

The Letter C

Recently, I was asked what is my favorite letter? Strange question, right? Well, not to a 5 year old, who wants to know everything about anything! But I responded without hesitation, " The letter C. Yes, definitely the letter C." Next question. You already know what that question is. "Why?"

Easy enough answer. "Because my favorite words begin with C. All my children's names are C's, words like compassion, caring, constant, charisma and change are incredible c words." His jaw dropped opened like I was from idiot planet and had just arrived. He responded with, " Well, I only like the ones I can color."

Thinking back on this brilliant exchange of thoughts, another C word came into play. "Comfort" .We are most content in our comfort zone. A place that is secure and non threatening to our fragile beings.

A no risk zone but the ugly truth is, the comfort zone is fraught with peril. Can you imagine if as a child you were comfortable with just crawling, you would never take the risk to walk. Or as a teenager so filled with angst that your heart might be broken and never risks going on that first date. Or a young married woman who is concerned about the birth of her child and decides it's better to never have children.

Or how about you and me? Where are we in our comfort zone?

And how in the world does any of this have to do with a non- profit that facilitates healthcare appointments for children? Simply, this. A group of very extraordinary people left their comfort zone to begin Children's Volunteer Health Network. They were willing to put their time, talent and resources together and sacrifice their personal and individual goals to see this organization come into fruition. Were there risks? Yes, possible failure. Time spent and lost. Families neglected and some friendships challenged. But the collective goal of believing that no child should be without healthcare over rode all those fears and concerns.

CVHN has been blessed by wonderful Board members, who have stepped out of their comfort zones when needed to go beyond the regular responsibilities of serving .. The volunteers who work tirelessly for our communities' children and receive only the recognition, that they know in their hearts what they did that day was significant to a child. Staff who work over time on fundraisers, participate at every level and go home exhausted every night.

As CVHN continues to serve the families of Walton and Okaloosa Counties under the guidance of new Board leadership and new Board members, I encourage all of our community partners to step out of their comfort zones, use their gifts and join in with this amazing group of individuals to ensure that we as a community can continue to keep our commitment.

Tricia Northcutt

Founder