invested in getting some training on parenting at its most challenging.

That's what our Family Program can do for you and your families: bring you together in service to supporting your family members to be their best, and building community for each other as you do it. And, it's actually fun. We don't run Parenting Classes - we provide 12-weekly peer-facilitated Parent Learning Groups, based on adult learning principles. We bring together families for a social meal and then Parents join for a learning group session and our children gather in a child care room to hear stories and do related children's activities - to learn in a positive environment, at a child's level, what we are discussing each week.

Just as we support parents to reflect on, demonstrate and model the attitudes, communications, interactions and relationships our children learn from us - we support our children to come together and learn & practice the same concepts. Parents have a special handbook, and they receive a children's booklet to use as their children's teachers - on how we treat one another, on our values and belief systems, on what is right.

I know that this program has struck a positive cord with many of the military-connected parents who have learned about our program, and in a few minutes you will hear from retired Major Jack Erwin about his personal experience with our program. Our Family Program (Intl Child/Parent Dev Program) was reviewed by a Military Advisor from Zero-to-Three (a national early childhood agency), who fully endorses our program with military families.

In my experiences for the past 3 years in facilitating the program.....

I've had a father say to me "I'm coming because, while I can be gentle with my daughter, I can't talk to my son in the same way. We don't have the relationship I want."

I've had parents tell us that we may have saved their marriage because they couldn't communicate consistently with their children, or understand each other's perspectives about parenting until ICDP."

I've had parents go back & apologize to their adult children about what they didn't know and learned through ICDP & ask them to raise their children aligned with ICDP.

We've had mothers share that they didn't know how to play with their children - or how to say " I love you " to their children.

Everyone wins in participating in ICDP.

It's a universal program that helps each of us to be our best selves - and thereby, to raise our children to be the best that they can be. Of course, as usual, you get what you put in. If you commit & invest in the program - you & your family will benefit tremendously.

We have a program beginning [JULY 17th](#) - sponsored by the St. Chas American Legion & VFW, and Tri-Cities Exchange Club.

It will be hosted at the Fox Valley Presbyterian Church - in their new educational rooms - in Geneva.

Jack, who will be co-facilitating with retired Colonel Jake Wyatt of St. Chas, will tell you a bit more about this program.

If you are interested - please come talk to Jack or I after the program to ask questions or to REGISTER - or give us your information so we may contact you !

Thank you again - for your service. I hope you will consider joining us for our Military Family Program either in Geneva/St. Charles (we have 6-7 slots open!) -- or in a group we might organize closer to where you live !!!