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PRESENTED BY:
BRIAN & SUSAN SHUGART



ON A POSITIVE PATH SPRING/SUMMER 2023

SERVICES SPOTLIGHT

For teens today, the struggle to navigate a post-Covid quarantine world can cause conflict with their parents.

In this issue of On a Positive PATH, we spotlight Knock Out for Change, a program that is part of the Youth and Teen Services at The Parenting PATH.

Knock Out for Change

In its third year, the Knock Out for Change program celebrated its 9th graduation with ten teenagers and families receiving Certificates of Completion. It is a big deal for these families — and important for the parents to have a reason to celebrate their children and family's accomplishments when they have been through challenging times.

OUR YOUTH AND TEEN SERVICES TEAM



L to R: Deborah Hemsley, Carmen Forero, Michael Cole

An original, evidence-based program developed by Deborah Hemsley, Director of Youth and Teen Services, Knock Out for Change is funded through grants from the Forsyth County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council. Families participate in ten evening classes at the Minnie Lee Davis Harris Community Center in Winston-Salem and weekly home visitations with Home-Based Family Specialist, Michael Cole.

At weekly classes, parents and teens are divided into two groups. Without the adults in the room, teens most often will open up. Michael states, "They can just tell the truth about how they feel about being in the home, in a manner where they're not being looked at or judged."

The parents are led in discussion by Deborah. "It's the educational aspect of it that they like," she said. "It's more than just a support group. These parents are learning how to communicate with their teen and how to model their communication as a parent."

After the discussion, teens are taught boxing and all the other aspects of the sport — self-discipline, mindfulness, strength, supporting and celebrating others. Michael smiles when he brags about these teens, "They learn who they are. They don't think they can do it at first but the expressions on their faces when they realize that they CAN is priceless!"

Parents practice yoga or meditation exercises to help with stress relief and self-care. Both Michael and Deborah have noticed parents have become more receptive to the learning and are really supporting each other since yoga has been added.

Other programs offered by the Youth and Teen services group include:

Parent/Teen Solutions (PTS) — an in-home visitation program for families with youths 7-18 years old Peaceful Alternatives to Tough Situations (PATTS) — group sessions for families with children in 3rd-7th grades

We are so proud of the Knock Out for Change program and the entire staff of family specialists and clinicians at The Parenting PATH!

Child Abuse Prevention Month Community Outreach



Child Abuse Prevention is a mission all year long but in April we make an extra push to "Ring Out Child Abuse" throughout the Triad area.

There were several outreach events including a community discussion at Forsyth Tech Community College, 1st Annual Ring Out Stokes County, and an amazing Egg Hunt and Safety event for our families.

Hopefully, you saw some of our Pinwheel Gardens that were "planted" around the community through the month! The national symbol of child abuse, the blue pinwheel is a symbol of the innocence of childhood that we believe every child deserves. Gardens were distributed to our community partners as we all take a stand against child abuse.

Healthy, Weathy and Wise Partnership with Wise Man Brewing



\$6,600 Raised

It was so fun to partner with Wise Man Brewing for the whole month of May. For every pint of Mountain Calling IPA. \$1 was donated to The Parenting PATH. Patrons were also able to round up their tabs the entire month to also donate to us. Every penny counts!

Of course, we can't forget our Why Not Tuesday events! There were 5 in total but the biggest was for sure the birthday party for our very own Joe Rick, Chief Experience Officer!

Pilot Mountain Outdoor Adventure Festival & Expo Sponsor



Pilot Mountain hosted its first ever Outdoor Adventure Festival & Expo this past April. A multi-day, multi-location event showcased outdoor recreation businesses and manufacturers to increase awareness of the area's natural assets and outdoor recreation amenities while encouraging economic growth and healthy/active lifestyles for Surry County.

The event featured local business vendors, on site wellness classes, live gear demonstrations, rock wall, 5k race, disc golf tournament, food trucks, beer/wine vendors, and concert headlining Old Crow Medicine Show. The Parenting PATH was a Friends of the Expo Sponsor and raised almost \$9000 at a fundraiser serving concessions at the concert.





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