

Cherokee Point Parent Leadership Updates

February 2017

Recent Accomplishments!

The Parent Leaders at Cherokee Point continue to work hard, contributing to a warm, positive school environment that promotes trauma informed practices.

The “Gathering Place” (D104) is a bustling room, where parents meet to work and socialize. Parent Leaders host an Open House for parents of preschool and kindergarten children to welcome them to Cherokee Point. “Cafecito social” events are held to provide further opportunities for socializing and getting involved, and Parent Leaders have led 3 workshops this school year on trauma effects on children and family, positive parenting, and stress reduction.



Cherokee Point
elementary school • city heights



At the “Gathering Place”, Parent Leaders give workshops, help teachers, work on school events, and socialize

Parent Leaders work with the Community to Help Cherokee Point Families



Parent Leaders Support Community Workshops on Immigration Rights by Alor Calderon from the Employee Rights Center



Trainings by the Center for Community Solutions: Community Resident Leadership Workshops on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

Supporting Mr. Salazar with ELAC

In addition, Parent Leaders work with professionals in the community who provide further educational opportunities and resources to families at Cherokee Point. Collaborating with the Center for Community Solutions (CCS) on a California Department of Public Health Rape Prevention Program (CDPH-RPE) grant (2015-2017), Parent Leaders have participated in a series of sessions on sexual and dating/domestic violence, and are now working on individualizing the lessons and incorporating the content into their workshops on trauma-informed care.

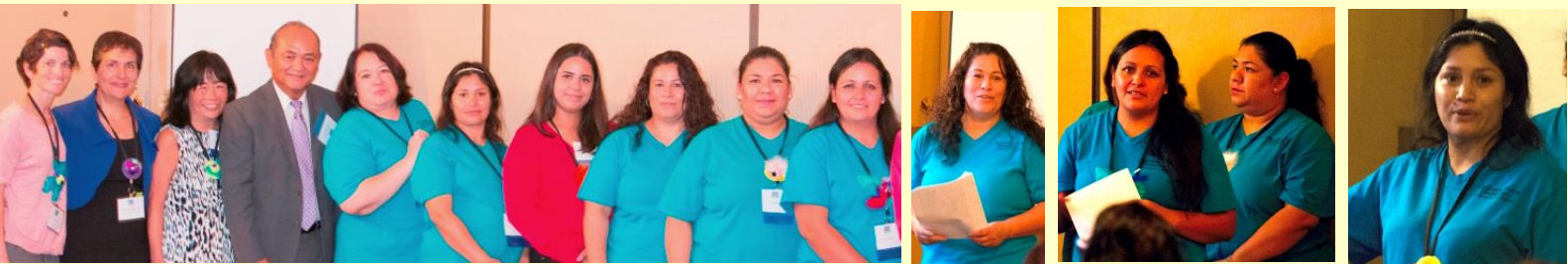
Parent Leaders now help organize and support workshops by several community agencies that provide resources addressing the needs of the Parent Leaders and Cherokee Point community. They have supported trainings on immigration rights by the Employee Rights Center, classes on academic skill development and parent involvement by the Harold J. Ballard Parent Center and the School Smarts Parent Engagement Program, and trainings and events by the English Language Advisory Committee (ELAC), Team of Advocates for Special Kids (TASK), and Jewish Family Services, to name a few.

More Parent Leadership Highlights

Expanding Beyond Cherokee Point

The work of Parent Leaders was described in an article in the *Therapeutic Parenting Journal* in December, 2016. Co-authors included Parent Leader Maria Gonzalez and Principal Godwin Higa from Cherokee Point Elementary, as well as, San Diego State University (SDSU) professor and graduate student, Audrey Hokoda and Carmen Rodriguez. The article highlights how Cherokee Point is following Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and San Diego Trauma-Informed Guide Team (SD-TIGT) recommendations for creating a trauma-informed community school, and includes a model of parent engagement for Latino immigrant families, created by Carmen Rodriguez as part of her masters project.

Parent Leaders also co-presented at the Early Childhood Mental Health “We Can’t Wait” conference in Fall, 2016. They showcased their trauma informed work focused on early childhood education and parent empowerment and co-presenters were Cherokee Point Principal and Parent Leaders (Godwin Higa, Diana Cordova, Maria Gonzalez, Edith Lopez, Evelin Molina). The presentation featured Parent Leaders’ collaborative work with SDSU faculty (Audrey Hokoda, Shulamit Ritblatt, Jeana Preston, Colette Ingraham) and students (Carmen Rodriguez, Shannon Schiele, Laura Partida) over the past 5 years.



Cherokee Point Principal and Parent Leaders present with SDSU faculty and students at the Early Childhood Mental Health Conference, 2016

Cherokee Point Parent Leaders have also given over 6 presentations with Principal Higa to educators (e.g., Hawaii State Department of Education, Providence Health Systems, Gladstone Schools and Tillamook School District educators from Oregon, educators from Surrey, British Columbia, Canada) interested in learning more about trauma informed community school practices. The gatherings are fun and informative as educators share ideas on school policy, restorative practices, and collaborative efforts among district and school staff (e.g., counselors, nurses, biliteracy teachers). Parent Leaders have shared how their work has been transformative for them as they help create a warm school environment that promotes trauma informed practices, early childhood education, family resilience and well-being, and parent empowerment.



Cherokee Point Parent Leaders Meet with Educators from Surrey, B.C. Canada and Parent Leaders from McGill School of Success in San Diego



Cherokee Point Parent Leaders Present with Mark McGuffey at Hoover Cluster Meeting, 2017