



# The Advocate Aspect

Family Support Center and Kids First Children's Advocacy Center – April 2011  
Programs of Rural Resources Community Action – a non-profit agency



## April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month

### **Why does Child Abuse Occur?**

Child abuse and neglect affect children of every age, race, and income level. However, research has identified many factors relating to the child, family, community, and society that are associated with an increased risk of child abuse and neglect. Studies have also shown that when multiple risk factors are present, the risk is greater.

Young mothers and fathers unprepared for the responsibilities of raising a child; overwhelmed single parents with little support; and families placed under stress by poverty, divorce, or a child's disability are all at greater risk. Some families are stressed by worries about employment, health, substance abuse, mental health, domestic violence, or other problems, or are simply unaware of how to care for their children's basic needs.

These circumstances, combined with the inherent challenges of raising children, can result in otherwise well-intentioned parents causing their children harm or neglecting their needs.

### **What are the Consequences?**

The impact of child maltreatment can be profound. Research shows that child maltreatment is associated with adverse health and mental health outcomes in children and families, and those negative effects can last a lifetime. The long-term effects can be physical, psychological, or behavioral.

A history of child abuse or neglect has been associated with increased risk of:

• Mental Illness	• Teen pregnancy
• Substance Abuse	• Lack of success in school
• Developmental disabilities & learning problems	• Alcohol and other drug use
• Social problems with other children and adults	• Domestic violence

In addition to the impact on the child and family, child abuse and neglect affect various systems – including medical and mental health, law enforcement, judicial, public social services, and nonprofit agencies – as they respond to the incident and support the victim. One analysis of the immediate and long-term economic impact of child abuse and neglect suggests that child maltreatment costs the nation as much as \$258 million each day, or approximately \$94 billion each year.

[www.childwelfare.gov/preventing](http://www.childwelfare.gov/preventing)

***There is a form of child abuse that we as parents and adults can and need to help prevent...child sexual abuse.***

**We need to protect the only childhood our kids are ever going to have.  
Do you agree?**



**How are we going to do that? Read on...**

I think that by now most of you know what Stewards of Children (SOC) is.

SOC is a child sex abuse prevention training program that educates **adults** to prevent, recognize, and react responsibly to child sexual abuse. In my 17 years of working in this field, it's the best training I've seen. Not because I facilitate it, but because the curriculum is so good and so practical and so easy to learn, and so helpful!

Sexual abuse has enormous costs...children are hurt, reputations of organizations and families are destroyed, and insurance settlements are astronomical.

Keeping children safe is the responsibility of adults. You would not allow your child to play on broken playground equipment, ride in a car without a seatbelt, or child seat, or have access to poisonous substances. However, one survey showed that fewer than 30% of parents take proactive steps to protect their children from sexual abuse.

Statistics suggest that 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys will be sexually abused by the age of 18. 90% of children who are sexually abused are violated by someone they know and trust. This includes some of those people who are in contact with children on a day to day basis.

In seconds a childhood can be shattered and their innocence stolen forever. Worse still, the effects haunt victims for years, increasing the likelihood of drug and alcohol abuse, eating disorders, teen pregnancy, violent crimes and suicide.

Let's get together and have discussion on critical issues regarding sexual abuse prevention and the relevance of these issues within families and organizations that serve children and adolescents.

Call me and we'll visit about the training. Let's be the county that is on the cutting edge and faces the problem head on. Let's work on it together.

Thanks, Linda Norris – 684-3796

**Our next Stewards of Children – child sexual abuse prevention training is:**

**April 20, 2011**

**6:00pm**

**Rural Resources – 956 S. Main, Colville**

**Please contact Stephanie or Linda to register**

**684-3796**



## Does your child need a fun activity to do?

Family Support Center in conjunction with the Stevens County libraries and local law enforcement is sponsoring a "Story Time" for kids.

We are having the Stevens County Sheriff, Kendle Allen, and the Police Chiefs Troy Anderson from Chewelah, Bob Meshishnek from Colville, and Scott Sterland from Kettle Falls read during story time at the libraries in their communities.

Sheriff Kendle Allen will be reading at Lakeside Library in Nine Mile Falls.

The kids are invited to come to the library in their jammies and bring their stuffed critters while law enforcement shows up in their uniforms. We will be giving fun bags filled with blue ribbon stickers, bookmarks, positive and practical parenting tips, and lots of activities for the kids and their parents to do together!

There is no registration for this fun event and all kids are invited. The dates will be posted and advertised at the various libraries.

And for you teens, we will be providing "Say No to Sexting" bookmarks. These bookmarks have the dangers of sexting and safety tips on them.

**Come have some fun with our local law enforcement!**

Sexual Assault  
Awareness Month 2011

IT'S TIME ... TO GET INVOLVED  
Engaging Bystanders in Sexual Violence Prevention

### It's time...to speak up with this community

Rape, sexual assault, and sexual harassment impact our community as seen by statistics indicating that one in five women will have experienced sexual assault by the time they complete college.

We must work together to educate our community about what can be done to prevent sexual assault and how to support survivors.

**All community members must be part of the solution to end sexual violence.**

**It's Time...  
I'm getting  
Involved!**

Laura Wilson  
Crime Victim Advocate

## April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month

This year's campaign, "It's time...to get involved," incorporates a bystander approach to sexual violence prevention. A bystander, or witness, is anyone who sees a situation but may or may not know what to do, may think others will act or may be afraid to do something. Research shows that engaging bystanders is a promising way to help prevent the widespread problem of sexual violence in communities.

Watch for posters throughout the county showing those people who are choosing to get involved.

**It's Time...To get  
Involved!**

**Family Support Center &  
Kids First Children's Advocacy Center  
Programs of Rural Resources  
956 S. Main  
Colville, WA 99114**

### **Advisory Board**

*Dorothy Bergin  
Debbie Chartier  
Jerrie Davis  
Tom Drake  
Jan Greco  
Julie James  
Lesley Mann  
Becky Marshall  
Bob Meshishnek  
John Prietto  
Debbie Rogers  
Carlene Sparks  
Kerry Summers  
Millie Wallen  
Betty White  
Sue Wilson*

*There is no medicine like hope, no incentive so great, and no tonic so powerful as expectation of something better tomorrow.  
Orison Swett Marden*

## **Thank You for your donations!**



### **Staff Members**

*Laurie Cole  
Shamra Eddy  
Nancy Foll  
Connie Jackson  
Renee Mahaney  
Linda Norris  
Mary Page  
Laura Rebmann  
Lyni Smith  
Stephanie Sanders  
Laura Wilson*

### **Family Support Center Volunteer Training begins May 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

We have a few specific areas where we need help, our Help Line, Office Advocate, and Receptionist positions. We will be interviewing for those positions over the next couple months. We are always looking for more Safe Homes for domestic violence victims in Stevens County.

**Please contact Shamra at 685-6092 or [scoy@ruralresources.org](mailto:scoy@ruralresources.org) for more information. You can download an application and background check form at [www.ruralresources.org](http://www.ruralresources.org).**





## **We can help.**

Victim service providers help victims rebuild their lives. We can help you learn about your legal rights and options, cope with the impact of crime, access victim compensation, develop a safety plan, and navigate the criminal justice and social service systems.

**NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK**  
— APRIL 10-16, 2011 —

# **National Crime Victims' Rights Week April 10<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>**

We pay tribute to the millions of crime victims over the decades who have summoned the strength to rebuild their shattered lives, families, and communities, one step at a time.

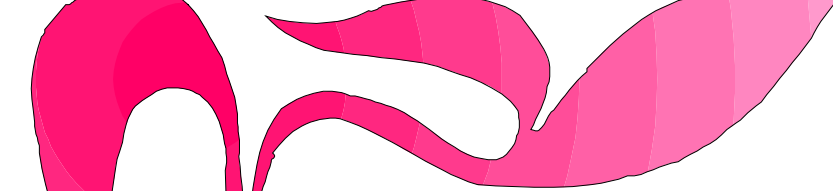
To meet the needs of the future, we must confront the changing face of crime. Millions of financial fraud victims need better tools to reclaim their resources and identities. Children living with domestic violence and youth threatened by street violence need better protection and more responsive services. Underserved victims – such as American Indians and Alaska Natives; immigrants; seniors; victims with disabilities, and others – all deserve understanding and support.

To most effectively serve victims in the future, we must learn from past successes, foster victims' resilience, and never cease advocating for the rights of crime victims.

*Joye Frost, Acting Director – U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime*

**If you or someone you know is a victim of a  
crime...we can help!**

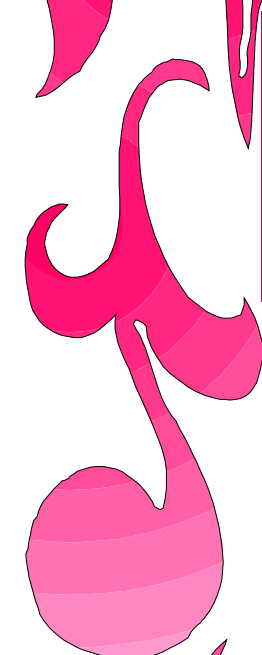
**684-6139**  
**24 Hours a Day – 7 Days a Week**



“The world needs dreamers and the world needs doers. But above all, the world needs dreamers who do.”

*Sarah Ban Breathnach*

**All of us at Family Support Center  
want to thank all of you...**



Sandy Allen  
Betty Anderson  
Angela Bennett  
Donna Berger  
Dorothy Bergin  
Sandy Bolt  
Jill Carpenter  
Debbie Chartier  
Polly Coleman  
Sharon Cording  
Jerrie Davis  
Tom Drake  
Sandy Fuller  
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Kerry Summers  
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Velta Upchurch  
Carol Vrba  
Millie Wallen  
Kasee Warhus  
Edie Wells  
Rod Wells  
Betty White  
Sue Wilson



***April 10<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> is  
National Volunteer Recognition Week***

...for the **7,614 hours**  
of your time spent volunteering for us  
during the year **2010**...  
we couldn't do what we do without YOU!

**Thank you for all you do  
to help victims!**

