

How & Why to include Youth in Prevention Efforts

Jacob Chevalier is a 2015 graduate from Bio Science High School. He joined STAND & SERVE (S&S) 7 years ago, serves as the S&S Coalition Co-Chair and Peer Solutions Board Member. He has led the coalition in developing an initiative entitled THE GUTS TO BE GOOD (G2BG), five things we can all do to make this world a better place: 1. The guts to be Respectful, 2. The guts to be Courteous, 3. The guts to Speak-Up, 4. The guts to be Honest and 5. The guts to Lend a Hand. Jacob hosts bi-annual S&S Days at the Capitol, is a peer educator after school and during the summer and facilitates workshops for webinars and local and national conferences. Most recently Jacob is interning with Arizona Fundraising Professionals to help grow locally and nationally.

Courtney Ward received a Master of Social Work degree from Arizona State University in May 2012. While obtaining her degree, she worked at Scottsdale Prevention Institute to educate parents and their children on positive parenting skills, social skills, how to manage emotional upsets and effective problem solving skills. Courtney previously worked as a therapist for youthful sexual offenders and utilized a Cognitive Behavioral and Humanistic approach, along with interpersonal principles. Having worked in the intervention field for 5 years, Courtney has become dedicated to Primary Prevention. She believes that youth have the motivation and fervor to become pro-social change agents in their homes, neighborhoods, schools and communities.

Peer Solutions' program STAND & SERVE (S&S) is a nationally recognized, positive youth development and leadership model designed to prevent Adverse Childhood Experiences before they begin. Our young people are inspired to survive and thrive. They are empowered with real tools to create change with evidence based strategies on individual, relationship, community AND societal levels. Our approach is intergenerational and pre-womb. At the heart of all activities is creating healthy families today, tomorrow and forever. Courtney and Jacob will discuss highlights from "Building on Youth's Strengths: A Call to Include Adolescents in Developing, Implementing, and Evaluating Violence Prevention Programs" an article published by the American Psychology Association in their Psychology of Violence journal in January of 2016. S&S members were active participants and quoted through-out. "Adults alone cannot define adolescents' experiences. So, why not let us give our opinions on prevention?"

Learning Objectives:

- 1- Participants will be able to explain why including youth in prevention programming maximizes efforts to cultivate healthy families today, tomorrow and forever.
- 2- Participants will be able to explain how to include youth in addressing and preventing child abuse before it begins.
- 3- Participants will be able to define and use Trauma Informed Primary Prevention (TIPP) evidence based strategies to strengthen impact in their communities.

“Adults alone cannot define adolescents’ experiences. So, why not let us give our opinions on prevention?” Jacob Chevalier, 2015 Bio Science High School graduate and STAND & SERVE member for 7 years, and Courtney Ward, STAND & SERVE Director for 5 years, will discuss “Building on Youth’s Strengths: A Call to Include Adolescents in Developing, Implementing, and Evaluating Violence Prevention Programs” an article published by the American Psychology Association in January of 2016. STAND & SERVE members were active participants and quoted through-out. Participants will have fun learning from each other and, why and how to include youth and families in Trauma Informed Primary Prevention programming. Peer Solutions developed STAND & SERVE in 1996 to address and prevent Adverse Childhood Experiences before they begin.