Empowered Parents,
Children and Communities.

Celebrating 30 years as President & CEO

Raising the Future works in meaningful Shared Leadership® with Parents, Children and Youth to oppose racism, sexism, classism, and bias and to protect and improve the lives of those who have experienced discrimination and the associated trauma to ensure a future that is just and equitable for all members of every community. Dr. Lisa explained, “Parents Anonymous was the first prevention program that really believed that if you provided supports to parents, children, and youth you could both prevent and intervene when there were issues. It’s not about blaming and shaming, but celebrating that asking for help is a sign of strength”.

Parents Anonymous is just one of the seven evidence-based programs Raising the Future currently runs. “Raising the Future brings constituents – parents, children, youth, agencies, and policymakers – together. The new name reflects our message: we are all part of raising the future.”

Dr. Lisa, a parent herself, has been a social worker for 40 years. She passionately believes “…with resilience and strong parent-child connections, children will flourish, even in difficult circumstances.”

In April 2020, Raising the Future launched the California Parent & Youth Helpline, an innovative First Responder System for Families to address the impact of the pandemic and provide vital Evidence-Based emotional support. “When we launched the California Helpline during the pandemic, the timing was perfect because so many services were not available. Parents are the unsung heroes of the Coronavirus. We can’t separate children’s mental health from parents’ mental health.”

Dr. Lisa is a vocal supporter of including parents in decision making. “Everything we do is in shared leadership with parents. We want to spread the word about shared leadership with parents because all sectors of child welfare interact with parents – schools, mental health, doctors.”

After 40+ years in the field, Dr. Lisa is still going strong: “I have a lot of energy, and I’m not giving up!”. Her tips for those who are new to the workforce: “Celebrate the small wins! Commit to the long game – change won’t happen in a year. And don’t ever deter from your values – even when people don’t agree with you.”

CWLA and Raising the Future offer their heartfelt thanks to Dr. Lisa for committing herself to children, youth, parents, and families for so many decades!