



To Protect

Reminders:

- April is Child Abuse Prevention Month
- Wear or display your blue ribbons in support of Child Abuse Prevention Month
- Upcoming training

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April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

In order for children to flourish and reach their full potential it is our responsibility as parents to create a safe, caring and nurturing environment. Unfortunately, this environment is missing in many homes in our community and thousands of children each day are abused or suffer from neglect. In FY 2004 our great state of Texas had 138,587 investigations of

abuse and or neglect to a child under the age of 18. Out of those, 32,664 cases were considered to be substantiated. In other words, there was enough evidence to confirm that the child(ren) was a victim of abuse. In addition we can't forget the 204 children that died at the mercy of their own parents, caregivers, grandparents or other family members whom they depended on. These

were the most vulnerable of all...77% were under the age of three.

We can't give up hope! We can do something about this tragedy. Child abuse *can be prevented*. Education is the key. Families must be supported and have resources available when needed. Parents can not do it alone. We all play a role in helping children thrive. All families benefit from a strong, supportive community.

Story of the Blue Ribbon

The Blue Ribbon Child Abuse Prevention Campaign had its early beginnings following the death of a very young child. In the spring 1989, Bonnie Finney, a Virginia grandmother received the devastating news that her beloved grandson had died of injuries inflicted by his parents. In an expression of her grief and outrage, this grandmother did something that has given us a symbol, around which we rally for the cause of child abuse

prevention.

She tied a blue ribbon to the antenna of her van as a way to remember "the bruised and battered body of her grandson" and to alert her community to the tragedy of child abuse.

In Bonnie's own words: "The blue ribbon serves as a constant reminder to fight for protection of our children. Please wear a blue ribbon. Put one on your car. Give one to your friends. Tell them what it means. You may save a child's life!"

Her simple idea to wear or display a blue ribbon to show her support for child abuse prevention was picked up by grassroots organizations across the country. The act of one grandmother thousand of miles away leads us to this day.

Just think what could happen if each one of us helped spread the word to a few people that we come in contact with each day. During April, we ask that you wear a blue ribbon to show your support of child abuse prevention.



A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken.

Ecclesiastes 4:12

Coordinator Meetings a Success

We want to thank those again who were able to attend one of the four coordinator meetings that we held in February and March. In all we had a total of 90 coordinators attend the meetings. What a great success!!

We received some great ideas and appreciate your honesty and openness. We hope you were able to get as much out of the meeting as we did.

For those of you who were not able to attend the meeting. You will be receiving the updated information in the mail. We are also, going to attempt to reach you one by one to go over the updates.

Remember, the model that the Archdiocese of San Antonio Office of Victim Assistance has chosen is unique and is a "team" approach. We

could not do this without you! You are vital to the mission of our office. We are here to support and guide you in this ministry. Your success is our success.

Feel free to call us any time.

Yello Dyno Training Offered

OVASE held three trainings on how to implement the Yello Dyno music curriculum. The trainings were held in our offices. This training covered the theory behind why the creator used music to the approach and how to implement the music into a typical classroom setting.

Theresa will also help you brain storm ways on how to handle those difficult

questions that children may bring up while talking about these sensitive issues. Like the third grader who may ask during class, "What if he has a gun? I'm going to put on my superman cape and beat him up!" We all should be prepared to handle these types of questions.

There will be more training offered in the future. These trainings are open

to teachers who work with the children as well as the Safe Environment Coordinators. However, space is limited to the first 40 who sign up. Check out future trainings to see when it will be offered again!

Future Trainings

The following trainings are open to all coordinators, teachers, catechist and volunteers within our Archdiocese. Please register early, seating is only open to the first 40 participants and there is no charge for these

trainings.

May 3rd "Introducing Yello Dyno" 9:30am-11:30am Theresa Anderson, OVASE Office.

May 31st "Introducing Yello Dyno" Theresa

Anderson, 6:00pm-7:30pm Blessed Sacrament Church, Uvalde, TX.

June 3rd & June 10th New Coordinator Training. OVASE Office

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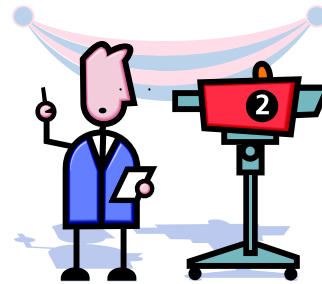
OVASE on WOAI News Channel 4

Finally, some good news to report! OVASE was contacted by WOAI to do a story about our prevention efforts through out the Archdiocese to be shown on Tanji Patton's Monday night's "SVU" feature story. We were elated to get the publicity about the wonderful work that so many of you are doing that goes unrecognized each day. The story was completed with an interview with our director, Steve Martinez, Christine Speirs-Oyervides (Coordinator at Blessed Sacrament, SA) and Erma Garcia a parent who has

children in the parish. The story is scheduled to air Monday, April 10th. Tune into Channel 4 at 10pm to see the interview!

We extend a heartfelt thanks to Christine who was able to do the interview and who spent hours trying to locate a parent during Spring Break to participate in the interview as well!! Kudos to Christine!! We also want to thank Erma Garcia, who did take the time to meet WOAI for an interview and give a personal parent perspective on the Safe

Environment Program and what it has meant to her and her family. We appreciate her for her compelling interview and hope that all parents see her interview. They will learn from Erma! What a wonderful parent!



27 Ways Family Members Can Say "I Love You"

- ❖ Say "I trust you"
- ❖ Meet eyes when you speak
- ❖ Say "Please"
- ❖ Say "Thank you"
- ❖ Speak kindly to your child
- ❖ Cheer proudly for your child
- ❖ Keep confidence
- ❖ Discipline in private
- ❖ Let "no" mean "no"
- ❖ Let "yes" mean "yes"
- ❖ Ask "Do you want to talk?"
- ❖ Listen, Listen, Listen
- ❖ Be ready to be there
- ❖ Make free time
- ❖ Allow mistakes
- ❖ Laugh out loud
- ❖ Ask, "How can I help you?"
- ❖ Give & respect privacy
- ❖ Hug often
- ❖ Give freedom
- ❖ Use a soft voice
- ❖ Celebrate success
- ❖ Create rules together
- ❖ Accept responsibility
- ❖ Keep your promise
- ❖ Accept no excuses or whining
- ❖ Say "I love you"

"Impress upon her the three R's: Respect for self. Respect for others. Responsibility for all her actions."
Harrison, Harry. Father to Daughter. Life Lessons on Raising a Girl.

Internet Safety

“About one quarter of the youth who encountered a sexual solicitation or approach online told a parent.”
Finkelhor, Mitchell, & Wolak,
2000

In order to understand online victimization we must first look at what constitutes “online victimization”. Basically, there are three types of victimization on the Internet—sexual solicitation and approaches, unwanted exposure to sexual material and harassment.

Sexual solicitations and approaches: Requests to engage in sexual activities or sexual talk or give personal sexual information that were *unwanted* or whether wanted or not, made by an adult.

Unwanted exposure to sexual material: Without seeking or expecting sexual material, being

exposed to pictures of naked people or people having sex when doing online searches, surfing the web, opening E-mail or E-mail links.

Harassment: Threats or other offensive behavior (not sexual solicitation), sent online to youth or posted online about the youth for others to see.

In a study done by the Crimes Against Children Research Center in June 2000, indicated that about one-quarter of the youth who encountered a sexual solicitation or approach online told a parent. For some it may reflect, embarrassment, shame or maybe they were at a site their parents would

disapprove of if they told. Youth also may believe that if they tell, they would be restricted from the Internet.

We all know where to report child abuse in the state of Texas, but where do you report online victimization? And according to this study only 10% of parents and 2% of the youth know where to report! Let’s educate parents and children that it is not acceptable to be victimized online! The National Tip Line for reporting these crimes is www.cybertipline.com or **1-800-843-5678** This is a serious issue we face today.

Thanks to Coordinator Bob Fernandez (Holy Spirit) for this story idea.

Chat Abbreviations

121 one to one
AFAIK as far as I know
AFK away from keyboard
AKA also known as
ASAP as soon as possible
A/S/L? age, sex, location
B4 before
B4N bye for now
BAK back at the keyboard
BBIAB be back in a bit
BBL be back later
BBS be back soon
BEG big evil grin
BF boyfriend
BFN bye for now

BG big grin
BL belly laughing
BRB be right back
BTW by the way
BWL bursting with laughter
BWTHDIK but what the heck do I know
C&G chuckle & grin
CID crying in disgrace
CNP continued (in my) next post
CP chat post
CSG chuckle, snicker, grin
CU see you
CUL or CUL8ER see you

later
CUZ because
CYO see you online
DIKU do I know you?
DL dead link
DQMOT don’t quote me on this
EG evil grin
EMFBI excuse me for butting in
EOM end of message
EOT end of thread
F2F face to face
FAQ frequently asked question(s)

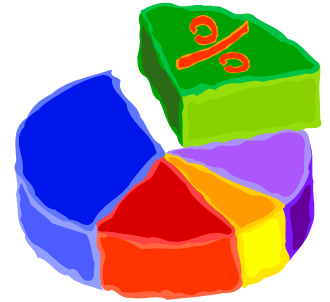
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Less than 1 in 10 parents (8%) successfully decoded the Internet messaging abbreviation: A/S/L
Ketchum Global Research,
NetSmartz

Just the Facts...

- There were 22 children that were killed at the hands of their parents or caretakers throughout the Archdiocese of San Antonio in FY 2005.
- There were 201 children who died as a result of child abuse or neglect in the Texas.
- 34,938 alleged victims of child abuse or neglect were reported in Region 8 (which is covered by the Archdiocese).
- 7,700 victims that were reported were actually confirmed victims of child abuse or neglect.
- There were 61,433 confirmed victims of abuse or neglect in the state of Texas
- 1,018 sexual abuse cases were confirmed in Region 8
- In the State of Texas, there were 32,474 children in foster care as of August 31, 2005.
- In Region 8 alone there were 4,880 children in foster care.

Information provided by the *Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, 2005 Data Book.*



“To write it, it took three months; to conceive it three minutes; to collect the data in it—all my life.”

F. Scott Fitzgerald (1896–1940)

Chat Abbreviations (continued page 4)

EMFBI excuse me for butting in

EOM end of message

EOT end of thread

F2F face to face

FAQ frequently asked question(s)

FC fingers crossed

FISH first in, still here

FMTYEWTK far more than you ever wanted to know

FOMCL falling off my chair laughing

FTBOMH from the bottom of my heart

FUD fear, uncertainty, and doubt

GA go ahead

GAL get a life

GF girlfriend

GFN gone for now

GIWIST gee, I wish I'd said that

GMBO giggling my butt off

GOL giggling out loud

GTRM going to read mail

GTSY glad to see you

H&K hug and kiss

HAGN have a good night

HTH hope this helps

IAC in any case

IAE in any event

IANAL I am not a lawyer (but)

IC I see

IDK I don't know

ILU I love you

IM instant message

IMHO in my humble opinion

IMNSHO in my not so humble opinion

IMO in my opinion

IOW in other words

IPN I'm posting naked

IRL in real life

IWALU I will always love you

IYSWIM if you see what I mean

JIC just in case

JMO just my opinion

JTLYK just to let you know

K okay

KIT keep in touch

KOC kiss on cheek

KOL kiss on lips

KWIM know what I mean?

L2M listening to music

L8R later

LD later, dude

LDR long distance relationship

LHM lord help me

LHU lord help us

LLTA lots and lots of thunderous applause

LMIRL let's meet in real life

LMSO laughing my socks off

LOL laughing out loud

MOTOS member of the opposite sex

MSG message

MTF more to follow

MUSM miss you so much

NADT not a darn thing

NIFOC naked in front of computer

NP nosy parents

N/P no problem

NRN no reply necessary

OL old lady

OLL online love

OM old man

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We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.archdiosa.org

Services We Provide...

The Office of Victim Assistance and Safe Environment offers immediate pastoral care for those who have been abused by clergy. We also provide education on prevention of child abuse to Archdiocesan staff, clergy, volunteers, parents and children who attend any Catholic school or

parish in our Archdiocese.

If you or someone you know has been abused by clergy, please call our office at 210-734-7786 or 1-877-700-1888. All calls are confidential.

It is our promise that you will be treated with dignity, respect and we will listen and believe you.

If you would like information on child abuse or neglect, you may also call our office and we will be glad to send you some information on this issue our community faces.

Future Training...continued from page 2

June 7th "Sex Offenders: Myth or Fact" 9:30am-11:00am, Steve Martinez, LCSW, LSOTP, OVASE Office.

June 21st, "Sex Offenders: Myth vs Fact" 6:00pm-7:30pm,

Steve Martinez, LCSW, LSOTP, Blessed Sacrament Church, Uvalde, TX

If you are or anyone you know are interested in attending please call our office to register. You

may also email to Nancy. Remember to call early to get your space!

**If no one registers for the Uvalde classes, they will be cancelled.

Call for ideas!

We are in need of your ideas! This newsletter will be published quarterly. If you have anything that you would like to be published in it, please send it in to our office.

We are looking for success stories, events, trainings, or kudos to those who should be recognized in helping make your parish or school a Safe

Environment. Please email your ideas to OVASE@archdiosa.org no later than **July 14th** and **November 17th** for the August and December issue. In subject line, please put Newsletter.

OVASE

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