Character Council of Indiana

Building Cities of Character One Person at a Time

September 2000 Newsletter

Luncheon for Law Enforcement Leaders

On October 11, Sheriff Ray Nash will be presenting a luncheon for Indiana law enforcement leaders on the importance of character within the force. Sheriff Nash is a twenty-one year veteran of law enforcement.

Internationally recognized as a leading expert on community policing, he has successfully implemented a character-training program in his office that recognizes success based on character. This program has reduced crime and increased the community's trust in officers. Leaders from across America and other countries asked Sheriff Nash to share his keys to success. We are honored to have him as our guest.

Twenty-one year veteran Sheriff Ray Nash of Dorchester County

The October 11 luncheon with Sheriff Ray Nash will be held from 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Law enforcement leaders in Indiana can find out more information by calling the CCI office.

Indianapolis Council Protects Minors

Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson

Indianapolis has launched a unique effort in protecting the city's youth. As of September 1st, 2000 minors within the city have been banned from arcade games depicting violent or sexual activities. The ordinance was one of the first proposals from Mayor Peterson during last year's campaign for mayor and is the only law he has sought to pass since taking office in January.

Peterson has said he was motivated in part by the shootings at Columbine High School in Colorado, where teen-age gunmen killed with a proficiency said to have been developed with violent games.

Video games with the highest level of violence or sexual content will be off-limits to anyone younger than 18 unless the youth has a parent's consent. Businesses that violate the law can be fined $200 per day for each violation.

After the ordinance was passed, four national health groups issued a statement linking violence in the media to increasing violence in children stating that: Viewing entertainment violence can lead to increases in aggressive attitudes, values and behaviors, particularly in children; Children who see a lot of violence are more likely to view violence as an effective way of settling conflicts and are more likely to assume that acts of violence are acceptable; Those who view violence can become emotionally desensitized to violence in real life, decreasing the likelihood that one will take action on behalf of a victim when violence occurs.

"This is not anti-business at all," Councilman Beurt SerVaas said of the law passed unanimously by the City-County Council on July 10. "It is the revulsion of violence witnessed by children (in video games) and now practiced by children." The ordinance bans 11 specific activities in video games for minors and is being carefully observed by cities across the country.

Upcoming events

September 19

6:30 AM ~ 8:00 AM
Business Leaders Breakfast
Indianapolis Training Center

8:00 AM ~ 9:30 AM
CCI State Council Meeting
Indianapolis Training Center

September 26

8:30 AM ~ 4:00 PM
CHARACTER FIRST!® Training
Indianapolis Training Center

September 27

8:00 AM ~ 9:30 AM
Elkhart Steering Committee
Elkhart Chamber of Commerce

In this edition

Law Enforcement
Video Game Law
Leadership Training
Holiday Gift Idea

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SEP character focus

GRATEFULNESS

vs. Unthankfulness

"Letting others know by my words and actions how they have benefited my life."

Faith Fax Resource

Character Council of Indiana
Building Gives of Character One Person at a Time
September 2000 Biblical Character Study
GRATEFULNESS vs. Unthankfulness

Many in the Faith Community have shown enthusiasm for a greater focus on character. Churches have been looking for resources to provide specific help in this endeavor. CCI is pleased to announce that one of our most recent projects is designed to do just that.

The monthly "Faith Fax" is a two to three page study of the character quality of the month written especially for churches. Pastors, Sunday School teachers, Children's Club leaders, and others are finding it very helpful for teaching character within their congregation. For information on receiving this resource by fax, e-mail, or mail, contact Peggy at extension 130.

Questions? Please contact us.

Call: (317) 543-4870

Fax: (317) 543-4871

E-mail: info@charactercouncil.org

Church Promotes Character

Colonial Hills Baptist Church on the north side of Indianapolis is taking the character focus challenge and running with it! Pastor Robert Taylor wants to make use of the best resources available to promote character in the lives of his members. He has taken the following steps:

- Made Family Books available to congregation, sold over 700; gave one book to each family enrolled in their Christian school
- Initiated "Character Sunday" - Every Sunday School class studies the quality of the on month the first Sunday of that month
- Bulletin Insert- Ideas on implementing the quality in daily situations
- In-service for Christian School teachers, training in emphasizing, requiring, and recognizing good character in students

We commend his efforts and encourage others to follow Colonial Hills' example.

Character Building Classics

The Character Council of Indiana is pleased to offer Character Classics which exposes your child to some of the greatest music ever written while at the same time features character-building lyrics.

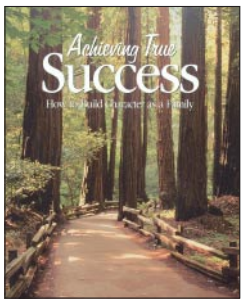
Character Classics is a unique blend of classical music and delightful character-building lyrics. It is an innovative, masterfully produced series that uses clever, original themes and positive principles crafted around the world's greatest melodies.

This is another great tool for helping your child develop character in his or her life. For more information, please contact our office.

Give a Gift that Keeps on Giving *by Larry Rhoads*

I was mowing my yard the other day and remembered that my next door neighbors were away on vacation. So, I decided to mow their yard also, and boy did it need it.

The act of doing something for a neighbor who wasn't expecting it was a great joy to me. As I mowed a question came to mind, "If I could do something that would truly encourage the families living close to our family would I do it?" You guessed it, the answer was YES. The idea that I would like to propose to everyone who cares about strengthening families is as follows: Purchase a case of newly released Achieving True Success Character Family books and give them as a Christmas gift to your neighbors. To add even more value, include a personal letter explaining how the book has benefited your family and that it is your hope that it would be a blessing to their family. I got so excited about the idea that I made out a check and purchased our case two days later. You can get a case of 21 Family books from the Character Council of Indiana for distribution this Christmas season for the very special price of $105 plus shipping. That is only $5 each. Of course there is nothing wrong with fruitcake, but this year give a gift that makes a difference, one that keeps on giving.



"Achieving True Success" is now available for purchase from CCI.