



Thursday, June 18, 2020

(Note: a message with news about our ICAN projects will follow next week)

Dear ICAN Friends,

The enemy COVID-19 continues to affect the quality of life for us all, some with inconvenience, some with stress and anxiety, and some with tragedy.

We feel helpless. To stop this enemy, we can only wear our face masks and keep our distance as we depend on medical professionals and scientists to find the solution.

There is another enemy that threatens the safety and quality of life for us all. This is an enemy that we *can* stop, because, as Pogo proclaimed: “we have found the enemy and he is us.”

Not all of us? Maybe more of us in ways we have begun to recognize.

As acts of racism and bias have become painfully apparent, I immediately think of the impact on children.

Children see violence on the TV screen and social media, witness it in their neighborhoods and experience it in their schools and in their homes.

I’m always thankful that my 12-year old godson, Mark Macabe, lives in a safe and nurturing home.

Mark has been our ICAN Ambassador since he was five years old, leading the flag salute at every ICAN conference. Many of you remember his story of miraculous survival, born just under one pound.

I asked Mark to write a letter for this ICAN message to bring hope and joy to the thousands of readers who are overwhelmingly child advocates.





I'm including his letter because it does bring hope and joy. But, it also reveals a sad reality young black children experience, even those with extended family support.

So, read on, and picture Mark, at the opening ceremony of each of our ICAN conferences:

"Please put your hand over your heart"

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deanne Tilton-Durfee".

Deanne Tilton-Durfee, Doc.hc
Executive Director of the Los Angeles County
Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN)

Hello Godmom

I hope you are doing well.

I am excited about my upcoming 8th grade school year

I finished 7 grade with a 3.5 GPA

Distance learning has its struggles and advantages. I miss my friends and sometimes even the classroom setting. however, I enjoy learning and studying at my own pace and comfort.

The Pandemic has been very scary I almost lost a family member to Covid 19. I am responsible and wear my mask everywhere I go. I worry about the older people like my Granny she is 103 years old and would be very vulnerable to the virus. I worry about the homeless who may not have mask and I wonder what things will be like in the future.

I recently attended a peaceful Protest with my Mom and Grandfather I was reluctant to go because of all of the looting but my Mom explained to me the importance of standing up for what is right, for my rights.





I was recently treated inappropriately by law enforcement As I was running late for school I was approached by 2 officers who told me to come to them, I walked over and was slammed on a police car, Patted down and had my backpack emptied in the middle of the street I was frightened and very afraid and I did not understand what was Happening or why it was happening my heart was racing and all I wanted to do was get to school in that moment.

I thought of tamir rice, Michael Brown, Philando casteel, travon Martin Brianna Taylor And Eric Gardner. Even though it saddens my heart to see the looters on TV, the buildings being burned and people being hurt. I was very proud to be a part of the protests Because I feel my life matters and other young children like me their lives matter to. I was inspired to write a poem that my teacher Mr. Williams entered into the National Poetry contest on Social Injustice I received honorable mention.

I have been researching colleges with my mom because I will be starting high school pretty soon. I am thinking attending Morehouse college in Atlanta Georgia I would like to one day become a lawyer, A prosecutor who prosecutes people who hurt children because they are the most defenseless and need protection.

Next summer I would like to intern in a law office, So I can begin gaining knowledge that will prepare me for the future I plan to embark upon.

Being a big brother has its challenges Because now I have to be an example, set standards, protect, teach and love a little person who looks up to me.

I still enjoy playing video games, watching movies and family time. I cant wait to see my ICAN family I hope everyone is staying safe healthy and positive during these times.

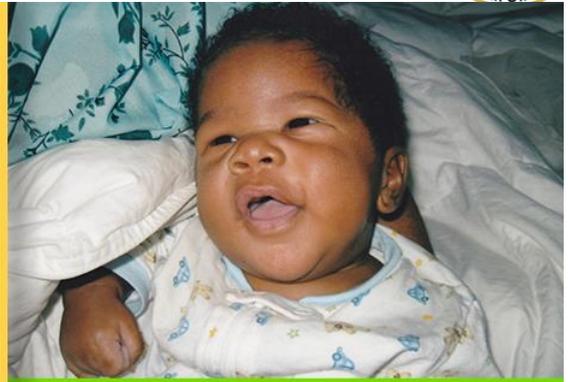
Mark Macabe



INTER-AGENCY COUNCIL ON CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT
County of Los Angeles



Mark and little brother.



Mark at his first Nexus Conference.



ICAN Ambassador Mark Macabe
with ICAN Champion and
ICAN Associates Co-Founder
Alex Trebek

