
darkness to light

Confronting child sexual abuse with courage.



Prevention: It's Everyone's Job

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Overview

- Who is Darkness to Light?
- Facts about child sexual abuse
- *Stewards of Children* Training



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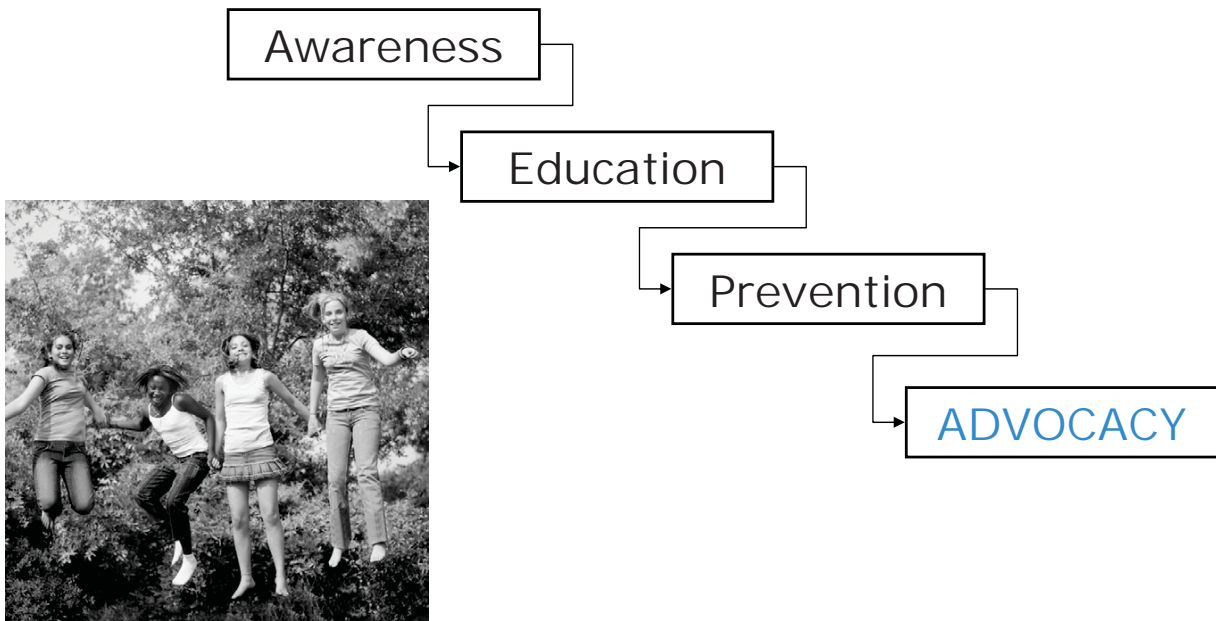
Who is Darkness to Light?

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Our Mission

- To diminish the incidence and impact of child sexual abuse, so that more children will grow up healthy and whole.
- Our programs will raise awareness of the prevalence and consequences of child sexual abuse by educating adults about the steps they can take to prevent, recognize and react responsibly to the reality of child sexual abuse.



- When an adult involves a child in ANY sexual act, including:
 - Fondling
 - Exhibitionism
 - Voyeurism
 - Exposure to pornography
 - Internet sexual solicitation
- The majority of the time the perpetrator “grooms” the victim and the family, using strategies that make the family feel the child is safe.

Child Sexual Abuse: The Facts

The statistics are shocking:

- 1 in 4 girls sexually abused before age 18
- 1 in 6 boys sexually abused before age 18
- Median age is 9 years old
- Most never tell
- 39 million survivors of sexual abuse in America today

Child Sexual Abuse: The Facts

- In 90% of sexual abuse cases, the child is familiar with the offender.
- Only 10% of offenders are complete strangers.
- Offenders intentionally seek organizations that provide programs for children and adolescents.





Child Sexual Abuse: The Consequences

- Drug and alcohol dependence (70-80%)
- Depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, and anxiety (80 – 90%)
- Suicidal thoughts/attempts (20-30%)
- Difficulty forming long-term relationships
- Eating Disorders
- Sexual risk taking that leads to teen pregnancy (60%) preceded by sexual abuse) and sexually transmitted diseases, including AIDS
- Prostitution (>90% have been sexually abused)
- Delinquency



Child Sexual Abuse: The Reality

- In 2007, among the camps in New York State alone, 17 victims reported sexual abuse. The alleged perpetrators were a counselor/staff member or another camper.
- At a church affiliated camp in Florida, an 18 year old boy was arrested on charges of lewd and lascivious behavior with a minor. Investigators reported eight other boys admitting to performing inappropriate sex acts on one another.
- In 2008, a soccer camp director was charged with inappropriately touching a female camper, multiple victims came forward after the initial charge was publicized.
- In 2008, an employee of the cities summer camp program was jailed on one count of child molestation, one count of sexual abuse and nine counts of sexual conduct with a minor.



How Should You Respond?



- Understand the impact
- Screen employees and volunteers
- Create policies eliminating/minimizing one-adult/one-child situations
- Develop clear child sexual abuse reporting procedures
- Train employees and volunteers to protect children from sexual abuse



Stewards of Children

- Rigorous evaluations of products and programs
- Center for Child and Family Studies, USC
- National Crime Victim Center (CDC)
- College of Charleston
- National Crime Victim Center, Crime Prevention Program of the Year, 200X

stewards of children™

A prevention and response program for adults

Proactive, straightforward actions that adults can take to prevent, recognize, and react responsibly to child sexual abuse.



Core Concepts:

1. Learn the facts
2. Minimize opportunity
3. Talk about it
4. Stay alert
5. Make a plan
6. Act on suspicions
7. Get involved

Stewards of Children Works:

- Inspires
- Dismantles the taboo
- Motivates adult at feeling/emotional level and not from fear
- Uses a non judgmental approach
- Promotes an internal learning skill set (think, feel and act that is also adaptable to addressing other issues)
- Speaks intuitively to Survivors (affirms their experience and often motivates them toward healing)
- Practical Directives/Action Oriented

How can it be used?

- Youth Serving Organizations
- Faith Centers
- Parents and Individuals
- Communities



- Training Format
- Delivery Methods
 - Facilitator Led
 - ACA Facilitator
 - Your own Facilitator
 - On-Line



Darkness to Light uses effective and successful strategies in understanding violence and implementing prevention strategies:

- Social/Ecological Model
 - Interplay of individual, relationship, community and societal factors
- Public Health Model
 - Defining the problem
 - Identifying risk and protective factors
 - Developing and testing prevention strategies
 - Assure Widespread Adoption

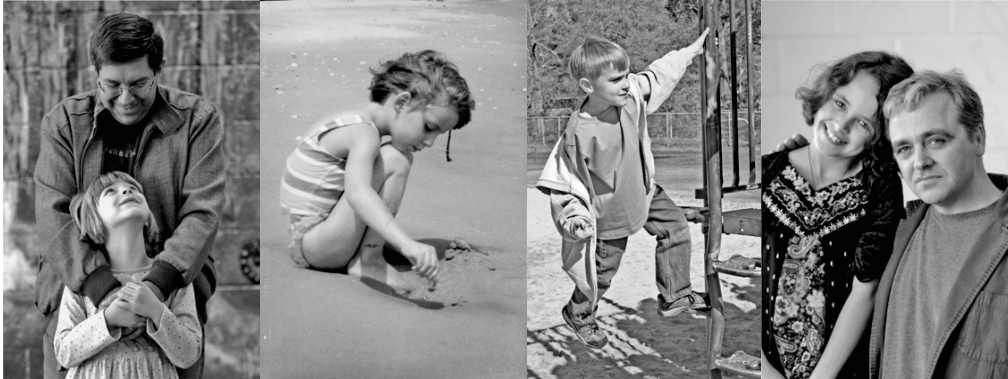
Darkness to Light in Communities:

- Media
- Website
- National Helpline
- Community Wide Initiatives
 - Geographic Initiatives
 - School Districts
- Co-Branding
- Prevent-a-thon
- Insurance Providers



How Can I Help?

- Commit to Training Your Staff
- Tell the Parents About the Training and Your Commitment to Prevention
- Be a Prevention Leader in Your Community



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