

Safe Neighborhoods Newsletter

Monday - 8/21/23

Making Neighborhoods Safe for Kids & Families!

We share information to empower and keep children, families, and neighbors safe. We provide steps to make neighborhoods, communities and cities safe, healthy places to work and live.

Parents, click [here](#) for a free consultation!



Children are God's love gift; they are Heaven's generous reward - Psalm 127:3



THE MAGIC OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT

By **Stephanie Mann**

God designed the human body and soul to keep us safe and healthy. Unfortunately, most people these days don't believe in or seek the power of the inner spirit. Instead, we desire instant solutions. We look for doctors to cure us, police to protect us, public teachers to raise our children, and the government to help pay our bills. No doubt, politicians have distracted us from God's plan for our lives.

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Without insight, it is easy to look to famous people for guidance. But unfortunately, politicians, movie stars, TV personalities, rappers, and the internet can lead impressionable minds to self-destructive behavior, including sex, drugs, and violence.

I grew up in a broken home with an alcoholic father who abused my brother. After my parents' divorce, my mother and her boyfriend abandoned me in Mexico City at age 15. I didn't even speak Spanish. That experience almost killed me. Lacking any help, I turned to God and survived. My life's mission changed.

Years later, as a young mother, I got involved in my community with 16,500 residents and discovered we had a crime wave. A small, devoted group of citizens worked together to address the issue of crime. As a result, we got neighbors to take responsibility for their own neighborhood safety, and crime reduced by 50% within two and a half years without a local police department. This accomplishment opened many doors to work with police and citizen groups. During this time, I began to understand the power of involved people to uplift families, neighborhoods, and communities. It became apparent that big government was moving in the wrong direction.

Big government overreach ignores strengthening American families and neighborhoods to address root causes.

- Government employees take children out of homes and put them in foster care or a group home. I witnessed children given four to six drugs a day to calm them. One 16-year-old told me, "I am so foggy I can't think straight." Another child said a caseworker sexually abused her.
- Public schools are bypassing parents and teaching sex education to young children. We must promote involving families to protect children.
- I worked with the homeless in San Francisco and witnessed the government passing out needles and money to drug addicts. We started support groups, and men got jobs.
- A police officer once pushed me into a wall. Why? Because I was helping low-income residents take charge of their homes and neighborhood safety.
- The government has warehoused low-income families in high-rise buildings for decades. As a result, parents couldn't monitor their children's safety. Without parental supervision, drugs, child abuse, gangs, and sex trafficking became commonplace in many low-income settings.
- The government intentionally allowed over two million illegals to enter the United States in 2021. With no monitoring, fentanyl and other drugs are flooding America. As a result, over 100,000 Americans died in 2021.
- Crime in our major cities is up 30%. This crime figure is twenty times worse than in the 1960s when families worshiped together.

We live at a time when the government has deprived people, especially children, of the magic and blessings of life! It's time for concerned Americans to speak up and take back our God-given values. Let's get back to "In God We Trust" to keep families safe. **"Ask, and you shall receive!"** John 16:24.

Everyone has the power to experience the magic of the human spirit, which can keep you, your family, and your community safe and healthy.

STEPHANIE L. MANN Author, Crime and Violence Prevention Consultant, Founder, Safe Kids Now National Network, is the author of "Empowerment Parenting: How to raise resilient children". In 1975, Stephanie co-authored, "Alternative to Fear: Guidelines to Safer Neighborhoods." With the help of California's first lady, Nancy Reagan, the California Youth Authority funded the guide and sold thousands nationwide to police departments, police training centers, state and government agencies including the FBI. "Alternative to Fear" helped educate police about the potential of involved citizens and popularized the "Neighborhood Watch" Programs. Mann is the author of six books on home, family, neighborhood, and city safety For more information, visit www.safekidsnow.com

The Rising Tide of Violence in Public Schools

By Joseph Patrick Fair/Mary Garcia Dodson
(Originally written as a Magazine article (Part 2 of 3))

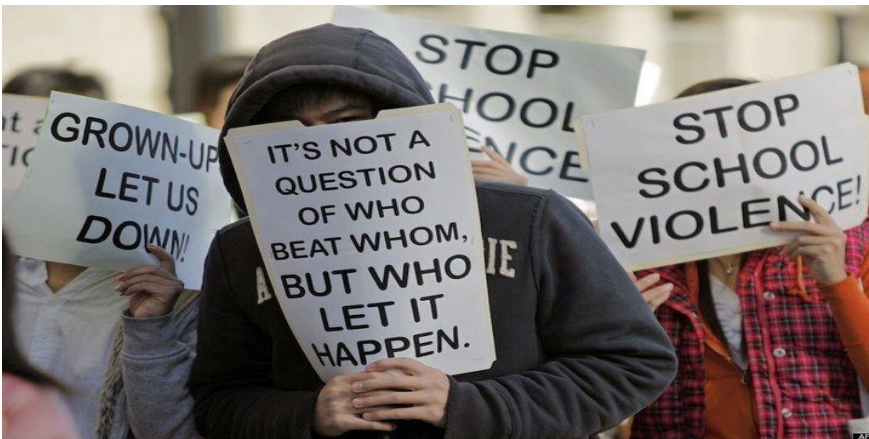


Image - huffpost.com

Then, there is the issue of school setting discipline policies, campaigning, slogans, anti-bullying related curriculum and yet many schools do not hold students accountable for bullying.

True story

As a junior high school teacher, I was assigned the responsibility of organizing the upcoming Spring Formal. There was a clear set of criteria that had been communicated to students in order for them to be eligible to attend. These criteria included maintaining a minimum GPA score of 2.0, having no more than two absences or two tardies, and receiving zero behavior referrals.

One of my students, whom we'll refer to as Sally, not only took pleasure in bullying her fellow classmates on a regular basis but also decided to shout and use foul language directed at me during one of my classes. To make matters worse, later that day, she showed disrespect towards another

teacher. In response, I fulfilled my duty by writing a behavior referral for Sally and sending her to the dean's office.

After the school day had ended, I contacted Sally's mother to inform her about her daughter's unacceptable behavior. As a gesture of goodwill, I suggested that she refrain from purchasing a dress for the Spring Formal since Sally's actions had rendered her ineligible to attend the event. Sally's mother apologized for her daughter's conduct and expressed gratitude for my recommendation, which would save her money.

However, to my surprise, I received a phone call later that week after school hours, requesting that I bring a ticket to the dance to the front office. It turned out that Sally's mother had arrived to purchase a ticket for her. Needless to say, I was taken aback. I discovered that the dean had spoken to this student's mother and assured her that Sally would still be allowed to attend the Spring Formal.

On the day of the formal dance, I was decorating the school's gymnasium with the help of about half-dozen students from the gifted class. Suddenly a couple of my students came running to see me during their lunchtime to tell me that Sally had just been arrested for possessing drugs on campus. You cannot make this up. The local police and a K-9 were on campus for a random check. So, Sally was not held accountable for her actions in my classroom. Unfortunately, she and her mother paid a price for their choices.

What the Experts Say

Psychologists and mental health professionals specializing in child and adolescent psychology stress the significance of implementing evidence-based programs to address bullying and violence in schools. These professionals focus on understanding the psychological aspects and impacts of such behaviors. Similarly, education researchers studying areas like education, child development, and school safety contribute to the knowledge base surrounding bullying and violence prevention. Their research findings and expertise play a crucial role in shaping the design and implementation of effective programs and interventions.

Then, there are other professionals, school safety specialists, child advocacy organizations, government agencies, school administrators and educators, social workers and counselors, law enforcement and school resource officers that also chime in with their expertise to help resolve this crisis in public schools.

Collectively, all these initiatives have aimed to foster empathy, respect, and inclusivity within schools. Substantial amounts of school funding have been dedicated to these efforts, with millions of dollars invested in implementing programs that provide counseling and support to bullies, the bullied, and every child and staff member impacted by these cruel behaviors.

Exposure to Media Violence

Extensive research has examined the relationship between media exposure to violence and its potential influence on individuals, particularly children, in terms of their behavioral tendencies. Several studies have indicated a correlation between exposure to violent media and an increased likelihood of engaging in violent behavior. One key factor contributing to this association is the potential desensitization effect caused by frequent exposure to violent content. By repeatedly witnessing acts of violence in the media, individuals may become desensitized to the consequences and perceive such behavior as more acceptable or normalized.

However, it is important to note that the impact of media violence on real-life behavior remains a complex and debated topic. While some studies suggest a significant connection between media exposure and increased aggression, there are also studies that present conflicting findings or emphasize the importance of other factors in determining violent behavior. Therefore, it is necessary to critically examine the available data and ongoing research to obtain a more nuanced understanding of the relationship between media violence and its potential influence on crime rates.

Nevertheless, it is essential for parents, educators, and society as a whole to remain vigilant about the potential impact of media violence on impressionable minds. Encouraging responsible media consumption and fostering open discussions about the effects of violent content can contribute to a safer and more informed media environment for children. Additionally, promoting alternative forms of entertainment that prioritize positive values and non-violent problem-solving can play a significant role in shaping the attitudes and behaviors of young individuals.

Substance Abuse

The correlation between school violence and substance abuse, including drug and alcohol misuse, is undeniable. When substances are misused, they can have a profound impact on judgment, behavior, and the escalation of conflicts among students. What is particularly striking is the intergenerational nature of addiction, as a significant number of individuals who struggle with addiction have observed their parents and older siblings abusing drugs and alcohol, increasing their own susceptibility to following this destructive path. Unknowingly, they mimic their parents' lack of control, resulting in a cycle that perpetuates harmful behavior. Tragically, many children of addicts endure both mental and physical abuse from those who should protect them. Furthermore, they often face the harsh reality of inadequate nutrition and medical care, as their caregivers are unable to fulfill these fundamental needs. Consequently, without responsible adults in their lives, these children are left to navigate life's challenges alone, lacking the necessary coping skills and support. As a result, they are confronted with severe consequences that are immensely challenging to overcome without the assistance and guidance they desperately require.

The burden falls on school personnel to observe behaviors, identify warning signs, and mobilize efforts to assist the troubled youth of today. Teachers, school counselors, and administrators bear the responsibility of providing support to these individuals, despite the limitations imposed by insufficient funding for programs addressing substance abuse, depression, academic shortcomings, and similar challenges. What makes their task even more daunting is the awareness that these students return to the same toxic environment at home. Within these households, they are exposed to the pervasive characteristics associated with drug abuse, interpersonal conflicts, abusive behavior, and the unpredictable rollercoaster of emotions brought about by drug and alcohol misuse.

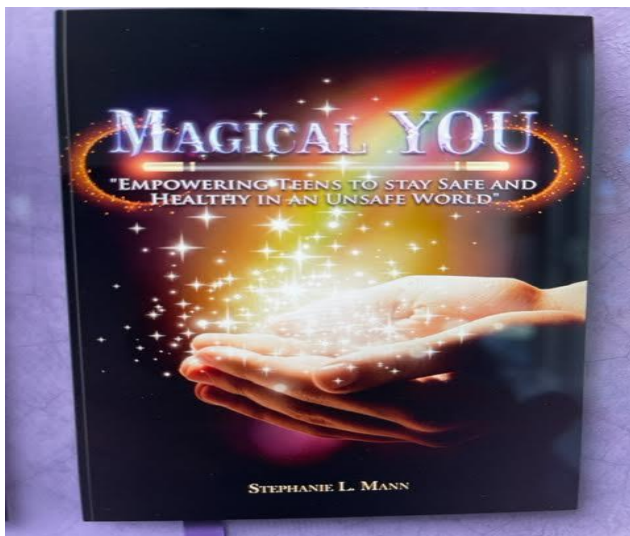
Relying on the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to address local family problems may prove futile due to their overwhelming workload and insufficient staffing. Case managers are faced with an excessive number of families within their community to assist, compounded by limited resources and restricted work hours. In my county, severe budget cuts have resulted in DCF case managers being prohibited from working overtime, despite the high likelihood of receiving late-night calls after completing their regular shifts. Furthermore, even when a child welfare case is investigated and determined to involve unsafe conditions for the child or children, it is uncommon to find available foster families willing to provide care for these vulnerable individuals.

“THERE IS NO KEENER REVELATION OF A SOCIETY’S SOUL THAN THE WAY IN WHICH WE TREAT ITS CHILDREN.” - Nelson Mandela

Action Items...

From the Editor: In previous editions, we offered an announcement via a “Call to Action” to let our readers know that Safe Kids Now News is on [Linkedin](#). Since that time other readers approached Safe Kids Now to place relevant announcements about important events aligned with our efforts to shed light on the problems that kids, their families, and America’s neighborhoods face in the midst of the confusion today, largely brought about by the toxic rhetoric and propaganda. So, we continue with the action items with this section of the newsletter...

1st Call to Action: COMING –AUGUST 26th! Stephanie Mann has once again written an empowerment guide that targets our preteens and teenagers on how to stay safe and healthy in an unsafe world. “Magical You” is a unique opportunity for parents, grandparents, educators and guardians to give their preteens/teens a guide to experience what they need to do to make better choices in everyday life. This is the time to take time to have that conversation with them about making choices, what events are happening in today’s world, and how those events impact their lives. Visit www.safekidsnow.com on August 26. It will be available on Amazon on August 26.



2nd Call to Action: Take time to see the movie *Sound of Freedom* with your preteens and teenagers. From CBN News: [‘Sound of Freedom’ Helps Fight Trafficking |](#)

Compelling Videos

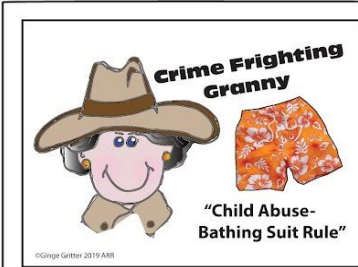
- From Binge Central: [Denzel Washington LOSES IT On Hollywood Taking Down Sound Of Freedom](#) – 7/31/23
- From CNBC News: [Trump-endorsed ‘Sound of Freedom’ has outgrossed ‘Mission: Impossible,’ ‘The Flash’](#) – 8/1/23
- From LifeSite: [Jim Caviezel ‘not scared in the least bit’ to speak the truth about US gov’t involvement in trafficking](#) – 7/17/23
- From [Valuetainment](#): [Ex-CIA Agent Reveals How to End Human Trafficking](#) - 3/5/2021

- From CBN News: [Christian School Board Official Takes Bold Stand Against 'Government Bullies'](#) – 8/8/23
- **Podcast** > From The Christian Post: [How Trans Ideology Twists Language to Distort Reality](#) – 4/20/23



Safe Kids Now
A NATIONAL NETWORK

TIP TOONS



Important Reading...

- From Canada Free Press by Dennis Jamison: [The Sound of Freedom -- An Alarm Bell for All of God's Children](#) – 8/14/23
- From Intercessors for America: [Ending the Evil of Trafficking](#) - 7/11/23
- From Los Angeles Times: [California Democrats reverse course after killing bill to stiffen penalties for child sex trafficking](#) - 7/13/23
- From Liberty Counsel: [Explosive Testimony in DC](#) – 7/31/23 - The Democrats have 212 co-sponsors for HR 15 — a bill that will make it a violation of federal law for parents to try to stop the medical system from sterilizing and surgically mutilating their own children.
- From Parents of ROGD children (rapid-onset gender dysphoria - ROGD): [The Gender Affirmative Model: Experimenting on our Kids](#)

Inspiring & Transforming Stories...

- From the Aoki Family Journal (a family series): [Unique Contributions of Mom and Dad - Episode 9](#)
- From The Good News Network: [A New Study Finds that Performing Acts of Kindness Improves Mental Health Symptoms](#)
- From The Epoch Times: [Family Adopts Lonely 82-Year-Old Widowed Neighbor as Their 'Honorary Grandpa'](#)
- From For Kids And Country: [In Profile - Jessica Tapia](#) - In today's public schools, a teacher may have moral principles or religious beliefs,
- but sharing them can get you fired, as a California teacher learned. Jessica Tapia, fired in January, had returned to teach in the Jurupa Valley school district
- where, as a student, she had earned straight-As and participated in numerous sports. As a physical education teacher, she won high evaluations for her
- guidance of the district's students... Tapia's quotations of moral or religious sayings, as though they were somehow illegal or in violation of school policy.
- **Review** > From California Insider: [Former Teacher Explains How She Got Fired for Her Belief | Jessica Tapia](#) – 4/5/23

Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old, he will not depart from it. - Proverbs 22:6

For more information on Safe Kids Now, visit <https://www.safekidsnow.com> to book Stephanie for a keynote speech, workshop or panel. She is also available for community crime prevention consultation for law enforcement, education and faith-based affiliations. You can order any of her books also from safekidsnow.com.

We need your help! If you have read Stephanie's latest book "Empowerment Parenting", she would really appreciate you taking the time to writing a review. You can submit your review to: <https://forums.onlinebookclub.org/viewtopic.php?f=24&t=128689>