

Welcome to the Caring Adult Network (CAN) Workshop



Future Leaders Outreach Network (FLON), the organization that brings together the Caring Adult Network believes it takes an entire village to raise a child; that will require **Fathers**, all Adults and **Mothers Involved in Leading Youth**. It takes **F.A.M.I.L.Y.** whatever and no matter what that looks like.

The family is one of the most fundamental institutions of a culture. One of the most important functions of **F.A.M.I.L.Y.** is being the **strongest advocate** for a child or youth. Working with **F.A.M.I.L.Y.** in our community to support young people is the best way to help them to stay focused on pursuing their dreams. Parenting a young person can be challenging and sometimes stressful. It can also be rewarding and enjoyable. You work to support their independence and newly acquired skill(s) as you stay close by “**just in case**”.

During the stage called adolescence, which is the transitional phase of growth and development between childhood and adulthood, youth say over and over that they **want** their parents, caregivers and caring adults to stay close by “**just in case**”. **Youth** want **caring adults** nearby to **help set boundaries** for safe passage to adulthood, to help them if they stumble or fall and to **be there when they succeed**.

What you receive at CAN Workshop:

Social Network: (One hour)

Refreshments are served

Music

Sharing/Networking

Fun

CAN Workshop: (One-hour)

We come together in this network to develop and strengthen our own **skills and effectiveness** as caring adults in whatever our capacity, as parents, foster parents, family and community members with a desire to support and strengthen our young people. We are here learning and sharing so that we support them to successful **self-leadership** and to **pursue their dreams**.

- We want to **communicate effectively** while **modeling our values and expectations** through our **behavior**.
- We want to see youth who have developed a sense of **who** they are, **what** they can do, **where** they are going.
- For your young person to **pursue their dreams** and **achieve success**, caring adults can support them in **avoiding all youth risk behaviors**, which include prevention from alcohol, tobacco, drugs, violence, and teen pregnancy.
- Because of **your** commitment to the young person in your life, they can successfully reach adulthood and lead a healthy and productive life.
- The focus of our work is **positive youth development**, based on **effective** adult-child communication principles, and **avoiding all youth risk behaviors** described earlier. These topics are in consideration of the **benefits** that they offer your youth now and in the future.
- **Supporting all adults** is vital for helping young people arrive at adulthood with the skills, interests and assets that are developed to their fullest potential necessary to lead healthy and productive lives.
- Some teens are **adult sized**, but they still haven't mastered **adult skills**. The journey through adolescence is a unique part of life.
- Youth have outside influences and become more independent as they move through adolescence. There is no finish line, but the passage to another stage of life.

Parents and other caring adults receive a copy of the Caring Adult Network (CAN) manual that includes a "**Letter to MY Child**". Read letter below.

Click here to register - CAN Workshops are scheduled bi-monthly via Zoom, a school or community center. **Click here** to see upcoming dates.



Letter to MY Child,

This message comes at a transition point in your life. This is a critical time in your growing up and the right time to share this with you.

I/We just finished a series of education workshops where I/we was/were told it's never too early or too late to learn about more developing our family.

In the sessions the group discussed plans, hopes and dreams for our family; the kind of life we want for our kids and support for getting there. This is some of what was shared.

I/We want to maintain an environment where you can develop your full potential.

I/We want to see you grow up, mature and transition into adulthood.

I/We want you to choose not to become addicted to tobacco, alcohol, or any other drugs.

I/We want you to choose self-sufficiency before all sexual activity.

I/We want to see you achieve your academic and career goals and dreams.

I/We want to introduce you to the community as a responsible member, ready to fully participate.

We want so much for our kids because you really are the future. You are the fulfillment of hopes and dreams for those who lived before you and generations to come after you. Your life will be your legacy.

While you are developing values, making choices, building relationships and going forward into the future as a leader, you need support to be safe and successful!

There may be times when you may feel that these hopes and dreams for your life are too difficult to achieve and not even be worth it. Adults are interfering, strict, outdated, and too old to understand how things are these days. Your friends make fun and even some other adults will say I'm/we're wrong.

But no matter because I/we believe you're worth it, your dreams are worth it and we're not alone.

You will have a healthy environment where you can grow.

You can find support to build on your strengths and strengthen your challenges.

You have someone to stand up for you and with you.

You can depend on me not give in to pressure.

You can count on me to keep a drug and violence-free home and community.

You can depend on me to help make sure people respect your decisions.

I/we am/are strong enough to sustain the foundation from which you will rise to achieve your goals and dreams.

WE ARE ADULTS WHO ARE STRONG ENOUGH TO MEET CHALLENGES!

WE WILL BE THERE FOR YOU SO THAT YOU CAN PURSUE YOUR DREAMS!

YOU'RE JUST A STEP AWAY! STEP FORWARD AND WELCOME TO YOUNG ADULTHOOD.