

National Parent Leadership Month

Key Campaign Messages and Talking Points

Key Campaign Messages

- * National Parent Leadership Month was created in order to recognize, honor and celebrate parents for their vital leadership roles in their homes and communities and in state, national and international arenas.
- * Parent Leadership is an essential and effective means of strengthening families and preventing child abuse and neglect.
- * Meaningful Parent Leadership occurs when parents gain the knowledge and skills to function in leadership roles and represent a “parent voice” to help shape the direction of their families, programs, policies, and communities.
- * Research on Parent Leadership shows that all parents have the potential to become strong Parent Leaders.

Talking Points

- * Parents Anonymous® Inc. has declared the month of February as National Parent Leadership Month as a means of honoring and celebrating parents for their leadership roles in their homes and communities and in state, national and international arenas.
- * In 1969, Parents Anonymous® Inc. was founded through a partnership between a Parent Leader and a professional and, to this day, continues to operate in partnership with Parent Leaders in all aspects of its work.
- * Parent Leadership is a vital family strengthening and child abuse prevention strategy.
 - All parents have the potential to become Parent Leaders.
 - Parent leadership strengthens families and prevents child abuse on multiple levels – the individual and the family – and creates positive change in the systems that serve and support children and families.
 - The experience of having influence on issues of personal importance helps parents who take on leadership roles expand their strengths and their ability to develop and implement plans to reach specific goals.
 - Serving as a Parent Leader provides opportunities for growth and helps parents gain increased self-esteem and a stronger sense of personal power.

- Often, parents who take on leadership roles in their homes, communities and other settings become more confident and assertive, transferring their leadership skills to other areas of their lives, such as advocating in their children's schools.
 - Parents who are Parent Leaders are role-modeling positive, productive behaviors for their families, and this can have a positive impact on all family members, as well as generate increased respect for the Parent Leader in his or her own family.
 - Often, children of Parent Leaders begin to take on leadership roles appropriate for their age group, based on their parent's modeling and ability to provide increased guidance about these new behaviors.
 - Health, education, social service and any other systems that affect children and families will achieve more positive results, utilize resources more effectively and expand their ability to create change when they partner with Parent Leaders to plan, implement, oversee and evaluate their services.
- * A Parent Leader...
 - May be a parent, grandparent, kinship care provider, foster parent, or anyone in a parenting role
 - Has personal experience in using resources/services to strengthen his or her family
 - Is speaking and acting from his or her perspective as a parent
 - Is not speaking and acting in a staff role for an organization or institution
 - * Parent Leaders can be most effective when the following supports provide a strong foundation for their work:
 - A defined meaningful role as a Parent Leader
 - Access to training
 - Clear opportunities to contribute to program development, implementation, oversight and evaluation, policymaking, training and technical assistance, public awareness and outreach
 - Tangible supports such as assistance with child care and transportation and compensation for wages lost while contributing in a Parent Leader role
 - Opportunities to work in partnership with staff and professionals in organizations that address key issues related to the Parent Leader's area of interest and commitment
 - * Parents Anonymous® Inc. research has shown that parents are more likely to become Parent Leaders when they:
 - Feel accepted, encouraged and supported by other parents and professionals
 - Are recognized for their successes and contributions
 - Receive positive feedback and reinforcement
 - See other parents like themselves taking on leadership roles