



## **Community Cafés: Changing the Lives of Children through Conversations that Matter**

### ***Our Values***

Courage, Community, Health, Freedom, Compassion

### ***Our Knowledge Base***

Meaningful conversation builds consensus, ownership, commitment and community capacity to improve lives for families. Community Cafés host these conversations with the intention of creating a neighborhood space where diverse perspectives can build the relationships necessary to do the work most relevant to their particular community. Conversation topics include:



#### **1. Strengthening Families:**

Café conversations are developed around the new knowledge that there are five essential protective factors needed in order for children to thrive: 1. Parental resiliency, 2. Social connections 3. Access to basic needs when they are needed, 4. Adequate knowledge of parenting and child development, 5. Healthy social and emotional development of children (The Center for the Study of Social Policy, [www.cssp.org](http://www.cssp.org).)

#### **2. Leadership:**

Social normative change requires leadership development. Relying heavily on the leadership development model by several successfully developed models, we discuss the leadership skills that are needed for change. Conversation topics include the self leadership we all need in order to realize the community we want and the role that meaningful conversations have in producing those outcomes.

#### **3. Parent Partnership:**

Our children require effective parent partnership building throughout the ecological model. Community Cafés facilitate parent voice to impact policy and programs to better provide protective factors for children and families. Café conversations focus on the stages of relationship building while providing a container for co-learning and cooperative action.

### ***Action***

Community Cafés are hosted by parents and community members who learn the Community Café approach, have knowledge of the assets of the neighborhood and can relate to those who will be invited to attend. Cafés use the World Café technique to harvest collective knowledge and transform it into action. (Juanita Brown, *The World Café*, Berret-Koehler, 2005.) Group-building traditions, customs, visuals, foods and music from the cultures represented in each café help to ensure cultural relevance. Funding provides support for mileage, childcare, meals and a stipend for the training, planning and hosting time. This support ensures all participants can attend without concern that their participation is taking away precious resources from their family. **For more information Contact: [info@ctfalliance.org](mailto:info@ctfalliance.org) or [thecommunitycafe@gmail.com](mailto:thecommunitycafe@gmail.com)**