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National Parent Program Expands in Santa Clara County

Step-by-step training program for parents of strong willed or out-of-control teens teaches how to change destructive behavior.

SAN JOSE, Calif. (February 6, 2013): today, Santa Clara County leaders from education, the Court, probation, social services, faith community and other justice partners are coming together to collaborate on how to best provide the nationally acclaimed Parent Project to families in the county.

“As a community prosecutor, I saw firsthand families struggle with issues like truancy, gangs, and drug and alcohol. Most of the time, families could see their children going down a destructive path but did not have the tools to stop it,” said Judge Julia Alloggiamento – who helped bring Parent Project to Santa Clara County in 2008.

Parent Project is a step-by-step training program for parents of strong willed or out-of-control teens (age 10-19) that teaches parents how to change the destructive behavior of their children. Nationally, it’s helped more than half a million parents with issues related to truancy, gang involvement, drug and alcohol use, runaway, suicide, and more. Since the spring of 2008 when the program was launched locally, Santa Clara County has had more than 1500 parents successfully graduate from the program.

“This program works. After Parent Project’s intervention, we have seen students go back to school, stop using drugs, and get out of gangs,” said Judge Alloggiamento. “In the juvenile justice system and even adult criminal court, we see what happens to these individuals when there is no effective early intervention. It’s in everyone’s best interest that we get children back on track before they walk through the courthouse doors.”

The District Attorney's Office recently sponsored the third training for Parent Project facilitators in Santa Clara County. Approximately 45 additional facilitators were trained, from law enforcement, education, social services, city manager's office, and faith community.

In this 90-minute forum, county leaders will learn directly from Ralph Fry, co-author and national program founder of the Parent Project, more about the program and its effects on communities and families, including why it is different from other parenting programs, as well as the research and evidence that supports this program’s approach.

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