Helping Kids Develop a Moral Compass
What Parents and Schools Can Do

- Empathy
- Respect
- Integrity
- Courage
- Generosity
- Kindness

Roads to Respect™ Invitational Conference
Thursday, February 5, 2015
Sponsored by the Rape Treatment Center
UCLA–Santa Monica Medical Center
Why the Rape Treatment Center is Sponsoring this Conference

Almost daily, we hear troubling reports about cases of peer-to-peer mistreatment among youth in our own community and across the country, including sexual assaults on college and high school campuses committed by and against fellow students and cases of peer sexual harassment, bullying, ostracism, and other types of hurtful behaviors involving even younger children. Increasingly, the harm done is amplified when related photos and commentary are posted on the Internet. These events have become more visible and challenging for kids, parents, and schools than ever before.

This conference is about solutions. Our speakers will present current research and concrete strategies parents, schools, coaches, and others can use to help children develop a moral compass — the qualities and skills that enable them to have healthy, respectful, safe, caring relationships and to be socially responsible, moral citizens in their peer groups, schools, and larger communities.

We are bringing together nationally recognized presenters with expertise in how parents and schools can help children develop empathy, integrity, kindness, loyalty, generosity, and genuine caring and concern about others. Our speakers will also discuss effective ways to foster in children the capacity to think through moral dilemmas, sensitivity to the consequences of what they say and do to others, a commitment to justice, and the ability to sacrifice for important principles and stand up for what is right.

Join us to learn how we can all be effective role models and mentors for kids in these critical areas of their social and emotional learning and character development.
Topics to be Covered

Learn from nationally recognized experts...

- How to help children develop a moral compass – the qualities and skills we need to foster and how parents and schools can be effective role models and mentors.

- What research tells us about how well-intentioned adults can unknowingly undermine children’s social and moral development.

- Concrete strategies for helping kids learn how to deal with peer pressure and moral dilemmas.

- The critical role of schools in character education and how to create healthy school “cultures” that support this mission.

- What many media/advertising messages tell kids about sexuality, gender, and romantic relationships and how parents and schools can partner to help kids navigate these minefields.

- How to help kids develop the ethics and skills they need to have healthy, respectful, romantic relationships as they get older.
8:30 – 9:00: BREAKFAST AND REGISTRATION
(Conference proceedings start promptly at 9am)

9:00 – 11:30: MORNING SESSION

Welcome and Introductions
Gail Abarbanel, Founder/Director, Rape Treatment Center

How Parents Can Help Children Develop a Moral Compass
Richard Weissbourd, Ph.D., Founder and Co-Director of the Making Caring Common Project and Director, Human Development and Psychology Program, Harvard University Graduate School of Education

Richard Weissbourd’s thought-provoking work focuses on crucial issues in children’s development: moral character, empathy, social responsibility, and resilience. In his research on “The Real Messages Adults are Sending about Values,” 80% of 10,000 middle school and high school students from diverse backgrounds report their parents are far more concerned about their children’s achievement and happiness than about them being caring towards others. His recent book, The Parents We Mean to Be: How Well-Intentioned Adults Undermine Children’s Moral and Emotional Development, provides invaluable guidance for parents and educators about how to help kids develop empathy, responsibility, and generosity, as well as how to give them opportunities to practice helpfulness towards others, thinking through moral dilemmas, and a commitment to justice. He will illuminate the key moral qualities we need to develop in kids and specific strategies parents and educators can use to be effective mentors and role models.

A Young Man’s Personal Story About Finding His Moral Compass
A Special Presentation

The Importance of Character Education in Our Schools – Is Your School the Best It Can Be?
Marvin W. Berkowitz, Ph.D., Sanford N. McDonnell Endowed Professor of Character Education, Co-Director, Center for Character Education and Citizenship. University of Missouri-St. Louis

Marvin Berkowitz is a developmental and educational psychologist. He underscores the crucial role and responsibility educators and schools have for developing children’s moral character and sense of civic responsibility, in addition to their accountability for students’ academic learning. Drawing from his most recent book, You Can’t Teach Through a Rat and Other Epiphanies for Educators, he will discuss how to create school cultures and specific learning
opportunities for students that foster character development. Giving students responsibility for shepherding the “common good” (e.g., promoting a climate of respect for others), as well as opportunities to experience the power of their own words and actions in problem-solving, within their own school communities, are powerful ways to foster their compassion, citizenship, and character development. Rather than utilizing extrinsic rewards/awards, these strategies promote intrinsic motivation in children for “doing the right thing.”

11:30 – 12:15: LUNCH

12:15 – 2:30: AFTERNOON SESSION

So Sexy, So Soon: The New Sexualized Childhood – How Parents and Schools Can Partner to Protect Kids and Help Them Navigate the Minefields

Jean Kilbourne, Ed.D., Senior Scholar at Wellesley Centers for Women, internationally recognized author, speaker, filmmaker

Jean Kilbourne is an expert on one of the most powerful influences on children’s development – the impact of media/advertising. She is a pioneer in the media literacy field. Her book, So Sexy, So Soon: The New Sexualized Childhood and What Parents Can Do to Protect Their Kids, describes how children – boys and girls – are bombarded with graphic, inappropriate, and sometimes harmful sexual messages at increasingly younger ages, and how this impacts their understanding of gender, sexuality, and relationships. She offers practical, concrete strategies for parents and educators to use to counteract these messages, help youth learn to critically examine them, and foster their capacity to engage in positive, age-appropriate, and caring relationships at home, at school, and online.

Preparing Kids for Ethical, Healthy, Romantic Relationships

Richard Weissbourd, Ph.D., Founder and Co-Director of the Making Caring Common Project and Director, Human Development and Psychology Program, Harvard University Graduate School of Education

In recent work, Richard Weissbourd has focused on how we can do a better job of preparing kids to develop caring, ethical, healthy romantic and sexual relationships. In many ways, adults have abdicated responsibility for these meaningful aspects of “relationship education” to the media and popular culture, making kids vulnerable to misconceptions. In most schools, sex education is “disaster prevention” – e.g., how to avoid pregnancy and STDs. Dr. Weissbourd’s research with 16- to 20-year-olds tells us they want to learn how to think through and negotiate the many challenges they confront in developing and maintaining romantic and sexual relationships. He will discuss how schools and parents can help them with these issues.

1:45 – 2:30: SPEAKER PANEL Q & A
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THURSDAY
FEBRUARY 5, 2015
8:30 am – 2:30 pm
Admission is Free — Reservations are Required
(breakfast, lunch and parking provided)

To register online, please visit roadstorespect.org

Location:
The California Endowment
1000 North Alameda Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

For more information, call 310-319-4246
or email roadstorespect@gmail.com
We expect the conference to fill to capacity.