Transforming Men and Boys to End Violence Against Women

Presenters:

- Juan Carlos Arean, Director, National Latin@ Network for Healthy Families and Communities, a project of Casa de Esperanza
- Terri Strodthoff, Founder & Executive Director, Alma Center, Inc.
- Sam Simmons, SAFE Families Manager, Be More Project and Healing Generations, Projects of The Family Partnership

Moderator:

• Jennifer Rose, Consultant, Futures Without Violence

Welcome to the Webinar

We will begin at 11:00am (PT) / 2:00pm (ET).

A recording will be available after the webinar.

Your line will be muted to cut down on background interference so please use the chat box to share your name, your organization, your location and any questions you have for our featured speakers.



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DEFENDING CHILDHOOD PROTECT HEALTHRIVE



Federal Coordination



- US Department of Justice
 - Office of the Attorney General
 - Office of Justice Programs
 - Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
 - Office for Victims of Crime
 - National Institute of Justice

- Office on Violence Against Women
- Office of CommunityOriented Policing
- Executive Office of US Attorneys
- US Department of Health and Human Services
- US Department of Education



Goals of the Defending Childhood Initiative



Prevent children's exposure to violence.

 Mitigate the negative effects experienced by children exposed to violence.

 Develop knowledge about and spread awareness of this issue.



Over \$30 M Invested From FY2010 - FY2012



- Research and Evaluation
- Direct Action in Communities
 - Comprehensive Demonstration Project
 - Safe Start Program (<u>www.safestartcenter.org</u>)
 - OVW Children Exposed to Violence grants
- Training and Technical Assistance
- Attorney General's Task Force on Children Exposed to Violence (<u>www.justice.gov/defendingchildhood/cev-rpt-full.pdf</u>)
- Action Partnerships with Professional Organizations

How to use this technology

- You can choose to connect via computer OR via telephone.
 - Should you choose computer, please mute your computer microphone to avoid feedback.
 - Should you choose to dial in, please follow the audio instructions on the screen or in the audio pop up:
 - Dial: 1-888-850-4523
 - Enter the Participant Code: 418086#
 OR
 - Dial: 1-719-234-7800
 - Enter the Participant Code: 418086#
- There will be time for Q & A at the end of the presentation.
- Please enter any questions you have in the Public Text Chat box.
- A recording and PDF slides will be available after the webinar.





Transforming Men to End Violence Against Women

Juan Carlos Areán





Why engage men and boys?







"It's extremely important to involve them."

"He is the father of our children and we want him to succeed."





"We need to do it for our fathers, brothers sons and grandsons."

"Because they are part of our community."



And Men Want to Participate!



One Example: Te Invito Campaign



Broader Analysis of Male Socialization



We exercise control, coercion, abuse



We abandon our families



We have affairs Use sex workers and porn



We act recklessly



We self-destruct

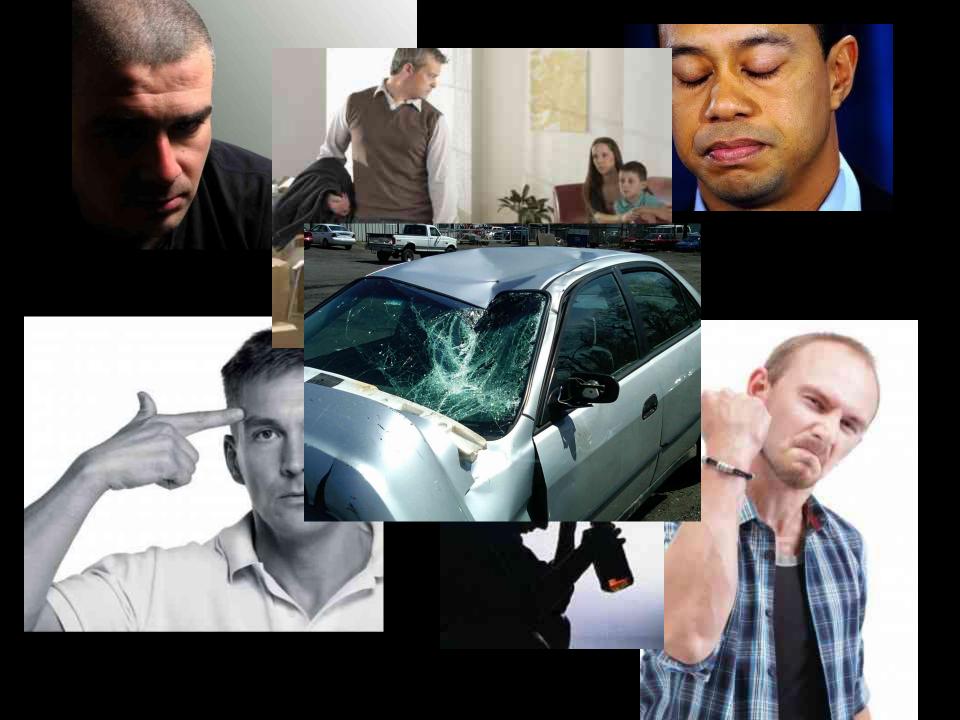


We shut down emotionally



We commit suicide





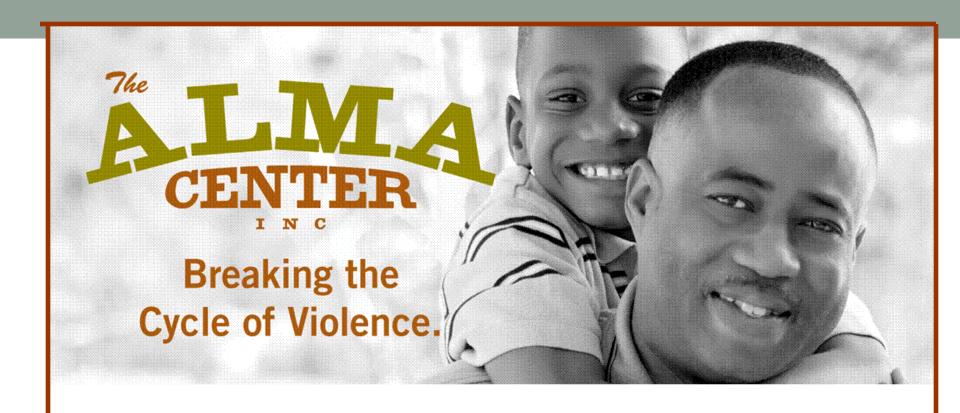


Thank You!



Understanding Root Causes

- Developmental Trauma
 - History of exposure to childhood adversity, violence and trauma
- Gender Socialization
 - Violent and destructive masculinity
- Historical Trauma
 - Ongoing legacy of historical violence, dehumanization and oppression



Terri Strodthoff, PhD, Founder & Executive Director

www.almacenter.org

DEVELOPMENTAL TRAUMA

From... What is **WRONG** with you?

To... What **HAPPENED** to you?



Physical	Verbal & Emotional	Psychological	Intimidation
Hitting, kicking, choking, punching, pushing, pulling hair	Yelling & screaming, Name calling, put downs, insulting	Mind games, humiliating, shaming, belittling, ignoring/silent	Threatening, body language, punching walls, breaking things
Isolation	Sexual	Financial	Male Privilege
No friends/family, screen text/calls , limit independence	Demanding/forc sex/acts, adulte cheating, withho	Withholding/demanding louble standards, rolling \$	Expect partner to do all Housework, childcare, food prep, cleaning
Kids in middle	Child Neglec	rupting	Absence
Interrogating kids, custody battles, turning against other parent	Failure to appro feed, bathe, clot protect or meet necessity	sing children to nal activity, ving illegal activity	Not knowing child, ignoring, unaware of significant events
		ELINGS	

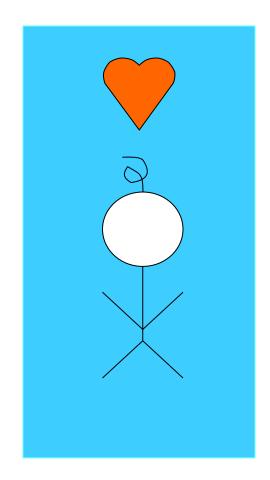


The baby learns.....

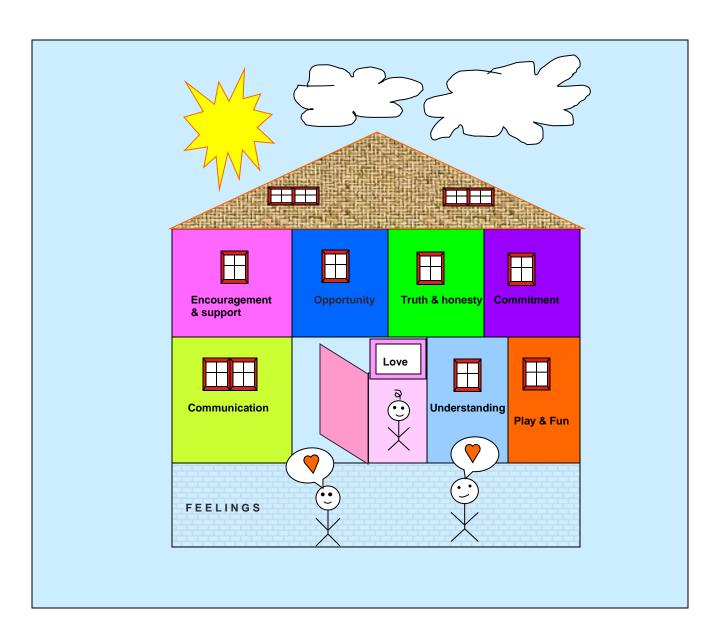
- The world is a frightening and dangerous place
- I can not trust anyone
- I am vulnerable and unprotected
- I must take care of myself
- No-one really cares about me
- I must survive
- Men and boys are dominant & superior to women and girls



A baby is born....









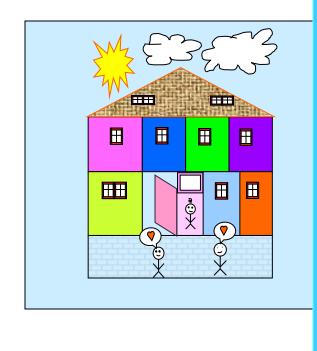
The baby learns.....

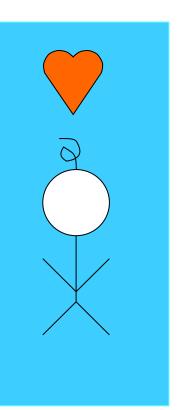
- The world is a loving and safe place
- I can trust the adults in my world
- I am protected and supported
- I am capable
- I am important
- There is much to learn & experience



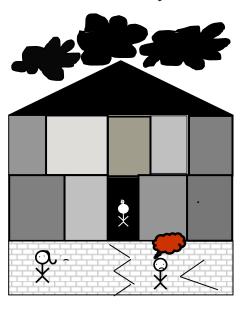
A baby.

Good Baby



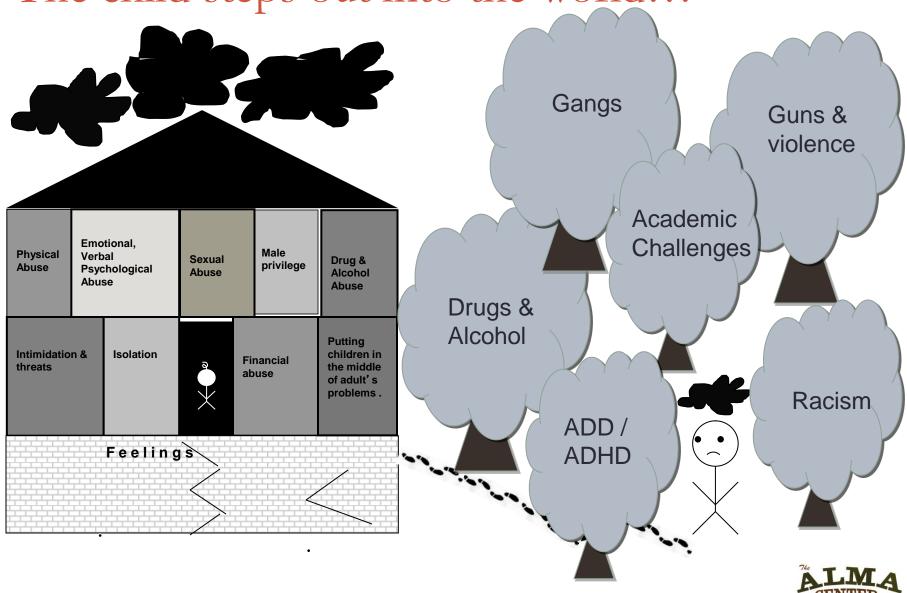


Bad Baby





The child steps out into the world...



Real men don't cry. Real men control their woman. fear. Real men feel no pain. Real sports 20 rules. have men "certain" don't follow the men have sex. Real of lots Real me have tough. money. eal men eal men

Real men never back down from മ fight.

Real

men

drive

fast

cars

Real

men

wear

Real men win at all cost.

Real men are tall.

Real men hold their liquor.

2

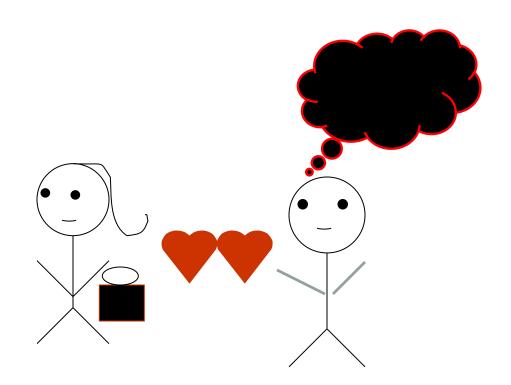
are

men

Real

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Real men show no weakness.

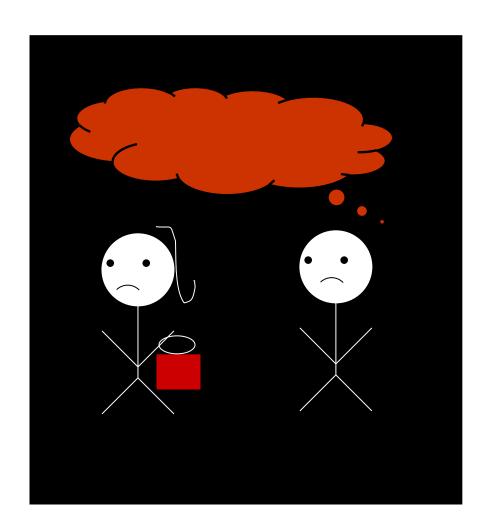




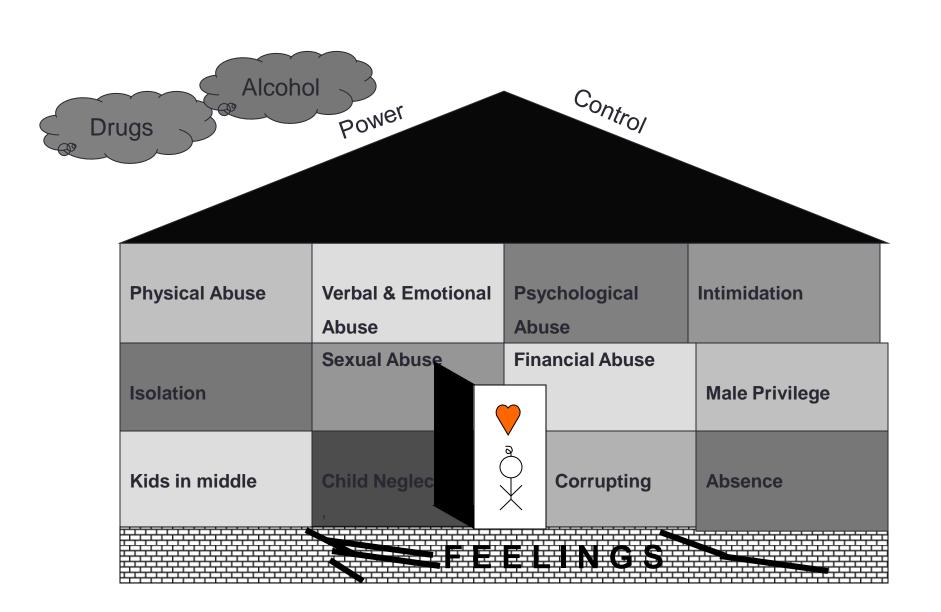
Trauma effects / Adaptive Behavior

- Interpersonal relationship difficulties
 - Inability to trust
 - Inability to be vulnerable
 - Inappropriate / no boundaries
 - Inability to express emotions
 - Need to be in control
 - False / exaggerated perceptions of reality
 - Excessive reactivity to triggers
 - Re-enactments someone who replicates original trauma makes sense

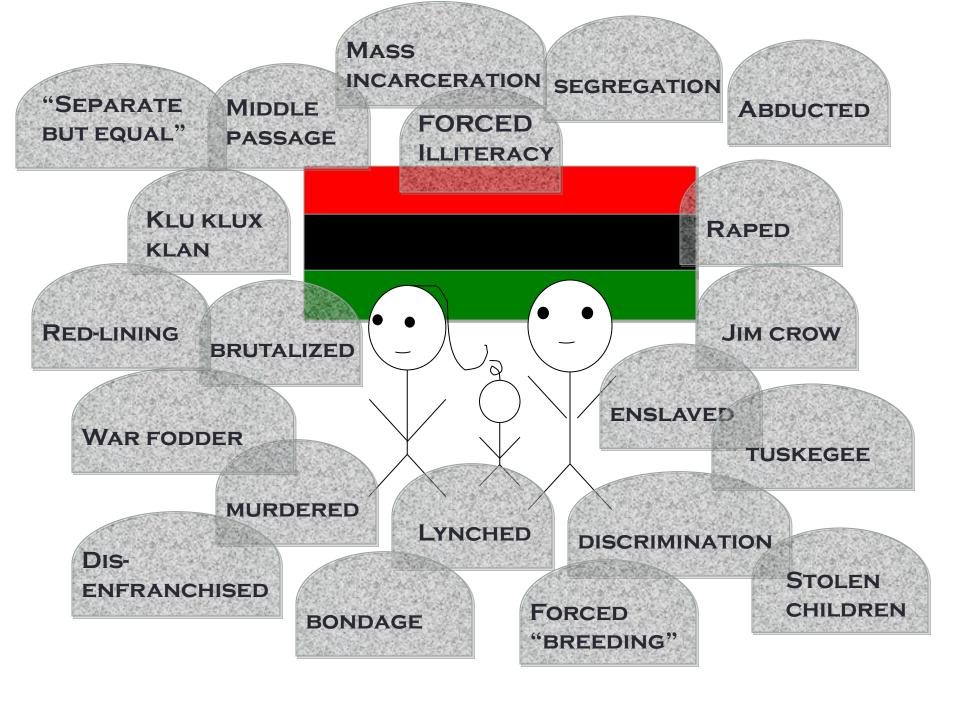








HISTORICAL TRAUMA







AFRICAN-AMERICAN MEN

Sam Simmons
SAFE Families Manager
Be More Project and Healing Generations







Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome

The Men

Obstacles to Healing

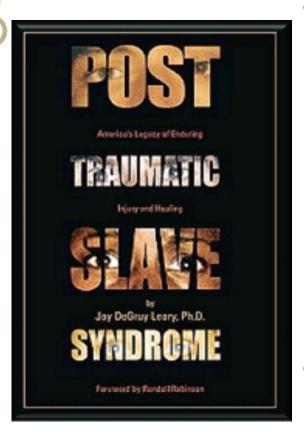


Compassionate Accountability

"The village that hides the truth cannot expect to heal but to pass on the pain."



Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome



• P.T.S.S. is a condition that exists as a consequence of centuries of chattel slavery followed by institutionalized racism and oppression have resulted in multigenerational adaptive behavior, some positive reflecting resilience, and others that are harmful and destructive.

 Theory of P.T.S.S. was developed by Dr. Joy DeGruy as a result of twelve years of research.

The Men

- Between the ages of 18 to 40, effected by "Crack Era" 1984-1990.
- Hyper-masculine identity:
 - a high physical pain threshold
 - poor emotional regulation/numbness
 - hyper objectification (female-dependent)
 - sexualized masculine
- Rite of passage involves an trauma (incarceration, unplanned for pregnancy, injury, etc.)
- Frequently have experienced abandonment and/or traumatic experiences as both <u>perpetrator and victim.</u>







Obstacles

Continued institutional racism, oppression and distrust by community

 Strong cultural stigma attached to mental illness and trauma

Male trauma is ignored

 Lack of culturally competent trauma informed services, staff and research





Meeting the Challenge

- Develop and incorporate historical trauma or trauma from a cultural perspectives as part of the assessment, intervention initiatives and training.
- Be aware our own gender and cultural biases not to add to the trauma of others.
- Develop and support trauma informed intervention initiatives geared to males.
- Community Leadership, need to role-model the willingness to start their own healing journey.





Compassion Accountability

Some people we relate to and others we don't or even repulse us. Doing what is easy can have consequences like...

- Accountability without compassion, complacent, self-satisfying.
- Compassion without accountability can lead to chaos.
- Swing back and forth, inconsistency or unclear.

Compassion Accountability: help us seek truth, understanding, forgiveness, justice, humility and leave others empowered without blame and excuses.



The Work

- The Healing Generations Curriculum aims to break the intergenerational cycle of violence by allowing men the opportunity to explore the links between different experiences of violence, while building skills to assist them in refraining from violence against women, children, community members or themselves to ensure a healthy and safe future.
- The BeMore Campaign a culturally competent model used engage African American men and boys to take an active role in redefine masculinity and the promotion of healthy and safe relationships.

Other Work



- Healing Groups is a culturally specific group for African American Men 18 to 35 to explore the links between their trauma experiences and self-defeating behaviors that act as self-imposed barriers to making sustainable growth.
- Black Men Healing Conference (brothershealing.com) called "Groundbreaking and Visionary", offers an alternative way of thinking about community empowerment by addressing intergenerational trauma.
- Historical Trauma Training focused on both professionals and community leadership to address the importance of being aware of historical trauma to improve outcomes and collaboration in and outside the community.



Contact Information

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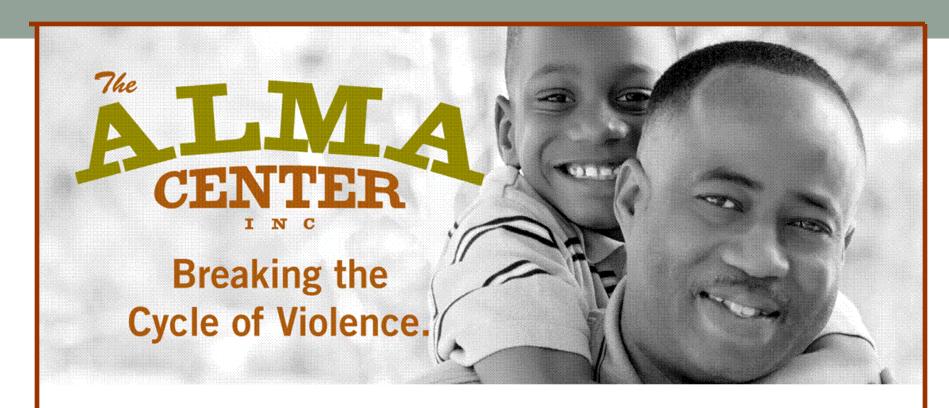
www.TheFamilyPartnership.org



Other websites

SAMUELSIMMONSCONSULTING.COM

BROTHERSHEALING.COM
AFRICANAMERICANHISTORICALTRAUMA.COM



Mission. The Alma Center works locally and nationally to provide pioneering, trauma-informed healing, education, supportive services and a positive peer community to promote lifestyle transformation for abusive men and break the cycle of domestic violence in families.



Our FEAR



Healing for Abusive Men?

- "Colluding with batterers"
- "Batterers" will never change
- Not taking women's victimization seriously
- "Men's movement" = Men assume rightful place of dominion
- Punishment = accountability
- Belittled, silenced & ostracized



Our REALITY

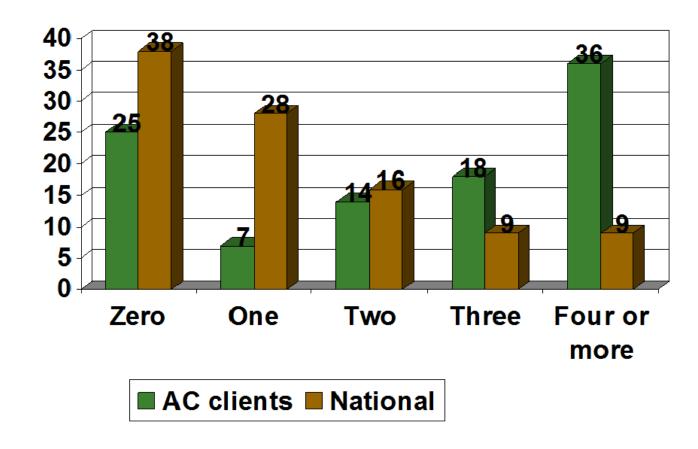


Alma Center clients

- 40% witnessed physical fights between their parents;
- 60% witnessed frequent verbal abuse between parents;
- 60% had a parent abusing drugs or alcohol;
- 60% did not live with or know their father;
- 20% identify as victims of child abuse/neglect;
- 26% identify as victims of childhood sexual abuse



ACE Scores Alma Center vs. National





Violence in the community

- 36% have been a victim of serious violence requiring medical attention
- 22% have been shot
- 59% have witnessed serious violence which someone required medical attention
- 28% have witnessed a homicide
- 53% have friends or family murdered



Any pain that is not transformed is transferred.



Trauma is NOT an excuse.

- People are not their trauma
- People who use violence are grown and in control of their own choices and decisions
- Trauma can be healed
- Consequences & accountability help to change the decisional balance toward healing



Trauma is NOT blame

- No-one provokes, or makes another person be violent or abusive
- Regardless the circumstance, violence, abuse is a personal choice of the perpetrator who is alone responsible for the choice



Compassionate Accountability

- Expect that every person who walks through our door can heal and change
- Acknowledge that change is very difficult
- Support, listen, educate and mentor to promote the process of healing and change
- Celebrate the courage to choose to change
- Hold people individually and personally responsible and accountable for their choices and decisions (past and present)



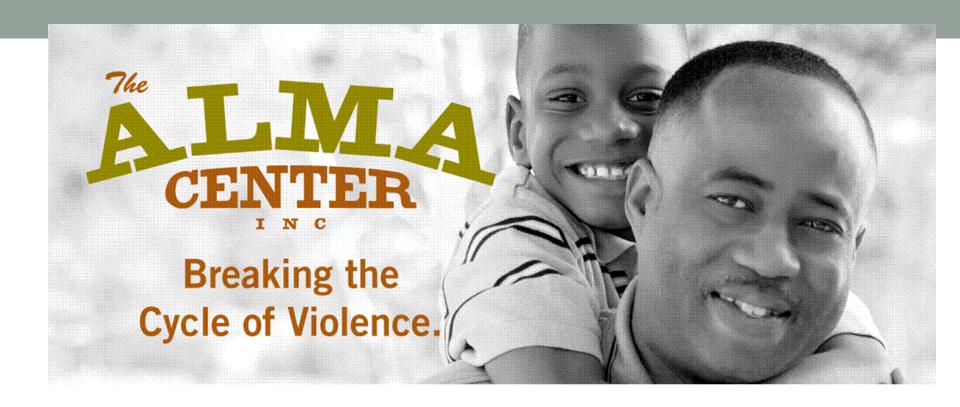
Jamie's story.



Trauma can be healed.

- Establish a sense of safety
- Enhance systems of support
- Provide psycho-education on the effects of trauma
- Teach / experience emotional & behavioral regulation
- Build self capacities & enhance the brain's executive function
- Re-establish relational attachment
- Re-frame and integrate traumatic experiences
- Meaning-making sense of purpose and future goals
- Appreciate post-traumatic growth





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https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2MFKY22