

HELPLINE 1-800-CHILDREN

NEWSLETTER
SPRING 2008



Prevent Child Abuse Georgia

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Visit our website:
www.pcaseorgia.org
or www.stopitnowga.org

People live with a lot
of wrong perceptions,
ideas and notions,
and when they invest
their lives in them, it
is dangerous.

- - Ticht Nhat Hanh

Sally's Corner

By Sally Thigpen, Statewide HELPLINE/Stop It Now! GA Coordinator

When it comes to preventing child maltreatment – **education is power**. This is why Prevent Child Abuse (PCA) Georgia places great emphasis on educational programs for communities or professionals.

We see community education as an opportunity to provide valuable information that will empower individuals to prevent harm. The interesting thing about community education is that sometimes the most powerful opportunities we have do not happen in a workshop or training room. Sometimes those powerful opportunities exist one-on-one, and HELPLINE staff and volunteers do this kind of community education every single day!

- The mother who calls because her baby won't stop crying. She didn't realize that sometimes babies just need to feel secure by touch and she learned something that keeps her baby secure and strengthens their bond.
- The father who calls because he doesn't know how to help his young daughter cope with the loss of her mother. Through several conversations, he learns a little bit at a time about how to be both Mom and Dad and focus on the needs of his child, even when his own needs feel overwhelming.

HELPLINE is another layer of a comprehensive community education strategy. This is why both PCA Georgia staff and Chartered Council members refer to our 1-800-CHILDREN HELPLINE in everything from flyers and posters, to workshops and speeches. HELPLINE is an extension of the reach of our community education efforts.

HELPLINE Caller Connected to Local Community Trainer

HELPLINE is most often the first (or only) step in educating an adult about their role in preventing child maltreatment. Many such teachable moments occur with daycare professionals who have recently witnessed concerning behaviors or who have actually experienced an incident of child maltreatment in their center.

In April, HELPLINE received a call from the owner of a daycare center looking for child sexual abuse prevention training for the children in her center. Although she did not share the details, she did say there had been an incident at the center, and she wanted to make sure the children were safe in the future.

The caller was specifically looking for a training that would teach children about personal body safety.

HELPLINE discussed the importance

of adult responsibility in child protection. While teaching children about their rights to safe touch is important, it may not be the most effective way to prevent harm – especially in isolation, without educating the adults in their lives also.

HELPLINE talked with the caller about ways adults can promote safe environments by first learning how to recognize healthy behaviors in adults and children, and building practices that support such behaviors. HELPLINE also applauded the caller for seeking child sexual abuse prevention training.

Although PCA Georgia can't offer the training to children, as the caller desired, it was suggested that she offer training to staff and parents. The caller was then referred to a PCA Georgia staff member who coordinates community education.

A call went out to PCA Georgia

approved trainers in the caller's community, and an available trainer was located and agreed to present "*Building Blocks of Healthy Sexual Development*" to staff and parents.

This presentation provides insight into child sexual development and ways to promote healthy development and behaviors in children and with adults.

What started as a request for child education, ended with education to a protective adult about a comprehensive strategy for preventing child maltreatment. This also enabled HELPLINE to connect the caller to resources in her own community, which introduced her to PCA Georgia's local chartered council.

This is exactly how HELPLINE and communities work together to keep Georgia's children safe and sound!

Resource Spotlight – Visions Anew

Did you know that parental stress is a risk factor for child abuse? Divorce can be frightening and stressful, but with the right resources, it can be made easier. Visions Anew is an organization for women who need “divorce education.” The organization offers information and support for women who are contemplating divorce, in the process of it, or who may be post-divorce.

The organization’s founder and executive director, Margot Swan started Visions Anew in 1998 after going through her own divorce. She wanted to offer assistance to other women experiencing what she had been through.

She has created a collaborative approach for providing compre-

hensive support for women. The Visions Anew website contains a “Divorce Directory” with referrals to professionals specializing in working with divorcing women. These include: legal, clinical counseling, coaching, financial, career counseling, mediation, and others.

Visions Anew also offers free support groups throughout the metro Atlanta area. A list of the groups can be found on their website or by calling. Educational seminars and panel discussion presentations are also routinely offered.

The most comprehensive program Visions Anew offers is their “Divorce Survival Weekend.” These weekend retreats bring valuable information to the women. Experts in legal, financial, and counseling meet with



“Educate, Connect, Support”

participants and share information. “Healing time” is also offered during the weekend, but it is optional. These retreats offer women a time to become educated, supported, and connected to others who are sharing the same experience.

For more information:

www.visionsanew.com
770-953-2882

16 New Community Trainers Added to Statewide Faith Outreach

On April 29th, PCA Georgia partnered with the Georgia Baptist Convention to host the agency’s first “Training of Trainers” session for faith leaders.

Through the “**FACE of Prevention**” project, funded by the Georgia Baptist Health Care Ministry Foundation, PCA Georgia staff trained 16 key church leaders from around the state to lead and present its, “**Promises to Keep**” child abuse prevention curriculum.

This community-focused education is designed to equip faith leaders to respond to the diverse needs of the families they serve, and to help churches build protective factors that reduce the risk of harm to children. Core elements of this training include recognizing, reporting, and preventing child abuse and neglect.

By equipping more trainers to teach and educate their communities about child abuse prevention, PCA Georgia is building capacity around Georgia that will ultimately increase the “hands and feet” of prevention!

Several of these new trainers are partnering with PCA Georgia Chartered Councils around the state to collaborate on community education initiatives. This is a prime example of community education in action!

For more information about the “FACE of Prevention” project, call the HELPLINE at 1-800-CHILDREN.



Prevent Child Abuse Georgia's Referral Guide

Sometimes, education may mean simply learning about who is available to help! Whether a child or adult, it is difficult for a survivor of child abuse to talk about the abuse. When a person does choose to share, it may be with a trusted adult, life partner, friend, or a professional. The most important thing is for the abuse survivor to feel like they are believed by whomever they tell and to get support in working through their emotions. It is best for survivors to be referred to a specially trained clinician. The clinicians listed in PCA Georgia's *Referral Guide* go through a stringent screening and application process because PCA Georgia wants to assure that appropriate referrals are given to those seeking help.

Therapists need specific skills and training to work with survivors of child abuse. Furthermore, even if the therapist specializes in treating

survivors, they may not specialize in working with a specific population. For example, the HELPLINE received a call from a mother whose son was being treated for sexual abuse by a court-referred therapist. The mother was feeling discouraged because the therapist was not able to "connect" with her son, and the sessions were not helping him. After more discussion, the mother shared that the therapist did not specialize in working with children. This caller was provided information for a *Referral Guide* clinician in a neighboring county. This clinician specializes in working with sexually abused children. The mother called back a couple of months later to thank the HELPLINE for the referral because the new therapist was making progress with her son.

The *Referral Guide* has been a valuable resource for those who have used it. The HELPLINE is the

link to those who need these types of referrals, but there is still a need for more clinicians to be added, especially in rural areas of Georgia.

For information on becoming a clinician listed in the *Referral Guide*, please call 404-870-6565 and ask to speak with the Referral Guide Coordinator, or send an email to: referralguide@pcageorgia.org.

Accessing the Referral Guide

To view clinicians listed in the *Referral Guide*, go to www.pcageorgia.org.

Click on the "Resources" tab
Click on the link to "Referral Guide".



Volunteer News: Nonie Retires After 11 Faithful Years!

To say that Wednesdays will never be the same on the HELPLINE is an understatement. For 11 years, Lenore "Nonie" Satterfield faithfully served from 11:00 am until 2:00 pm every Wednesday of every week (unless she was traveling that week!)

And, while we are sad to see Nonie hang up her HELPLINE hat and retire from her volunteer service, we are grateful for her dedication and devotion all those years — Despite health problems that required her to come each week with her oxygen tank.

Nonie will forever be one of PCA

Georgia's "Hall of Fame" volunteers because of her unrelenting commitment to the agency.



From Left to Right: Anna Curtis, Shabnam Majidi, Cheryl McClure, Sally Thigpen, Nonie Satterfield and Liz Ferguson.

Throughout her 11 years, she served not only on the HELPLINE, but also became the agency's own respected "Resource Investigator and Packet Specialist."

In those two roles, Nonie made phone calls to update our HELPLINE resources, and put training packets together for our community trainings and annual symposiums.

Recently, Nonie was honored at the Midtown Rotary Club and presented with an award to show appreciation for her years of service. She truly deserves a lifetime achievement award because her entire life has been devoted to volunteer service.

We'll miss you tremendously Nonie! Thank you for your faithful service to HELPLINE and to our entire agency!



Prevent Child Abuse
Georgia

2008 Community Training

Prevent Child Abuse Georgia offers specialized training in child abuse prevention throughout the state of Georgia. Some of the current workshops being offered include:

- **Empowering Families and Communities to Prevent the Sexual Abuse of Children:** Training is targeted to professionals working with families and children, but useful for anyone wishing to make his or her community a safer place for children. This 5-hour training is approved for several continuing education credits, and focuses on the opportunities family-serving professionals have to support healthy behaviors by creating safe environments and consistent rules that apply to everyone. It also offers adults information about what actions to take when behaviors go outside of the healthy range and how to increase protective factors to ensure that children stay safe.
- **Training of Community Trainers-Circles of Safety and Building Blocks:** This two-day training of trainers gives attendees a basic understanding of primary prevention of child sexual abuse prevention, public health, adult learning theory, and theory and practice for delivering two Stop It Now! Georgia prevention strategies - **Circles of Safety** and **Building Blocks of Healthy Sexual Development**. There is a fee associated and continuing education credits do not apply.
- **Circles of Safety:** Participants learn to recognize sexual behaviors in children and adults that range from healthy to abusive. The workshop also covers useful, protective and responsible techniques one can use when responding to these behaviors.
- **Building Blocks of Healthy Sexual Development:** In this session, participants learn to recognize healthy and developmentally-expected sexual behaviors in children and how parents and caretakers can respond to behaviors in a supportive and constructive manner in order to create positive environments within families and the community.

For more information on these workshops, please contact Anna Curtis, Program Specialist: Phone: 404-870-6561 Email: annac@pcageorgia.org.

Below are some of the upcoming trainings being offered. **In all cases, a completed registration form is required for attendance.** Any questions about each training opportunity should be directed to 404-870-6565.

Training of the Community Trainers- Circles of Safety and Building Blocks

June 12-13, 2008 9:00am-4:00pm
PCA Georgia, Atlanta, GA

Empowering Families and Communities to Prevent the Sexual Abuse of Children

- August 13, 2008 10:00am-4:15pm, University Hospital, Augusta, GA
- September 17, 2008 10:00am-4:15pm, PCA Georgia, Atlanta, GA
- November 5, 2008 10:00am-4:15pm, Morgan's at Merry Acres, Albany, GA

Mission Possible: Preventing Child Abuse in Your Community

- June 26, 2008 10:00am-4:00pm
Clayton State University

PCA Georgia Chartered Council Highlight

By Tian Foss – Prevention Coordinator,
Rainbow House, Houston County



Rainbow House's prevention activities have expanded from April Activities, First Steps, and Personal Body Safety to include services we provide as a result of our efforts to answer the needs of our community. First Steps has illuminated the need for parent education. New mothers will say, "I have a four-year degree, but it's not on how to raise a baby. I don't know what I am doing – I need someone who doesn't judge me on my skills and knowledge, but will help me learn." We strive to deliver the most comprehensive prevention education and information to our community, including:

Community Education: (Adults)

Rainbow House has PCA Georgia approved trainers for child sexual abuse (CSA) prevention community workshops: **Circles of Safety** (based on Stop It Now! Georgia) and **Building Blocks to Healthy Sexual Development**

Parenting: (Adults)

- 123 Magic, More 123 Magic
- Surviving Your Adolescents
- New Parents Connections
- Teen Parent Support Group

Other Community Education and Trainings:

- Child Abuse 101 – MDT Team (Adults)
- Baby Safety Fair – Council Activity (Families)
- Personal Body Safety Education – Elementary schools and elementary school groups (Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Recreation Department programs, Day care centers)
- Health Fairs – (Families)

April Activities:

- Proclamation Signing – (Families/professionals)
- Easter in the Park—(Families)
- Power of Prevention Night – (Families)
- Parenting Class - (Parents)

Annually, our prevention programs and services reach approximately 5,300 individuals in our community.

I believe the PCA Georgia CSA workshops have had the biggest impact. As one attendee stated, "I never thought about keeping my nieces and nephews up 30 minutes past bedtime and keeping it our little secret as a way to create vulnerability. In the future I am going to be more aware of "rules" that include me! If I do allow the children to stay up later, I am going to tell their parents so I can model open communication. I want to be on the "team" of protecting the children in my life and not allow the vulnerabilities to exist that I have in the past. Thank you for enlightening me."

HELPLINE BIRTHDAYS



Jennifer	3/12
Nonie	4/8
Carrie	4/10
Kirby	4/28

PCA Georgia's 24th Annual Symposium

July 13-15, 2008, Crown Plaza Ravinia, Atlanta, Georgia

This year marks the 24th year that PCA Georgia has held **The Power of Prevention Annual Symposium**. The Symposium is attended by approximately 800 multidisciplinary child and family serving professionals each year. Highlights from this year's schedule include keynote speakers Rachel Vassel and Chris Hansen. Ms. Vassel is the author of "Daughters of Men" and will be celebrating fathers and daughters in her inspirational speech. Mr. Hansen is best known for the NBC news program, "Dateline," and its "To Catch a Predator" series. Mr. Hansen will speak to his experiences in producing that series and his lessons learned regarding protecting children at home and in the community. At the Symposium we will also present the 2008 Michael E. Axelrod Power of Prevention Awards, which recognize outstanding volunteers from around the state.

A Special Thanks to Those Who Generously Fund the Services of the 1-800-CHILDREN HELPLINE

- Georgia DHR
- Cobb County Board of Commissioners
- Criminal Justice Coord. Council – Victims of Crime Assistance (VOCA)
- Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta
- Fulton County Department of Family and Children Services

We hope you can join us for the **24th Annual Power of Prevention Symposium**. PCA Georgia volunteers and Chartered Council members receive discount registration. Please visit www.pcageorgia.org to download a registration brochure.

About Prevent Child Abuse Georgia

Headquartered in Atlanta, Prevent Child Abuse (PCA) Georgia is a statewide, private, non-profit organization dedicated to preventing child abuse. PCA Georgia leads, supports and coordinates citizens and professionals in a comprehensive effort to end child abuse.

Preventing child abuse means strengthening the ability of parents and communities to care for their children's health and well-being. Each of us has opportunities to help ensure that children grow up nurtured, safe and healthy. Preventing child abuse is the work of everyone, every day.

PREVENT CHILD ABUSE GEORGIA

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