

WINTER 2011 VOL 8, Issue 5
Family Violence Resource Network News

**A periodic newsletter sponsored by the *Walking Together* program
 Samaritan Counseling Center**



January 18, 2012
First United Methodist Church Room 214/215
 29 E Walnut St., Lancaster

9:30 AM – 10:00 AM – Coffee, Networking
10:00 – 11:45 AM Program and Discussion

Educating our Community about Child Sexual Abuse
Lessons from Penn State

RSVP: LCrockett@scclanc.org or call 717 625 1722

It's not Just Jenna

This sexual abuse awareness video, produced Massachusetts Citizens for Children, is based on a true story and depicts the courageous and inspirational struggle of Jenna and her family. An excellent training tool for use in organizational settings, we will launch our discussion of “lessons from Penn State” after viewing the video.

Massachusetts Citizens and the **Samaritan Counseling Center's current Safe Church project** are funded in part by a grant from the **Ms. Foundation** distributed to 15 organizations across the nation that are part of an **emerging U.S. movement to end child sexual abuse**. The organizations meet periodically to develop goals and strategies for the cultural, political, and judicial changes needed to end this hidden epidemic that impacts at least one in 4 girls and one in 6 boys before they are 18 years old.



Remember — it can happen virtually anywhere because,

It's Not Just Jenna.

Be aware. Protect a child

The video and discussion guide may be purchased @ www.Masskids.org. If your organization or church would like to educate parents and others about the “grooming” process, as well as signs of sexual abuse, this is an excellent resource!



Why create a “movement” to END CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE?

Extract from discussion at Ms. Foundation Convening in MN, November 2011

1) The first has to do with sheer numbers of people impacted. 1 in 4 women and 1 in six men. If we invite people to let these numbers sink in, they are truly astounding! And yet – despite the numbers – this issue remains largely invisible.

2) This invisibility relates to this second reason, and that is this:

Child sexual abuse, as a movement, does NOT have a home.

It lives in between, and on the periphery, of existing movements such as child abuse, violence against women, domestic violence, and sexual violence. As a result, it falls through the cracks.

It does not have a critical mass of people and energy and resources to move it forward. Even in some activist circles, it remains taboo.

3) The first reason has to do with strategic impact.

Research tells us that women who have experienced CSA are more likely to be re-victimized as adults. This includes subsequent sexual violence, domestic violence and other trauma. Ending child sexual abuse is one of the most strategic things we can do to reduce other forms of violence across the lifespan, particularly gender based violence.



What is Child Sexual Abuse?

Any sexual activity between an adult or adolescent and a child is child sexual abuse. It is not just harmful to children: it is against the law.

Child sexual abuse involves any sexual activity with a child where consent is not or cannot be given. This includes sexual contact that is accomplished by force or threat of force, regardless of the age of the participants, and all sexual contact between an adult and a child, regardless of whether there is deception or the child understands the sexual nature of the activity. Sexual contact between an older and a younger child also can be abusive if there is a significant disparity in age, development, or size, rendering the younger child incapable of giving informed consent.

Child sexual abuse can include both **touching** and **non-touching** behaviours and its victims can include infants, toddlers, young children, and teens:

Examples of abusive touching behaviours include: fondling of a child’s genitals, buttocks or breasts; intercourse; and, penetration of the child’s mouth, anus, or vagina with an object for the sexual gratification of the offender. Coercing a child to fondle him/herself, the offender or another child is also abusive.

Examples of abusive non-touching behaviours include: exposing oneself to a child; viewing and violating the private behaviours of a child or teen (e.g. while undressing, bathing, etc); taking sexually explicit or provocative photographs of a child; showing pornography to a child; or talking in sexually explicit ways to children in person, by phone, or on the Internet. **American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children**

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Lessons from Penn State: Discussion Questions

What are you – or your organization – doing to use the crisis at Penn State as a “teachable” moment?

What is the ONE THING you want to ask your constituents to do as a result?

(see article below for Samaritan Center’s “ASK” of the faith community)

What is needed in this community to END CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE?

How can better collaborate with each other on this issue?

What are the most important things we can do to PREVENT it?

What are the changes (if any) in reporting practices you would like to see?

What are the changes (if any) in the criminal justice system you would like to see?

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**A Faith Community Call to Action:
Penn State Lessons as Catalyst for Change**

Linda Crockett, Director of Clergy & Congregation Care, Samaritan Counseling Center Lancaster PA

The tragedy at Penn State could have – and should have – been prevented. Our focus in the faith community at this moment should turn from “Monday morning quarterbacking” about the bad calls of Penn State officials to looking deeply at our own practices in the congregation to determine what needs to change in light of the terrible, but valuable, lessons from Penn State. It’s about Penn State – but it is so much bigger than that.

Children are at greater risk for sexual abuse than almost any of the other things we routinely educate them about – how to safely swim, cross the street or stay away from promiscuity, alcohol and drugs. In fact, in adolescence victims often turn to promiscuity, alcohol or drugs as a way to cope with the pain and shame they feel about the abuse. If a victim does not receive appropriate help, the impact can last for a decades and include medical, psychological, and social consequences.



Numerous studies show that at least one in four girls and one in six boys are sexually abused before the age of 18. 85% are abused by someone in their circle of trust such as a family member, coach, teacher, church leader, neighbor, and babysitter. The “offenders” are one of us – which makes this issue incredibly difficult and heart rending.

Many people have been asking “what can I do?” as the enormity of what took place within a respected university, and at a non-profit organization designed specifically to help vulnerable children, is revealed. Here is my answer, and call to action: I call on every individual participating in a faith community to go to your pastor, priest, rabbi, board or leadership team and find out if you truly have a “safe church”.

If you do not have a policy – ask your leadership to prioritize developing one. If the response is “we have a safe church policy”: Ask to see it and discuss it with other adults in the congregation as a way of examining whether what happened at Penn State could happen at your church. Many of the policies we review do little to protect children, and almost nothing ignite the cultural change

among church members that educates and inspires adults to become agents of protection for children.

Look for the following items in your policy and practices; if they are missing, insist that your leadership prioritize this for 2012.

To read the full article, go to www.scclanc.org and click on the link on our home page under “Special Article”.

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Retreat for Adult Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse: *Tamar Speaks*

March 24, 2012 8:30 AM – 3:00 PM

Black Rock Retreat Center, 1345 Kirkwood Pk., Quarryville PA

The Samaritan Counseling Center’s “Safe Church” project currently includes 9 congregations working together over a one year period to develop policies and practices to prevent child sexual abuse in the congregation, and the communities in which we live.



We invite adult survivors of abuse in the congregation to join us on March 24 for a day of reflecting on how our journeys of healing give voice to Tamar, a daughter of King David raped by her brother. Like many survivors today, Tamar silently carried the shame that rightfully belonged to her abuser.

Led by Dr. Stephanie Van Deusen, founder of STAGES, a counseling practice focused on helping survivors of trauma, we will use art, music, movement, writing, reflection and discussion to create resources to share with our faith communities to raise awareness about this issue and inspire others to use their power as adults to protect children from sexual harm.

PLEASE REGISTER BY MARCH 3. Print and mail the registration form to Samaritan Counseling Center, Attn: Linda Crockett, 1803 Oregon Pike, Lancaster PA 17601 or e-mail to Lcrockett@scclanc.org.

No cost for registrants from the 9 currently participating congregations. All others: \$35.00 (includes lunch)



REGISTRATION FORM: SAFE CHURCH RETREAT MARCH 24, 2012

Name: _____ **Church:** _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Address: _____

Dietary restrictions? No Yes **explain** _____

Physical restrictions? No Yes **explain** _____

Any other concerns you would like us to know about?

If your congregation is not listed as one of the 9 participants, please enclose a check for \$35.00 (include lunch)

Check enclosed: _____ **Payable to Samaritan Counseling Center**

DUE BY MARCH 3

**Mail to: Samaritan Counseling Center
Attn: Linda Crockett
1803 Oregon Pike
Lancaster, PA 17601**

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Other local events/trainings:

What: SAPCC Spring training

Where: YWCA Lancaster 110 N. Lime St. Lancaster, PA 17602
When: March 12-April 25 Monday and Wednesday evenings
Time: 5-8pm
Cost: \$50 for hotline advocacy

\$75 for professional development

Additional information: contact Lisa White at 717.393.1735 ext. 259 or lwhite@ywcalancaster.org for additional information

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Save the Date: Domestic Violence Services of Lancaster County's 9th Annual Spring Gala – 'Evening in Venice'. April 28 2012 Bent Creek Country Club. Contact Bonnie Glover (299-9677) for additional information

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ABOUT THE FAMILY VIOLENCE RESOURCE NETWORK

The FVRN meets 4 times a year, the 3rd Wednesday of January, April, July and October, at 9:30 AM – 11:45 AM. Meetings are open to anyone interested in prevention and response to domestic and sexual violence, child abuse, and other forms of trauma.

Meeting Schedule 2012

Date	Location	Sponsor
01/18/12	First United Methodist	Samaritan Counseling Center
04/18/12	YWCA (Lime St)	YWCA of Lancaster Sexual Assault Prevention & Counseling Center

APRIL IS SEXUAL ASSAULT & CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH

07/18/12	First United Methodist	Samaritan Counseling Center
10/17/12	tbd	Domestic Violence Services of Lancaster County

OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

REFRESHMENTS: 9:30 AM
MEETING: 10:00 AM – 11:45 AM

First United Methodist Church is located at 29 E. Walnut St., Lancaster

If you are interested in connecting with others who are concerned with family violence in Lancaster County, plan to attend these meetings! Great opportunities for learning, networking, and discussing prevention and assistance strategies in a cross-disciplinary forum that includes religious, medical, agency, mental health, survivor, advocate and community volunteer perspectives.

To be removed from this mailing list, email fvrn@scclanc.org
And type "REMOVE" in the subject line.