

PERSONAL SUMMARY

for

The Prevention Social Worker

by Laura Seigel, M.S.W.
www.tpsw.org

I put myself through six years of college, the last four of which I suffered from massive sleep deprivation by working and going to school full time each to complete a Masters of Social Work degree. I wanted to receive a degree in prevention, but it wasn't and still isn't offered. (Thankfully, it is available in the field of medicine and hopefully the social sciences will catch up.) I believe my purpose in life is to be instrumental in obtaining a greatly improved society with far fewer social problems by putting time and energy into prevention of social problems.

I am starting with the belief that improved parenting would be one of the most beneficial ways of lessening social problems. Parenting is no doubt the most difficult, challenging, exhausting and sometimes exasperating job in the world, and it's also one of life's greatest pleasures. Because the range of parenting is extreme and the fact that improper parenting can turn into one or more social problems down the line, I have been reading about parenting issues for more than 30 years.

I certainly don't have all the answers but what I have learned over the years has definitely helped me deal with many of my parenting challenges. I am very proud and fortunate to have two fantastic children who are extremely smart, make great grades and demonstrate excellent responsibility. I am determined to be the most effective, nurturing and patient parent I can be so that my children can become their best.

Neither of my parents had it easy growing up. My parents drastically improved upon the way that they were parented. Such extreme improvement is especially uncommon since most people, not insightful of their history, complete the cycle or pass the abuse to another generation (i.e., most child abuse offenders were child abuse victims). Without going into any details, I personally know the pain of growing up in a family whose parents endured abuse as children. I strive to improve the way I parent my children so that they can realize their potential. I also want that for everyone's children.

While it is more common for one bad thing to lead to something else negative, sometimes it can also turn into something positive as well. In December of 1981 I had a car accident in which I was suffered a coma, concussion, broken pelvis and clavicle. I had over 70 stitches to my temple and many stitches to one of my arms. Thankfully it was not worse. Although my medical bills were paid, I felt a debt to the medical community for saving my life. As a result, I volunteered at a local hospital's emergency room. That led to a series of equally fulfilling volunteer positions and experiences at numerous social service agencies, and the pursuit of my social work degrees. Though certainly not my intent, I learned that you get back much more when you give.

Unfortunately, although there have been countless news stories with horrific endings, there will be more tragic news stories that could have been prevented. Regrettably, they are only the tip of the iceberg as there are countless others who will go unreported. I can't stress enough the importance of using whatever time we have to prevent needless future social problems by helping others since no one knows how long they have.

When I started working in the social work field in 1993, my annual salary was \$25,000. That meant quitting a job making \$35,000 salary at the time so that I could realize my dream of working in the field of social work. I wasn't rolling in dough either. I did it because I was eager to use what I had learned in school and work in the direction of preventing social problems with like-minded people. Since the time that I left the field (the details of which would take another page or two), and the addition of two children to the family, I have not been able to work in the field due to financial constraints. I obviously did not choose social work as a profession for the money, but I do have bills to pay. I have therefore delayed reentering the field of social work until I can afford to make the switch or someone comes along who is eager to bring these ambitious goals to fruition.

I am an efficient researcher and am extremely easy going, creative, organized, honest, dependable, responsible, reasonable, resourceful and patient. Additionally, I have good insight, the desire, the passion, good follow-through, perseverance, strong analytical skills and a caring attitude to accomplish a tremendous amount. I have over 30 years' experience working in law offices, with over 32 of those working at the same law office. This is one attempt so that I can be The Prevention Social Worker who our society needs. The heartbeat of America is pulsing loudly. We need this viable prevention plan to get us out of our social problem mess. I want to do this work. I know that I'm onto something big.

It is my hope that through this website more and more people will want to work in the direction of making prevention happen. When more and more people understand that prevention makes so much sense, the notion of prevention will take off like Velcro did in the 80's. Please make sure to read the Overview for The Prevention Social Worker which outlines both the problems and the solutions. I hope that my belief in humanity, background, foresight and vision to drastically improve lives has sparked your interest and "wowed" you. In the meantime, may you realize your dreams.