

# Safe Neighborhoods Newsletter

March 19, 2024

## Making Neighborhoods Safe for Kids & Families!

Safe Kids Now National Network shares information to empower and keep children, families, and neighbors safe. We provide steps to make neighborhoods, communities and cities safe, healthy places to work and live.



Children are God's love gift; they are Heaven's generous reward - Psalm 127:3

## The High Cost of Ignoring A Child's Inner Spirit!

By Stephanie Mann



Americans have seen a gradual decline in family, youth, and neighborhood health and safety. Years ago, many citizens decided they didn't need a loving God to help guide their lives or the lives of their children. Today's statistics are alarming and costly.

- Taxpayers spend **\$220 million a DAY** on child abuse and neglect. (Prevent Child Abuse)
- We spend **\$655 Billion a year** on gangs. ([youth.gov](http://youth.gov))
- 1.2 million high school students drop out of school, which can lead to teen parenthood, unemployment, victimization, drug and alcohol abuse, petty violence, juvenile conviction, and incarceration. (Wikipedia)
- One in five teens will develop a severe mental health disorder. The American Rescue Plan Act passed in 2021 included **\$170 Billion** in school funding to hire mental health workers, including psychologists. (American Psychological Association)

It will not be politicians who fix these problems. It will be “We the people” who create change.

**What can Americans do to take back their power and support children?** We are living in dangerous times for children. The internet, cell phones, and tablets are **not** safe for children. Wherever children go on the internet, predators are waiting to befriend them and lure them into sexual pictures and Sextortion. Predators and misguided teenagers can bully youth, sell them pills (fentanyl), and make them feel worthless. Or tell them they are amazing and deserve the finest jewelry, clothes, and the best restaurants to make a potential victim feel good and exploit children for their sick desires. We are in a battle between good and evil!

What can adults do to protect children?

1. **Empower your children!** It is up to parents to guide children so they know how to take charge of their inner spirit and give them the tools to manage their emotions to stay spiritually centered so they can develop the 3Cs: courage, character, and a self-protective conscience.
2. **Create a community around children so they learn how to get along and work with others.** Get to know all your neighbors and work together to keep kids safe. Get children involved in team sports and group activities. Churches and synagogues also offer support for families.

For more information on how to empower youth which can keep them safe so they make good choices, go to [www.safekidsnow.com](http://www.safekidsnow.com)

*About the Writer: STEPHANIE L. MANN Author, Crime and Violence Prevention Consultant, Founder, Safe Kids Now National Network, is the author of “Empowerment Parenting: How to raise resilient children.” In 1975, Stephanie co-authored, “Alternative to Fear: Guidelines to Safer Neighborhoods.” With the help of California’s first lady, Nancy Reagan, the California Youth Authority funded the guide and sold thousands nationwide to police departments, police training centers, state and government agencies including the FBI. “Alternative to Fear” helped educate police about the potential of involved citizens and popularized the “Neighborhood Watch” Programs. Mann is the author of six books on home, family, neighborhood, and city safety For more information, visit [www.safekidsnow.com](http://www.safekidsnow.com)*

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## A ‘Woke Kindergarten’ Lesson

By Dennis Jamison



Glassbrook Elementary School in the Hayward Unified School District (HUSD) in California, had such dismal scores in basic education, it needed a serious solution. School records in the Spring of 2023 revealed that less than 4% of the 474 students at the school were proficient in math, and under 12% could achieve proficiency in English. Hayward Unified School District sought the assistance of “Woke Kindergarten” to wake up from the educational nightmare. However, it only became worse. According to a Daily Wire report in early February, [Bay Area School Tried ‘Woke Kindergarten,’ Test Scores Dropped More.](#)

This elementary school had been on the state’s “Comprehensive School Improvement” list (a state watch list for improving academic improvement) since 2020. The same school was on a HUSD list in 2021 to be shut down along with three other schools: [‘Save our school!’ Families in Hayward protest plan to shut campuses to help close budget gap.](#) At the time, the HUSD were dealing with school closures and possibilities of potential school closures over a three-year period in order to address plunging enrollment and a major budget shortfall.

Obviously, HUSD decided not to close Glassbrook but chose to use \$250,000 from a federal program to employ the services of a for-profit company called “Woke Kindergarten” as a way to “fix” problems at the school. However, after the school used the federal aid, intended to help boost test scores for the country’s lowest-performing schools, it has now sunk lower in light of recent analysis. The *San Francisco Chronicle* revealed: [This Bay Area school district spent \\$250000 on Woke Kindergarten program. Test scores fell even further](#). “Woke Kindergarten” did not help with the improvement of basic educational needs of the students. Instead, the company trained the school’s teachers “in topics like white supremacy and oppression,” rather than such academic subjects like English and mathematics.

Glassbrook was in their second year of using “[Woke Kindergarten](#)” within a three-year contract. District officials supported “Woke Kindergarten’s curriculum stating that “it did what it was hired to do.” Their curriculum was utilized with any of Glassbrook Elementary’s 474 students, and it included a “woke word of the day” (words like ‘strike’ and ‘protest.’ According to the recent *Daily Wire* article, such vocabulary words were “meant to introduce children to a ‘language of the resistance’ or a ‘liberatory vocabulary in a way that they can easily digest, understand and most importantly, use in their critiques of the system.”

The article went on to reveal some content of the “Woke Kindergarten” website, such as its goal of “supporting children, families, educators and organizations in their commitment to abolitionist early education and pro-black and queer and trans liberation.” According to Zeus Leonardo, UC Berkeley education professor, “Woke Kindergarten is founded on the new concept of abolitionist education, which advocates for abolition, or ‘a kind of starting over.’” Leonardo was additionally quoted in explaining that “the idea is that certain things can’t be reformed, tweaked or shifted because they are inherently problematic or oppressive. It’s not about indoctrinating or imposing politics, ‘but making politics part of the framework of teaching.’”

On the other hand, at ground zero, some Glassbrook teachers questioned the value of the program, revealing that “Woke Kindergarten is wrongly rooted in progressive politics and activism with anti-police, anti-capitalism and anti-Israel messages (italics ours) mixed in with the goal of making schools safe, joyful and supportive for all children.”

One unidentified teacher at the Glassbrook school had asked questions about why the trainer used the phrase “so-called United States” during one session he attended. Additionally, he reported questioning “lessons on Woke Kindergarten’s website called ‘Lil’ Comrade Convos’ and some talking about a world without police, money, or landlords.” (italics ours)

The *Chronicle* article reported that another teacher, on condition of anonymity, explained that “Woke Kindergarten offered one perspective on issues and that there was little or no tolerance for questions. “It slowly became very apparent if you were a dissenting voice, that it’s not what they wanted to hear.”

Defending the decision to hire “Woke Kindergarten,” Hayward Superintendent Jason Reimann told *The San Francisco Chronicle* it was not really about improving test scores, but “helping students feel safe and whole is part and parcel of academic achievement.” Reimann stated that the decision was approved by the school board and made by the school community, including parents and teachers, as part of a federal improvement plan to boost student achievement by improving attendance. “We are in favor 100% of abolishing systems of oppression where they hold our students back,” he said.

Reports indicate that the contract with Woke Kindergarten was recently terminated. It is an indication that awakened Californians are themselves holding back their students – from Woke Kindergarten’s ideologically-driven agenda. However, this situation in California represents the proverbial “tip of the iceberg” for the rest of the nation because they are a “global, abolitionist early childhood ecosystem,” according to their website: [Woke Kindergarten](#). They have an agenda that goes beyond the abolition of contemporary education. Much, much more is being promoted.

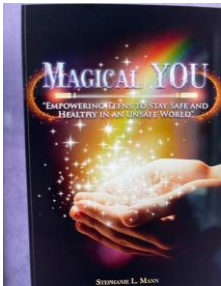
Their available public information also challenges the “legitimacy of the Supreme Court,” advocates for the abolishment of the police, of money, and the military. Akiea Gross, Woke Kindergarten’s founder, recently

declared on the organization's official Instagram account: "I believe that the United States has no right to exist." Gross also announced that "the rumors are true" and they are "anti-Israel" and "pro-Palestine," believing in a "Free Palestine from the river to the sea."

Such statements may cause concerns over the company's long-term marketing plan. Questions may arise as to whether such a company would continue to exist without the nation providing a foundation for it to exist. However, beyond such brash remarks from an overt wanna-be enemy of capitalism and America, parents should have deeper concerns over a company that is trusted with the education of our young people. Concerned parents must pay much closer attention to what the local school board directors are arranging in their public-school districts. Even so much more important would be for parents, grandparents and concerned citizens to inquire as to what is going on 'behind closed school doors.' This is why parents, grandparents and any concerned citizens need to elect ethical and morally responsible people to school boards across America.

## Action Items....

From the Editor: Safe Kids Now News is on [LinkedIn](#). If you have relevant announcements about important events aligned with our efforts to shed light on the problems that kids, their families, and America's neighborhoods face in the midst of the confusion today, please email Stephanie at [safeneighborhoods@gmail.com](mailto:safeneighborhoods@gmail.com) by the 30<sup>th</sup> of each month prior to our monthly newsletter around the 15<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> of each month.



**Call to Action:** Stephanie Mann has written an empowerment guide that targets our preteens and teenagers on how to stay safe and healthy in an unsafe world. "Magical You" is a unique opportunity for parents, grandparents, what they need to do to make better choices in everyday life. This is the time to prioritize time for that conversation with them about making choices, what events are happening in today's world, and how those events impact their lives. "Magical You" is available on Amazon. Visit [www.safekidsnow.com](http://www.safekidsnow.com) for more information. You may also order any of her books also from [www.safekidsnow.com](http://www.safekidsnow.com).

For more information on Safe Kids Now, or to book Stephanie for keynote speech, workshop or panel. She is also available for community crime prevention consultation for law enforcement, education and faith-based affiliations, email her at [safeneighborhoods@gmail.com](mailto:safeneighborhoods@gmail.com).

**Call to Action:** Celebrate these March health awareness observances with your children: Stalking Awareness Month, National Nutrition Month, and National Drug and Alcohol Facts Week, March 18-24.

**And... May is Mental Health Awareness Month and Granny is already celebrating....Remember to breathe, pray, smile, laugh, read, move, and love. Repeat as many times as necessary!!!!**



## TIP TOONS

Added new information on "free downloads"

<p><b>Crime Fighting Granny</b></p> <p>"Nurturing a Child's Mental Health?" Part One</p> <p><small>©Ganga Gitter 2019 All</small></p>	<p>Nurturing a child's mental health is very important. The following suggestions have been very effective.</p> <p><b>Actively listen before offering your advice.</b></p> <p><b>Be truthful!</b></p>	<p><b>Hug Them</b></p> <p><i>teach love inspire</i></p> <p><b>Do Not Allow Bullying!</b></p>	<p>Support Be Patient Believe Be Present</p> <p>Love them with all your heart.</p> <p><b>Child Health Plus</b></p>
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