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The Indiana Parenting Institute is a valuable resource for NWI families

Story Discussion

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By Mark Loehrke NWI Parent Contributor | Posted: Wednesday, January 19, 2011 12:00 am | No Comments Posted

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When it comes to assuming full responsibility for the care and upbringing of a young human being, new parents are often on their own. Jena Bellezza is marketing director of the Indiana Parenting Institute, which is trying to make the journey a little less intimidating.

What are some of the common parenting issues you see at IPI?

The parenting methods being practiced by this current urban generation - who make up the majority of our students - are practiced because it was the example provided for them by their parents. We commonly see issues like not understanding the emotional sensitivity of children and the impact that has on their behavior, or failing to create an environment that establishes family rules, values, structure, and a sense of togetherness.

These types of things can really stifle children's creativity and self-confidence, leaving them feeling unprepared and vulnerable in the real world. And if we have a community of children who lack the essential life and intellectual skills to build healthy lives for themselves, how can they contribute to creating a thriving community?

What types of services and resources do you offer, and how do you get the word out?

Our experience has been that parents don't parent ineffectively because they are bad parents or they don't care about their children, but rather they lack the know-how to do it any other way. Many parents are overwhelmed with the stresses of just basic survival, especially women parenting singularly. At IPI, we offer access to family support services and resources to meet basic life needs, individual and family counseling, parent peer support groups, and much more.

We make every effort to be involved in the community through any forums, fairs or events in the community, the schools, or with other organizations. We also broadcast Urban Parenting Talk Radio (UPTR), a weekly radio show on WGVE 88.7 FM that provides parenting tips and resource information, and we sponsor a number of our own events, such as Celebrating Family: A Day of Togetherness, and Parenting Awareness Month Indiana (PAMI) in April.

Indiana Parenting Institute, Inc.

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