• National Parent Leadership Month is a time to raise awareness of the important role that parents play not only in the lives of their children but also in their communities. Parents have a big influence on the healthy growth and development of children. This is a great opportunity to show parents how they can become more involved in their communities. Let them know how they can join the Parent-Teacher Association at their children’s school or volunteer at a local organization or fundraising event.

• Parent Leadership plays an important role in strengthening families and preventing child abuse and neglect. When parents become more involved in their communities they are able to make social connections. These social connections provide a support system for parents during times of need. Research shows that people who feel connected with others are better able to cope, are less prone to anxiety and depression and have better overall physical health.* [National Center for Biotechnical Information (2013). The Effects of Caregiver Social Connections on Caregiver, Child and Family Well-being. Available at: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3345204/]

• Parent Leaders set a positive example for children to look up to. When children see their parents getting involved in the community, they are more likely to want to follow in the footsteps of their parents by taking on leadership roles in school, sports and other activities. Studies show that over 60% of children that live in communities with high parental involvement participate in sports and/or volunteer work.* [Child Trends (2007). Building, Engaging, and Supporting Family and Parental Involvement in Out-of-School Time Programs. Available at: http://www.childtrends.org/?publications=building-engaging-and-supporting-family-and-parental-involvement-in-out-of-school-time-programs#sthash.FiUTXQGf.dpuf]

• When parents take on leadership roles they develop skills and improve their self-esteem. Research has shown that when parents further develop their leadership skills, they feel empowered to work towards change that better their communities and benefits their children through collective impact.* They are also able to build connections with people they may not have otherwise had the opportunity to meet. [American Educational Research Journal (2016). Enhancing Parent Leadership Through Building Social and Intellectual Capital. Available at: http://aer.sagepub.com/content/48/1/4.short]

• Children of parent leaders tend to have better success in school. A survey showed that two-thirds of teachers believe that parental involvement attributes to a child’s success in school. Children whose parents are more involved in their school are more likely to have higher grades and test scores, have better behavior and social skills, attend classes regularly and graduate to move on to college.* [Center for Public Education (2011). Back to School: How Parent Involvement Effects Student Achievement. Available at: http://www.centerforpubliceducation.org/Main-Menu/Public-education/Parent-Involvement/Parent-Involvement.html]