

Supporting One Another in the Profession We Love!

By Becca Weekly

As I sit here putting together the fall newsletter and preparing for TCPN's 4th Annual Members' Meeting in September, it's hard for me to fathom that just a few years ago I didn't know any other nannies. It wasn't until shortly before I learned about TCPN's existence that I began to connect with nannies in my area. My professional life changed so dramatically when that happened!

I joined TCPN in January, 2002, when it was a group still in its infancy (less than a year old). I was immediately roped into becoming involved with the newsletter and the Board of Directors. It was a little intimidating at first, and it hasn't always been easy getting everything done and trying to help the group run smoothly, but being a part of TCPN has been such a blessing in my life. Now some of my best friends are nannies I met through this group, and more than ever, I feel validated in the professional choice I made to spend my days providing quality in-home childcare.

In my two and a half years with TCPN, I have learned that nannies are an interesting breed of people! We all love children, but beyond that, we are amazingly different. It is fascinating to me how some of us are loud and outgoing, while others are shy and reserved. We have widely differing personalities, interests, hobbies, families, work situations, likes and dislikes. Because we are used to working on our own (as "the boss" so to speak), it can at times be difficult to work together, but it is so important that we do!

Without TCPN, I honestly don't think I would be a career nanny. Personally, as much as I love children (especially babies), I couldn't handle the isolation from other adults. It took a group like this to open up the world of colleagues and professional friendships to me. My job became so much more satisfying and fun as I began to connect with others and attend playgroups. I suddenly wasn't so alone anymore, and I truly believe I became a much better nanny. With the newsletter committee and the Board, I have a whole new level of satisfaction that helps me realize what I do is real, is professional, and it is good. It makes me want to be sure that other nannies feel that way, too.

TCPN's Annual Members' Meeting is coming up in a few short weeks and I urge you to make it a priority to be there if you can. This year we are trying something new- attempting our first "mini-conference". We will have an ECFE parent educator come speak about setting limits for our charges (a part of the job for all of us), as well as elections, a brief meeting, yummy snacks, door prizes, committee sign ups and the opportunity to meet and talk with other local nannies. We will also be introducing this year's fundraiser, and our new Yahoo group, which will be a whole new way for those of you with email access to connect with one another.

Being an active member of TCPN has been immensely rewarding for me, and I know that the group will flourish and grow as more nannies chose to take an active role. Whether you've been a member since the first Annual Meeting three years ago, or just joined in the past month or two, this is a great time to step up and participate more fully. We are a small (but growing) group, and desperately need members to become involved by joining a committee, running for a Board position, guiding TCPN, and letting their voices be heard. It is the only way that TCPN can really be what it was created to be – a group in which we support one another in a profession we love!

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