



NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Spaulding for Children, Detroit PAL and LifeChurch Auburn Hills Present
A Free Online Webinar for Caregivers and Professionals, sponsored by HAP – Health Alliance Plan of Michigan,
“Understanding Social Media Tools and Traps: Empowering Families to Navigate the Virtual World”**

SOUTHFIELD, Mich. (Feb. 2, 2021) – Parents, caregivers and child welfare professionals will find strategies for managing and moderating the impact of social media in a special online program, “Understanding Social Media Tools and Traps: Empowering Families to Navigate the Virtual World,” webcast live Thursday, Feb. 18, from 6 - 8 p.m. EST.

The webinar is free and open to individuals, caregivers and child welfare professionals who pre-register. Presented by Spaulding for Children, Detroit PAL, and LifeChurch Auburn Hills, the webinar is sponsored by HAP – Health Alliance Plan, a Michigan-based nonprofit health plan. Those who wish to attend the webinar are asked to pre-register at https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUscemqgTwwHdWxQtqF_jdZtU3ZvXQH00S or to visit Spaulding.org.

“Understanding Social Media Tools and Traps: Empowering Families to Navigate the Virtual World” is a free virtual program that features a live panel, composed of three experts serving in the fields of communication, mental health, and social services. The panel will discuss the impacts of social media from the mental health, ethical and civic engagement perspectives. There also will be a focus on how parents can enhance their capacity to mitigate the risks and increase responsible use of online platforms.

Panelists include **Luana Marques**, PhD, director, and founder of Community Psychiatry PRIDE at Massachusetts General Hospital and an Associate Professor in Psychology at Harvard Medical School; **Robert Jamerson**, Detroit PAL CEO and a former PAL participant, coach and consultant; and **April Dinwoodie**, a communications and cause-related marketing and social media professional. The panel will be moderated by **Craig Fahle**, longtime broadcaster expert in government administration and currently host of the daily “Craig Fahle Show on Deadline Detroit.”

In addition to providing the latest information on the topic, the panel will provide insights parents and professionals working with children need to know to understand the specific impact of social media on the well-being of youth. Panelists will provide practical advice and strategies on how to harness the benefits and decrease the adverse impacts of social media.

This webinar also will create an opportunity for each participant to become aware of their own family’s interaction with social media. Those taking part will learn effective strategies and helpful tips so they can enjoy a healthy usage of social networking platforms.

For more information on the webinar, including biographies of the panelists and moderator, please visit Spaulding.org.

“Understanding Social Media Tools and Traps: Empowering Families to Navigate the Virtual World”

About the Webinar Cohosts - Spaulding for Children, Detroit PAL and LifeChurch Auburn Hills

Spaulding for Children is a national leader in developing and providing resources and training for foster and adoptive families and those who serve and support them. Started in 1968 with the belief that every child is adoptable, Spaulding brought attention to foster children with special needs. Today Spaulding provides research-based training and education for those interested in becoming adoptive and foster parents and a parenting and preventive support program for young women who are pregnant or young mothers between the ages of 13-24 children with risk factors for child abuse and neglect. More at www.spaulding.org.

Detroit PAL – In partnership with the Detroit Police Department and community volunteers, Detroit PAL is helping youth find their greatness through athletic, academic, and leadership development programs. More at www.detroitpal.org.

LifeChurch Auburn Hills is a multiethnic community being transformed and empowered by the grace, truth, and love of Jesus. LifeChurch Auburn Hills is part of the LifeChurch Network, a family of churches in metro Detroit who work to make disciples of Jesus who can make disciples of all nations. More at www.lifechurchauburnhills.org.

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Spaulding for Children

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