



Congress Celebrates Two-Generation Service Initiative for Low-income Families

Family Service Learning Highlighted for its Results and Impact on Families

Louisville, KY (November 4, 2019) – For the fourth year in a row, Congress is recognizing the success and impact of Family Service Learning. Led by Representatives John Yarmuth (D-KY) and Van Taylor (R-TX) and Senators John Cornyn (R-TX) and Corey Booker (D-NJ), a Congressional Resolution introduced this week designates the week of November 3-10, 2019 as “National Family Service Learning Week.”

Family Service Learning facilitates parent-student-generated service projects led by low-income families, a segment of the population that is often missing from discussions about community service. Through a deliberate, six component educational program, families identify problems within their own communities and carry out service projects to address them. They also focus on sustainability, so that the impact of the project reaches beyond the planned event. The projects are researched, designed and executed by families in their own communities, flipping the paradigm for low-income families who often feel disconnected from community service.

The result is that through Family Service Learning, parents gain literacy, computer and communication skills, build social capital, deepen connections to their communities and develop additional skills that are critical to getting and keeping a job. Often, participants get a job or a better job by the end of their service project. Children participate in service projects alongside adult family members and observe their parents as active community members and role models.

The Family Service Learning framework is thoughtfully created by the National Center for Families Learning (NCFL), a national nonprofit organization dedicated to poverty alleviation through two-generation education strategies that is currently celebrating 30 years of two-generation successes. Among its many benefits, Family Service Learning improves workforce and literacy skills while enabling families to become stronger teachers and role models for their children.

Results from an independent evaluation of Family Service Learning have found that Family Service Learning can:

- Expand voice, social capital and networks of participating adults
- Expand self-efficacy and self-confidence
- Increase formal learning, including content knowledge, research and academic skills
- Increase technology skills
- Increase opportunities to develop work-based skills
- Improve employment status--46% of participating adults secured a job or improved their existing work status

“We are pleased at the continued recognition by Congress about the impact of Family Service Learning,” remarked Sharon Darling, NCFL President and Founder. “Families who otherwise would not be involved in their community are benefiting. Family Service Learning offers the opportunity to have



an impact on a community issue they decide on, connect with other families, while developing problem solving and collaboration skills, gaining employability skills and engaging in meaningful activities with other families.”

“Service Learning provides our families the opportunity to pay it forward,” Annette Ciketic, Executive Director of fINDings Art Center, Los Angeles, CA shared. “There is no greater learning experience than the opportunity for one to enrich the community they live in by using the gift of personal talents and abilities. Through service learning, those talents are either realized for the first time or grown.”

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About the National Center for Families Learning:

The National Center for Families Learning (NCFL) is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to eradicating poverty through education solutions for families. Partnering with educators, literacy advocates and policy-makers, NCFL develops and provides resources from the classroom to the community that empower and raise families to achieve their potential. For more information on NCFL visit www.familieslearning.org.

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