

# Discover Together Symposium

## Fact Sheet



### CONTACT US:

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On January 28 and 29, 2014, Walt Disney Parks and Resorts hosted nearly 60 non-profit organizations from around the U.S. at "Discover Together," a symposium focused on the benefits kids gain from positive relationships with parents, grandparents, mentors and other influential adults. The two-day symposium at Disney's Grand Californian Hotel® & Spa introduced research about the impact these relationships have on kids and families and facilitated a conversation about how organizations can make a difference.

### PRESENTERS AT THE SYMPOSIUM INCLUDED:



The Center for Childhood Creativity presented *Shared Discoveries: Positive Parent-Child Relationships and Child Development*, a white paper that reviews and analyzes a wide body of academic studies that demonstrate how positive parent-child interactions (i.e., how parents and children communicate through language, shared experiences, and mutual discovery) impact the way children learn, grow, and thrive. This research was made possible through support from Walt Disney Parks and Resorts.

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### Center for Childhood Research Findings:

- Positive parent-child interactions powerfully influence how children learn, grow, and thrive.
- Parents foster children's cognitive development and learning through shared interactions that involve rich linguistic input, praise for hard work, and sensitive support.
- Parents and children learn, explore and discover together in free-choice learning environments through conversation, problem solving, and play.
- Warm and supportive parenting practices form the basis of positive parent-child relationships that promote children's social and emotional development.



Search Institute presented their groundbreaking American Family Assets Study, which surveyed more than 1,500 families and identified 21 “assets” or strengths – such as positive communication, clear expectations, and meaningful traditions – that are significantly correlated to performance, well-being, social competency, and other characteristics important to their success. In 2014, the Search Institute will build upon this body of research with a study of families with younger children and a study of developmental relationships, which are powerful connections with adults through which young people learn to strive to be their best in school, work, and life. This new research will be made possible through support from Walt Disney Parks and Resorts.

### **Search Institute American Family Assets Study Findings:**

Kids in families with higher levels of families assets or strengths compared with kids with fewer family assets are:

- Three times as likely to take personal responsibility and keep their commitments
- More than 3 times as likely to show caring and empathy to others
- More than 5 times as likely to be able to manage their own feelings and actions (self-regulation)
- Almost twice as likely to get mostly A’s in school
- More than 3 times as likely to eat a well-balanced diet
- More than 3 times as likely to volunteer in their community 3 or more times per month



Mission Measurement Founder and CEO Jason Saul spoke at the symposium about the challenges and opportunities facing the social sector and how innovative measurement is crucial to achieving successful outcomes. The title of his speech is “Cracking the Code on Social Impact.”

Based in Chicago and Washington, D.C., Mission Measurement is a consulting firm focused on measuring social outcomes for the corporate, government and nonprofit sectors.

Jason Saul is one of the world’s leading experts on measuring social impact and is committed to improving the world by changing the dialogue and using benchmark data to create a true “social capital market” - where social outcomes can be more efficiently bought and sold to maximize social impact. Jason has advised some of the world’s leading corporations, government agencies and nonprofits, including: Unilever, Walmart, Starbucks, McDonald’s, the American Red Cross, the Smithsonian and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). In addition to Mission Measurement, Jason is on the faculty of the Kellogg School of Management, where he teaches corporate social responsibility and nonprofit management. He is also an award-winning author whose recent books include *Social Innovation, Inc.* and *The End of Fundraising*.



Creative Inc, Disney's creative problem solving experts, led the symposium participants through an afternoon of exploration designed to encourage dialogue about how the research and information shared at the symposium can be used to make a difference in the lives of children.

### **Who is Creative Inc:**

**Innovation Catalysts** – Creative Inc is a group of creative ideation and innovation catalysts. We look at things differently, bringing unique perspectives, approaches, and insights that spark revolutionary thinking and big ideas. The team works across the organization as “creative ideation consultants” and “cultural change agents” that design engaging, collaborative forums that capture unlikely connections and produce new ideas.

**Creative Consultants** – Creative Inc delivers a powerful style of creative problem solving through Disney's Innovation “Toy Box.” Utilizing the Toy Box five-step process and the nine creative behaviors, the team provides a way for partners to reach their goals, whether they're in need of a nudge to the core business, a new way to go to market, or a total re-invention.

**Creative Culture** – Creative Inc is instrumental in developing a creative culture, establishing new environments to inspire both innovation and collaboration. Whether it is in iD8, a new space designed specifically to encourage playfulness and unplanned collaboration; virtually, through the Creative Lab; or via customized forums such as the Creative Intelligence.

## **DISNEY INSTITUTE “LEADERSHIP EXCELLENCE” TRAINING**

On the second day of the symposium, Disney Institute provided its one-day Leadership Excellence training designed to help participants align their values with their organization's vision to enable them lead a motivated, innovative, and productive workforce. Disney Institute is the only training and development company that empowers organizations to create lasting change through its time-tested model for cultural transformation that bridges insights into action through Disney best practices.