Welcome, we will be starting shortly...

# Mental Health & Wellness Workshop Peace in the Pandemic

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# Workshop Goals

- 1. Recognize what we are dealing with, and how we cope during a Global Pandemic
- 2. Solutions to cope in a healthy way
- 3. Learn Stress Relief & Grounding Techniques
  - · Deep Breathing Technique
  - · Reframing
  - Grounding Technique
  - · Bilateral Stimulation
- 4. Encouragement & Hope/Q & A

## In a Pandemic...

We need to name what is happening. "Recognition is the first step to resolution."

- Collective Trauma- traumatic psychological effect shared by a group of people of any size
- Ambiguous Loss- a loss that occurs without closure
- <u>Distress Tolerance</u>- an individual's perceived capacity to withstand an adverse emotional or physical state=RESILIENCE

# How our brains cope

- When current structures, institutions, and rituals of life have been shattered or severely disrupted, our brain will instinctively go into a survival mode-
  - Fight
  - Flight
  - Freeze

## When primitive brain gets triggered-

- · We are not rational, brain goes into protection mode, we become reactive
- · Our executive functioning is hijacked
- · We become emotionally dis-regulated. Something that is a misdemeanor feels like a felony

## Coping Mechanisms

#### **VIOLATION**



# What are some Solutions? How do we find Peace?

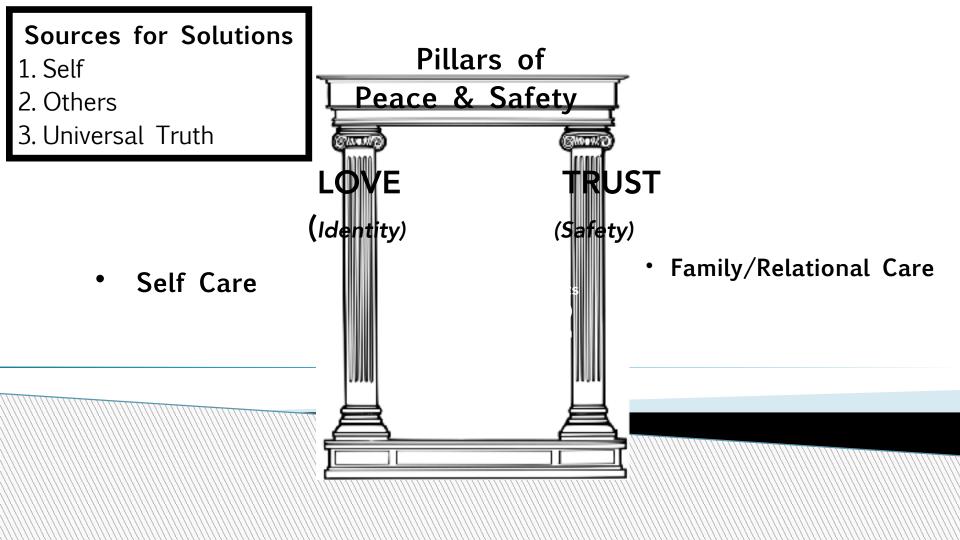
# Find new structures & rituals of Peace & Safety

#### 3 Tips for Peace

Reassurance Keeping yourself safe is within your control Safer at home!

Routines Can help to lend structure & predictability to your days

Regulation Deep breathing, grounding & other techniques



## Putting the pillars of Peace & Safety into practice

**SELF CARE** 

Deep Breathing
Meditation
Prayer
Mindfulness
Kindness to self
Get Support

FAMILY/RELATIONAL CARE

Quality Time
Playfulness
Intentional connecting
Kindness to others
GRATITUDE!
Get Support

## Deep Abdominal Breathing

We have a natural tranquilizer that we can use anytime, is perfectly safe and has no side effects.

- 1. Lean back in your chair with both feet on ground.
- 2. Place your right hand on your stomach and left hand on chest.
- 3. As you slowly breath in your right hand should rise while your left hand remains stationary.
- 4. Breathe in through your nose to a slow count of 4 and breathe out through your mouth to a slow count of 8.

# **Reframing**Gratefulness and Kindness

Identify 5 things that you are grateful for everyday (i.e. instead of I am "stuck" inside".

reframe

I am "safe" inside & growing more resilient)

What we focus on grows...

Rewire your brain by applying kindness to yourself and others

### **Grounding Technique**

**Exercise** 5,4,3,2,1

Sit down in a quiet place & name:

- 5 Things that you can See & say them out loud
- 4 Things you can Touch & say out loud
- 3 Things you can Hear & say out loud
- 2 Things you enjoy Tasting, imagine you're tasting them right now
- 1 Imagine your favorite Scent & that you're smelling it right now

#### Bilateral Stimulation

(Left to right movements that calm your brain)

- · Throw a ball back & forth with yourself
- · Butterfly Hug
- · Folding a paper airplane or origami
- · Tap your toes to a fun beat
- · Go on a walk
- · Dancing

### **RESOURCES**

#### **Books**

Anxiety Gone by Dr. Stanley Hibbs

<u>5 Days to a New Self</u> by Dr. Terry Hargrave

### **Apps**

CALM Headspace ABIDF

# **Support** EAP 877-851-1631

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#### HOPE, ENCOURAGEMENT and Q & A

- · You are not alone
- · You are being so strong, keep it up!
- · We're in this together & can become stronger
- · This too will pass, it won't last forever, just a chapter
- · THERE IS HOPE!!!

# Suffering produces perseverance, perseverance character, and character HOPE