

The Power of Parent-to-Parent Support

A large body of research speaks to the unique benefits of parent-to-parent support:



- Parent-to-parent support provides help in seeing hope for the future, feeling less alone, seeing positives in the situation, acceptance of the child's diagnosis, seeing family strengths, and dealing with stress (Santelli et al., 1997).
- Support for parents has been found to facilitate attachment and lessen parental stress, anger and depression (Capuzzi, 1989; Kendall-Tackett & Kantor, 1993).
- Peer support was found to be helpful by over 80% of parents utilizing the services; it increased parents' sense of being able to cope and their acceptance of their situation (Kerr & McIntosh, 2000)
- Parent-to-parent support is a means for helping parents feel less isolated, for providing empathy by those who truly understand, and for providing hope in what may seem a hopeless situation (Shelton et al., 1987).

Conclusions found in research:

- "The transforming effect of contact with other parents was clearly evident."
- "Parent-to-parent support can exert a powerful stress-buffering influence."
- "Peer support provided ... benefits ... that evidently could not be derived from other sources."
- "Parents of children with special health care needs are uniquely qualified to help each other."



Children with emotional or behavioral disorders have the highest prevalence rate of abuse & neglect.

(Crosse, et al., 1995; Sullivan & Knutson, 2000; American Psychological Assoc., 2003)

Protective Factors that Prevent Abuse & Neglect

(Center for the Study of Social Policy, 2004)

1. Parental Resilience
2. Social Connections
3. Knowledge of Parenting & Child Development
4. Concrete Support in Times of Need
5. Social & Emotional Competence of Children



Wisconsin Family Ties Services Increase 4 of 5 Protective Factors

- Support Groups
- 1:1 Peer Support Services
- Workshops & Seminars
- Mentoring / Coaching
- Toll-free Help Line
- Social / Recreational Events
- Advocacy
- Information & Referral

Outcomes Achieved: After receiving WFT services,

- 93.8% of parents responding to a survey felt more capable of dealing with the various systems serving their child
- 90.9% reported having more information regarding their child's diagnosis, treatment options and community programs available to their family
- 90.3% felt more able to cope with their family situation
- 84.8% felt more hopeful about the future

Families Speak About Wisconsin Family Ties



“Before Wisconsin Family Ties, I felt lost. But now, I feel I have support and help whenever I need it.”

“Wisconsin Family Ties changed our lives. They provided me with education and support and renewed our hope. They brought us closer together and helped me find my voice.”

“WFT has provided me with the tools and knowledge to help my son and family find the best resources, services and supports regarding his disability. It’s the difference between being powerless and alone, and being empowered [and] not being alone.”

“Wisconsin Family Ties has helped me become a better parent and to know what my son is entitled to.”

“[WFT] has been a great source of information, support and comfort.”