

Touch the Future

Preliminary Proposal

Parent-Child Development Centers (PCDC)

Expanding the vision, skill and capacity of the existing local and national early childcare and education network to include parent development as an equal priority with child development.

Organizing Principle and Inspiration

Child development is dependent on adult development. The following was inspired in part by Bev Bos, having given over 6,000 workshops to parents and provider and her thirty year experience developing the Roseville Community Preschool near Sacramento California.

Human development is a balanced equation involving the child's capacity to learn, the adult model and the environment. A change in one factor demands a balancing change or growth in the other. To balance the human development equation adults must continue to grow and develop in ways that parallel the growth and education of young children. The collapse of the extended family broke this reciprocal dynamic after World War II. Parents were marginalized out of the equation. They lost direct and regular contact with trusted mentors. We created a national system where children more or less developed and parents did not, which continues today.



The Challenge

There is no shortage of wisdom or information. Basketball players, dancers, chefs, artists, even doctors and lawyers practice. For every skill there is a safe place to explore and develop that needed capacity - except for parents.

Yes, parent involvement is mandatory in most programs. What's missing is not a class or standardized curriculum, but rather regular, practical, mentored practice and experience for today's parents. The truth is, providers and educators haven't been trained nor do they have inspired up-to-date resources or the support to mentor parents.

The proposed model provides the training, staff development, community support and expanding library of inspired resources to allow existing early childcare and education programs to succeed at parent development as skillfully as they meet the needs of children. This is accomplished at no cost to parents, providers, the government or ongoing support from foundations.



Parent-Child Development Centers (PCDC)

Rather than early childhood education we will have **Parent-Child Development Centers** where, side-by-side with child development, parents and the people who care for children explore and practice the art of mentoring the next critical generation.

Social Ventures That Touch the Future
1685 Copenhagen Drive, Solvang, CA 93463
805 688-2190 michael@tffuture.org

- PCDCs are neighborhood based, convenient, trusted and safe.
- PCDCs offer a balance of theory and practice.
- Knowledge and mentored experiences are inspired, up-to-date, tested and relevant.
- Flexible and community led – each PCDC adapts its time and resources to meet the real life challenges of local parents and providers and does so on a regular basis.
- The capacities developed in PCDCs go beyond traditional child development, ages and stages, and include stress management, nonviolent communication and group process that develop social-emotional intelligence and communication skills of parents and providers.
- Delivered every six weeks, eight times per year, the first set of resources, Nurturing Basics features Joseph Chilton Pearce, Bev Bos, Marshall Rosenberg and national leaders in the field.
- A bi-lingual, English and Spanish, magazine is planned that would summarize issues and key concepts associated with the PCDC network. This will be delivered to participating parents' and providers' homes at no charge.
- The entire PCDC Network requires no government funding, no additional taxes, no large bureaucracies, is locally funded and administered. The network is designed to expand throughout the United States and internationally without ongoing funding from foundations.

How Does It Work?

Step One – Existing childcare and education programs expand their vision to include parent development as an equal, non-optional component of their program and apply to the network.

Step Two – A staff member at each center becomes the PCDC Coordinator who is paid to attend three-hour regional training with other coordinators in their community.

At these meetings, scheduled every six weeks, coordinators experience and are trained in the use of an expanding collection of staff and parent development resources. These resources include the latest science, best practices, stress management, nonviolent communication and peer-mentored dialogue skills and processes.

Step Three – Coordinators schedule similar meetings at their neighborhood center and model what was learned with parents and staff.

Affordable – The resources needed to sponsor a local Parent-Child Development Center is a tax deductible \$2,250 per year - \$1,000 funds staff participation and \$1,250 provides onsite resources and training for twelve months.



Administered Locally – Organizations such as the YMCA or United Way serve as regional hubs. Universities collaborate by monitoring and evaluating each network.

Community Supported – local businesses and civic groups, Rotary, banks, local companies adopt PCDCs similar to community sponsorship of athletic teams. Sponsors donate \$2,200 per year to their local YMCA, for example, and serve as community advocates for their adopted program.



Expanding, Turn-key System – A paid administrator, serving as self employed consultant, develops each regional network in collaboration with nonprofit hubs. The same regional administrator works with PCDC coordinators to recruit civic organizations, banks, or businesses as sponsors.

Pilot – Five pilot programs with ten to twenty PCDCs in each region are being organized each year for two years, ten regions total. Potential locations include San Diego, Santa Monica-Malibu, Santa Barbara, Monterey-Pacific Grove, Palo Alto, San Francisco, Salt Lake City, Austin, Sun Valley, New Orleans, and Hawaii.

Pilot Funding – A two-year matching request of \$125,000 per year is being developed for the Gates and other major foundations to develop five regional pilot programs each year. In Santa Barbara County, for example, a request to the Orfalea Foundations for \$22,000 is matched by the Gates Foundation which will fund twenty neighborhood PCDCs. A similar request made to the Chumash Indians Foundation in Santa Ynez, \$22,000 matched by the Gates Foundation, will fund twenty neighborhood PCDCs.

Sustainable Local Funding – Foundation support plus university monitored and evaluated pilot programs will generate the proven track record and benefits needed by local sponsors to adopt individual programs. During the pilot phase regional administrators work with PCDC coordinators to recruit civic organizations, banks, or businesses as sponsors, thus transferring long-term support to the local community at an affordable, tax deductible cost of \$2,200 per year per center or program.

Serving Foster Care and Juvenile Justice Families via the Internet

Some parents have the benefits of community. Many do not. The neighborhood network model is being adapted into a virtual community. The same parent and staff resources will be available online as a self passed, bilingual development system complete with streaming media, study guides, regional forums, local networking, a shared resources database and progress completion certification. The community based funding model is being scaled to meet individual needs. The goal is to make these resources available to 500,000 foster care families and tens of thousands of families in the juvenile justice system – at no cost, via \$200 community sponsored tax deductible scholarships.

For More Information

Enclosed are two hour bi-lingual DVDs representing the first three of eight programs called Nurturing Basics. English and Spanish transcripts along with support publications can be found at www.nurturing.us, see resources. Each year eight new resource packages will be delivered to each neighborhood Parent-Child Development Center.

Summary

Continuing adult development is the weakest factor in the human development equation. This local, practical peer-mentored development is the key not only to healthy children but to education, safe neighborhoods, gang activity, the foster care system, childhood obesity, drug abuse. The list goes on and on.

There is no shortage of information, best practices, research and successful models. What is missing are safe, inspired, local playgrounds where parents, the people who care for children, meet, discover and practice the art of mentoring the next critical generation and do so on a regular basis.



Early childhood providers and educators haven't been trained nor do they have resources or support to mentor parents. The Nurturing Network model provides the training, staff development, community support and expanding library of inspired resources to allow existing early childcare and education programs to succeed at parent development as skillfully as they meet the needs of children.

This is accomplished at no cost to parents, providers, the government or ongoing support from foundations. The time has come to balance the human development equation by reaching out, mentoring and supporting parents and the people who care for children. Child development is dependent on adult development and that takes practice, just like riding a bike.

With appreciation,

Michael Mendizza

Michael Mendizza
Founder/Director

Touch the Future is a California based 501c3 nonprofit learning design center.
see www.tfuture.org

Defining

Regional Administrators

Locally Funded and Organized

The Nurturing Project is organized regionally. A region can be city, community, county or in large urban areas a neighborhood. At the center or hub of each region is an existing nonprofit organization currently serving parents and children. The YMCA and United Way are good examples. The Nurturing Project provides a complete turn-key package allowing these hub organizations to successfully add ongoing parent-provider development to their list of services. Nonprofit hub organizations serve as fiscal sponsors for the program. They provide meeting space, limited accounting, community advocacy and networking for the project.

Regional Administrators

Independent contractors become certified trainers in the vision, concepts and materials provided by the Nurturing Project.

- In partnership with Touch the Future, Regional Administrators identify and introduce The Nurturing Project to appropriate nonprofit organizations and help secure one as a nonprofit hub.
- Regional Administrators identify, introduce and engage ten or more early childhood education, preschool, head start, foster and/or childcare programs in the Parent+Child Development Center model.
- Every six weeks Administrators host a three-hour training for program coordinators from each neighborhood childcare/education center in the network. Most often these are conducted at the hub-organization's facilities.
- Administrators work closely with university programs as they monitor and evaluate the regional network.
- During the first pilot year Regional Administrators introduce and promote the project to local civic organizations, banks, companies and corporations. Working closely with neighborhood coordinators the goal is to find sustaining local sponsors for each Parent+Child Development Center in the network.
- The financial model for The Nurturing Project anticipates first year funding for each regional network of ten or more sites to come from a national funder such as the Gates Foundation matched by a local foundation. This seed funding generates the resources necessary for Regional Administrators to establish the base for their expanding network and begin transferring ongoing funding to local sponsors.
- Administrators are compensated based on the size of their regional network, \$500/center. A ten site network, the suggested minimum, generates \$5,000 annually. Thirty sites, a strong manageable network produce \$15,000 for Administrators annually.
- Touch the Future and The Nurturing Project provide consultation, training, branded promotional print, web based publications and support to be adapted to the needs of each Administrator.