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October 2012

Stewards of Children® Participants...Never Stop Learning!

You are receiving this email because you have attended a Stewards of Children training. We want to continue to provide helpful information, tips, stories in the news, trainings, and other valuable resources to help expand your awareness and strengthen your role as a steward of children. Without ongoing education and dialogue in our community, it is impossible to move forward and end this epidemic.

Now that over 700 adults have been trained by Chaucie's Place in Stewards of Children we have been hearing a lot of participants ask, "Why don't children disclose they've been sexually abused?"

Statistics show that about 85% of children who are sexually abused never tell, or delay telling about the abuse. The closer the relationship between the child and the abuser, the less likely the child is to disclose. Many times disclosure is gradual and may begin with vague hints or unclear information.

After reading these tips, hopefully you will have a better understanding of why children don't disclose abuse and what you can do to help breakdown the barriers.

Why don't children disclose they've been sexually abused?

There are many reasons why children do not disclose their abuse. Here are a few possibilities:

- Knowing that 90% of child sexual abuse victims know their abuser, it is common for children to keep it a secret because they fear that person will get in trouble.
- Threats of bodily harm to the child or the child's family may have been made.
- The child may have a fear of being removed from the home.
- The child may have a fear of not being believed.
- The child may have feelings of shame or guilt - doesn't want to get in trouble.
- The child may not have the language skills to express what happened.
- The child may not know it is abusive because they were made to think it was a game.

What can you do to prevent a child from keeping sexual abuse a secret?

Know how children communicate.

- Children who do disclose sexual abuse often tell a trusted adult other than a parent. Therefore, training for people who work with children in any capacity is very important. Encourage your children's schools, sports teams and other youth-serving organizations to become trained in the Stewards of Children program so they know how to prevent, recognize and react appropriately to child sexual abuse.
- Children may tell "parts" of what happened or pretend it happened to someone else to gauge adult reaction.
- Children will often "shut down" and refuse to tell more if you respond emotionally or negatively.
- If your child does not talk to you, don't think it's a sign of poor parenting.

Talk openly with your child.

- Teach your child that it is your job to protect him.
- Teach your child that it is not her responsibility to protect others.
- Demonstrate daily that you will not be angry, no matter what your child tells you about any aspect of his life.
- Listen quietly. Children have a hard time telling parents about troubling events.

- Teach your child about her body, about what abuse is and, as age-appropriate, about sex. Teach your children words that help him/her discuss sex comfortably with you.
- Teach your child that it is against the "rules" for adults to act in a sexual way with children and use examples.
- Start early and talk often. Use everyday opportunities to talk about sexual abuse.

Information from DarknesstoLight.org and StopitNow.org

Please share this with your friends, family, and colleagues.

**Darkness to Light's Stewards of Children
Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Training for Adults**

October 22, 2012

6:00pm - 8:30pm

River Glen Country Club
First Floor Dining Room
12010 Clubhouse Drive
Fishers, IN 46038

\$15.00 per person to attend
SPACE IS LIMITED!

No Refunds will be given.
Register at www.chauciesplace.org

Hosted by:

Fishers Kiwanis Club



About Chaucie's Place

Chaucie's Place works passionately to ensure the welfare of children by offering evidence-based, high-quality prevention programs to end the cycle of abuse and to empower children and adults to take an active role to make sure that children of central Indiana have the opportunity to live to their highest potential.

The center provides a neutral, child-focused environment where forensic interviews may take place for cases of alleged child sexual and physical abuse and neglect to help reduce trauma for child victims.

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