

2015 Educateurs sans Frontières Assembly – NOTES

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Topic: Crossway Montessori Communities

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My effort today is to contextualize Montessori as a theory in action.

It is a set of ideas that inform what we do.

We renovated a 64,000 square foot building into a multi-purpose community center.

We are very fortunate to have 4 organic gardens on the property as well.

Set of slides.

We started as housing for single mothers. Many focus groups were listened to. Then collaboration across class and culture.

That is the beginning and where we are today.

20 years ago it was a large gang area

The Crossway Model: Using Montessori To Break The Cycle Of Poverty

Intergenerational, Family-Centered Education

- Asset-based family support
- Multi-generational interventions
- The campus is a prepared environment for families
- Ongoing coaching and modeling

The entire campus is a Prepared Environment for families and the importance of ongoing coaching and modeling

Full Montessori Implementation

Birth through Age 9

- On site programs serving resident and community families
- Focus on first plane of development
- Comprehensive parent education
- How to integrate families across class and culture

Integrated wrap-around services an American term

- Comprehensive
- Summer programming
- Before and after school programming
- Home visits

The other concept I want you to think about. Understanding the family as an emotional unit. The lack of the parent is a significant impact on that child. The child is a unit in that family, even if it does not have one.

Montessori Programs Offered

- Infant & Toddler programs
- Before and after school
- Summer sessions
- Children's house
- Lower el

Community Center

- Prosperity Institute
- Hosting partner & neighbors
- Public symposia & conferences
- Create at Crossway /Arts education
- Culinary Arts Education
- Event Management

Skills that are really practical life

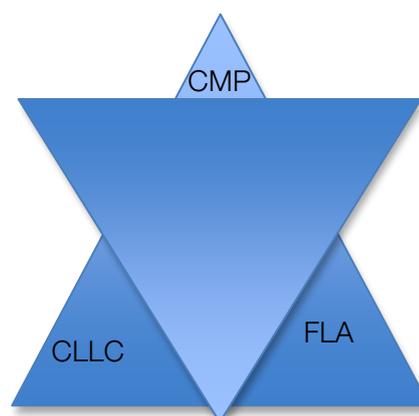
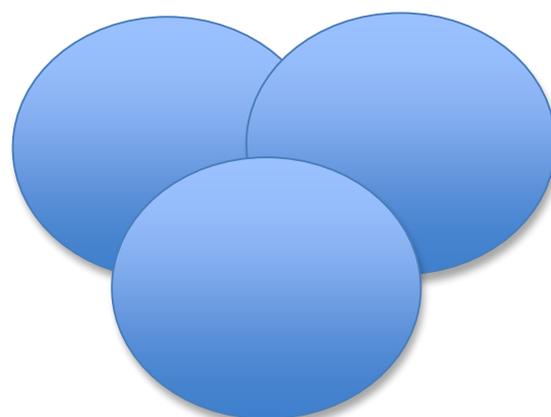
The heart of what we do:

Family Leadership Academy

- Practical life
- Career and Workforce Development
- Parenting
- Social & Emotional Health

The other piece is Montessori as a theory of action.

- Meticulously Prepared Environment
- Focus on the Practical Life
- Ongoing Modeling and Coaching
- All adults are guides
- Meaningful work



Social Entrepreneurship

If organizationally we are not modeling it, we are not teaching it. 2/3 monies earned. 1/3 has to be raised. So we are not defined by our outcomes.

Community activity

Implementing a development model in a developed country. Nothing you would not see around the world. We are implementing the in the US.

Picture of a kitchen in which we host events.

Networks of Support and Engagement

- Housing partner health partners
- Universities
- Advocacy partner
- Montessori terrain venter
- Public school
- Independent schools

District Scale

- Exposure
- Technical support
- Rigorous accountability

Crossway innovation Montessori family-centered intervention

Last year we terminated the relationship with the public school and gone back to an independent school

Blueprint slide of an idea for an intergenerational community. Unfortunately the tract of land we are on, will not allow for what we wanted. It is the vision of what we hope the future will look like. Families from cross-cultural and cross-class community.

In our practice we build a family diagram. It gives a context for that family in their own life. That is what we mean when we say across generations.

We are faced in a community that has 19 different languages that are spoken.

Some Family Diagrams

- Here is an example of a woman who was trafficked from Mexico, moved to D.C. and had graduated from our program.
- This is a picture of an American born girl, who comes from a middle class background, had some domestic violence and her mother is Pilipino.
- This is a recent participant in our program. A woman from the Congo who was a diplomat and the victim of torture.
- This is a young Ethiopian woman, which was resettled to Minnesota and then came back to the Washington, D.C. area.
- This is a fourth generation young woman from an African American family.

Description the Family Charts

The circles are female. The squares are male. What we teach is obviously an iterative process. Any time we have a meeting with the family, that document is present. It always puts everything in context. So we are not thinking individual but as a family. We help make the chart, but then we teach that.