

Safe Neighborhoods Newsletter

Safe Kids Now Network, LLC AUGUST 2024

Making Neighborhoods Safer for Kids & Families!

Safe Kids Now Network LLC (www.safekidsnow.com) shares information to empower and keep children, families, and neighbors safe throughout the global communities.



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

NEIGHBORHOOD BREAKING NEWS!

- ✓ Safe Kids Now Network is in its 4th campaign month to create stronger neighborhoods with a free download 10-step blueprint on protecting your children. Safe neighborhoods have always been a way for families to protect their children. Help us reach our goal of 1 billion people all over the globe. (www.safekidsnow.com)
- ✓ Safe Kids Now has been working with the national Home Owners Association (HOA) how.com for many months. They will launch their Safe Neighborhoods Program in October. It is rescheduled from a September launch because REMAX with 144,000 realtors has been added. How exciting is that?
- ✓ Three-Day Conference: Stephanie Mann is teaming up with Edwina Cowell, CEO at Spiritual Playdates in Chicago, and Peter Kurtz-Groves, researcher and Non-Profit Professional working in Seattle, WA, on housing and homelessness. They will address critical issues for families October 13-15. More info next month

From the Director's Desk

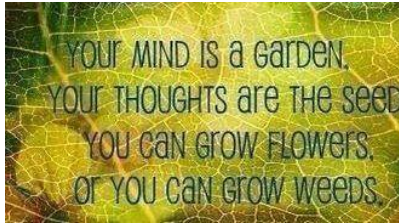
Greetings from Nevada! School has started! It is important to make sure that your children are prepared for their new year in school. Make sure that you take time to meet your child's teachers. Get involved in school activities. Ask how you can help your child with homework, or projects, etc. Spend time each day in conversation about how their day went. Make that time important time. Empower your child to feel as if they can come to you with any concerns.

SKNN has created a Resolution for governmental agencies including county commissions, city council, and state agencies to support the Establishment of Family and Neighborhood Safety Month in September. We need your help in getting this resolution to all local and state agencies to consider adopting this resolution. For more information, email safeneighborhoods@gmail.com to request a PDF you can use to inspire and empower your local and state legislative officials to help us adopt this resolution. For more information on advocating, email Sher Graham at slgraham4969@gmail.com, subject line: **SKN Resolution**

YOUR NEWS: If you have relevant announcements about important events aligned with our efforts to shed light on the problems that kids, their families, please email safeneighborhoods@gmail.com by the 30th of each month prior to our monthly newsletter emailed around the 15th-20th of each month. If it is an event, we need 60 days' lead time to promote your event.

The Spiritually Crisis in America

By Stephanie Mann



Violence Incidents in the News

August 13, 2024: A 14-year-old middle school student pulled out a gun and killed his 11-year-old friend over a vape pen in St Petersburg, FL. The teenager will be tried as an adult with voluntary manslaughter. Where did the young man get the gun? Why was any weapon accessible to him?

July 13, 2024: In Butler, PA, twenty-year-old Thomas Matthew Crooks made a decision to assassinate former President Donald Trump. Why would a young man make such a deadly decision? Anger? Hate? Attention? Where were his parents when he was growing up?

We need a national discussion about youth who act and look okay but whose hearts and minds are filled with anger and hate.

Death by gun violence is increasing in the United States. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), 2022 data indicates that firearms continue to be the number one factor in child deaths for the third year in a row. In 2020-2021, child and teen firearms contributed to the deaths of more children ages 1-17 years in the U.S. than any other type of injury or illness. The child firearm mortality rate has doubled in the U.S. from a recent low of 1.8 deaths per 100,000 in 2013 to 3.7 in 2021. And that doesn't include substance abuse or drug addictions, mental health issues or suicide.

What is causing this critical healthcare issue to increase in our communities? Many young people do not have confidence in their inner power to make logical and positive life choices. Many parents fail their children when they choose not to take time to help their children become more confident about their emotions and understand how emotions impact their life. Often, youth without guidance or who are enabled often disguise their true feelings.

It is not an issue of family economics. It is an issue of parents empowerment and ability to provide a positive behavior for their children through their own choices. Children learn quickly from how their parents, guardians, family members behave rather than what they say to them.

Then and Now

Years ago, children were taught to be polite and respectful, obey their parents, sit quietly, listen to their teachers, and understood they would be punished if they demonstrated bad behavior. In many schools, rifles were stacked in the classroom as gun practice was offered to kids after school. Gun violence was never an issue!

Today, we read stories about bullies, young and old, abusers, gang members, and killers and harmful incidents to others. When this type of individual is triggered in the thought of harming innocent people, then the action of harm becomes reality in their mind. If the perpetrators feel powerless or that their life is not worth living, then violent behavior happens. Do these youth lack a spiritual understanding of themselves?

Children who don't get emotional support at home may not develop the inner strength to handle anger. Anger can fester into negative energy, ignite a false sense of power, and become destructive to everyone around them. Young people seldom hear about adults who overcome depression or a crisis and succeed. Are they not hearing positive stories of how others overcome

their depression or need to behave violently? Do they feel alone and overwhelmed? Do they think no one is there to help them, and that they are alone?

As a crime and violence prevention specialist for 40 years, I saw the cycle of violence growing as spiritually immature adults "raised" a new "generation of children. Spiritually unaware adults do not realize they are vulnerable and under attack, and their children are at risk. Since we can't stop violence, parents can pray for guidance, surround children with caring adults, and work with neighbors to create a supportive community. They can read a book on parenting or find a church environment that empowers families. God desires a healthy balance in our lives so chaos doesn't become difficult to handle. If democracy and "we the people" are to be "revived, we must transform negativity into positive energy and action.

Years ago, it was common for adults to teach the Ten Commandments to children and help them understand God's power. Children learned to stay spiritually balanced to protect themselves and know right from wrong. When young children and young adults do not have the tools to know how to handle problems, they may find substitutions with alcohol or drugs that can become a way to escape, possibly leading to addiction and homelessness. Or youth choose to follow Satanic power, or get involved in a gang, which turns them away from moral values as they become self-destructive and execute a plan to make other people suffer.

Every day, we make choices! God-power gives us insights, patience, kindness toward others, and the ability to change, which helps us reach our potential. Spiritually centered families can discover the inner power to find hope, self-empowerment, and freedom.

It is easy to recognize a genius like Albert Einstein, Leonardo de Vinci, and Shakespeare. Yet today, do you hear enough people talk about the potential genius within each of their children? The definition of genius is "exception" to intellectual, creative power or other natural ability." Every child is born with God-given talents. They have an imagination to help them think freely, intuition to enlighten them, insights to help them navigate life, instincts to protect them from danger, a sense of humor to help them survive, and a God-given conscience that can keep them safe and healthy. It is time to be more positive daily with our children and let them know that we love them and honor what they do daily, no matter how small the accomplishment.

Find a Healthy Balance

Finding a healthy balance allows each of us to excel in life. Gordon Hinckley, former president of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, said that "geniuses have not done the primary work of the world. Ordinary people have done it with balance in their lives, who have learned to work extraordinarily." Genius exists in each of us. Each person is an extraordinary individual who has been given specific gifts and talents to use, and these need to be celebrated in the family, the school, the faith center and the community.

Spiritually centered, balanced people are not victims; they have learned how to empower themselves and guide others as they discover a life worth living. As Deepak Chopra tells us that "If you discover balance in yourself, you will contribute immensely to the world." The time is now to reach out and wake up American families. Our communities, our families, our children will be safer and healthier when families become spiritually self-aware and empower children to discover God's power. Let's work together for safer families and neighborhoods that can expand love and peace in our communities.

About the Writer: Stephanie L. Mann, Crime and Violence Prevention Consultant and founder of Safe Kids Now National Network LLC. Her experiences in crime prevention has given her the insight, wisdom, and vision to advocate for safe communities and neighborhoods for all children around the world. She is the author of five books on family, home, neighborhood and city safety. Stephanie conducts workshops and keynote speeches as a professional speaker on crime prevention and safety. You can reach her at safeneighborhoods@gmail.com or visit <https://www.safekidsnow.com>.

"It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men" - F Douglass

What Do You Really Know About Your Children?

By Sher Graham

How much do you really know about each of your children? What information do you not know about each child? Take time to write down what you know and what you don't know about your children. This short activity will give you a glimpse into your children's life journey. Let's start and talk about a few areas that are important. This simple activity should not take any parents or family member of sibling time, but it is an indicator for what you may need to find out about each of your children. These are just three of many areas that you need to know about each of your children, not collectively.

Favorite Things or People. Your child's favorite color, toy, song, or food is a great place to begin. Do you know what they like or dislike to eat? Who do they seem to like better in grandparents? Why do they like that grandparent? What do they talk to you about, or not talk to you about? What type of expressions do you see when mealtime comes? What are your expressions about food, colors, songs, toys, or people? Children will express from what your response is.

Fears. Your child's fears are important. Do they like storms? What behavior to they exhibit when the thought a storm comes? What triggers anxiety in their behavior or conversation patterns? Behaviors are also manifested by children from the parent's anxious behavior or what they choose to say about something in front of the child.

Environmental Factors. Environmental factors are very important in a child's life. Is your home a place of safety where you child feels safe to talk or express opinions? What is the environment like where the child studies? What adult conflicts and behaviors or conversations are conducted in front of a child (at any age)? It is important that you explore and identify the positive and negative environmental behaviors that exist or not exist in your home.

About the Writer: Sher Graham is an international mental health advocate. Her commitment to making life better for others began with the legacy inspired by her grandmothers. As a workshop training expert and professional speaker, she shares her personal journey of surviving parental substance abuse disorder through her writing and speaking. A Neurobehavior Strategist, she is an international best-selling anthology author of 14 mental health and business books. You can reach her at slgraham4969@gmail.com or <https://www.shergraham.com>.

VIOLENCE IS OFTEN THE RESULT OF PARENTS NOT TEACHING CHILDREN about INNER POWER.

Neglecting to empower youth can lead to mental health problems later in life! A child who feels love, respected, supported and heard will choose not to abuse drugs, become violent or develop mental health problems. Today's society can confuse youth about sex and violence. Parents can drug and violence proof their children.

Stephanie Mann wrote "Empowerment Parenting" as a result of working in our inner cities. Most children, regardless of their environment, do NOT become sexual, violent or abuse drugs. This book is necessary for every parent to read and share with their children's teachers, and other family members. When parents have the knowledge to empower themselves, then their behavioral choices become empowerment action for their children. EMPOWER one child or a group of children! Empowerment Parenting provides parents, grandparents, teachers, coaches and educators the tools to help youth become centered, responsible and self-aware. Young people recognize the power of bullies and abusers. However, they need to know how to discover their inner power to handle the slings and arrows of life. Visit www.safekidsnow.com to order the book "Empowerment Parenting: How to Raise Resilient Children Who Become Happy, Self-Reliant Adults. www.safekidsnow.com

