



## **Sen. Rand Paul joins conversation about two-generation learning**

*Engages with National Center for Families Learning, parents, and partners to learn more about results of research-based family learning model*

**LOUISVILLE, Ky. (September 25, 2017)** – Two-generation family literacy programming lifts parents and children to find greater success academically and economically. That’s the message that Sen. Rand Paul heard from the National Center for Families Learning (NCFL) Founder and President Sharon Darling, program participants and partners at a roundtable discussion in Louisville this morning.

“The NCFL approach is a solution to transforming the way our government engages with low-income families in a way that provides families a genuine opportunity to gain essential workforce skills in a real-world context while addressing community problems at the same time,” Darling said. “It’s a win-win for tax payers, families, and communities. We see immediate and long-term effects happening sooner so that families cease to receive government assistance.”

NCFL’S mission is to eradicate poverty through education solutions for families. The national nonprofit works with more than 140 community partners across the U.S. Its Family Learning model is research-based and consists of adult skill building, child skill building, Parent and Child Together (PACT) Time®, and Parent Time. High-impact strategies used in the model include Family Service Learning, digital integration, and deliberate social-capital building.

“I’m a big believer that strong families play an integral role in the future success of individuals,” said Sen. Paul. “As I learned here today, NCFL is serving our communities through empowering entire families by giving parents the tools to support their children and gain necessary skills for employability. I’m grateful for the opportunity to learn more about this organization and look forward to hearing more of their success stories.”

In NCFL model programs, parents learn how to better work and learn together with their children, while also building employability, technology, and language skills. Data shows half of adults participating in 2017 got a better job and 53 percent upgraded their skills to earn more money after gaining experience with 40 out of 42 career and technical education skills.

With more than 2 million families served over nearly 30 years, success stories are abundant. Today, Sen. Paul heard from parents who have personally experienced positive change in their lives, including:

- Ronald Triplett, a parent participant in NCFL Family Learning at 2NOT1 in Louisville – Triplett says the program helped him strengthen his relationships with his four teenagers.

“It allowed me to strengthen their social and academic bases,” Triplett said. Additionally, he says he now understands how to access school resources and better dialogue with his children’s teachers and principals.

- Kenya Epps, a former parent participant and current director of Toyota Family Learning in Huntsville, Ala. – Epps learned to be a better parent and how to deepen quality time with her children. She also gained employability skills and was hired as director of the NCFL model program she completed.

“The networks created through this program between families are incredible. We become one big family; supporting each other through challenges, giving each other rides to jobs and job interviews, and even babysitting their kids so they can work or go to school to improve their lives,” Epps said.

- In Flint, Mich., the community has identified two-generation family literacy as a way to mitigate the effects of lead exposure through tainted drinking water.

“The NCFL model helps parents and children build skills in meaningful ways,” said Lauren Chom, director of early childhood for Genessee (Mich.) Intermediate School District. “Parents gain workforce skills. We are even specifically training them to become classroom aids and are adding bus-driver training this year.”

## **ABOUT NATIONAL CENTER FOR FAMILIES LEARNING**

The National Center for Families Learning (NCFL) is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to eradicating poverty through education solutions for families. Partnering with educators, literacy advocates, and policymakers, NCFL develops and provides programming, professional development, and resources from the classroom to the community that empower and raise families to achieve their potential. For more information on NCFL visit [familieslearning.org](https://familieslearning.org).

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