



Stop It Now! Georgia

The Campaign to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse

a program of



News Release

Release: IMMEDIATELY

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Three Georgia Communities Named as Pilot Sites for CDC-Funded Initiative for Child Sexual Abuse Prevention

ATLANTA – Prevent Child Abuse (PCA) Georgia recently announced that it has selected three Georgia communities, **Clarke and Oconee Counties, Glynn County, and the Dublin Judicial Circuit (Laurens, Johnson, Treutlen, Twiggs)**; to pilot a new child sexual abuse prevention campaign called Stop It Now! Georgia. The goal of Stop It Now! Georgia is to apply public health principles, such as public awareness and community education, to the work of child sexual abuse prevention efforts, and to focus on the responsibility of all adults for the prevention of child sexual abuse.

“With nearly 7,000 reports of child sexual abuse in the state last year, this effort led by PCA Georgia is a necessary step to broaden the response to the issue beyond the tactics of previous programs that have primarily targeted children with information to address the prevention of victimization,” said Wendi Clifton, interim director of PCA Georgia. “It’s time to place responsibility for preventing the perpetration of child sexual abuse on the shoulders of those best equipped to stop it -- adults.”

The pilot communities were selected after careful review of over forty community applications. Factors such as the strength and longevity of existing efforts, the local collaborators identified, geographic location and access for public awareness and community education efforts were among the considerations for selection.

“We have a strong record of community collaboration around this important topic,” wrote Theresa Mangiopori, former executive director of the Sexual Assault Center of Northeast Georgia in the Athens-Clarke/Oconee Community’s application letter.

All three sites expressed a strong commitment in their applications to improving the quality of life for children in their communities. “We are committed to changing the future for all our children,” wrote Sam Love, co-coordinator of the Dublin pilot site. Belinda Jones, coordinator for Glynn County wrote, “We understand that parents need tools to create environments that eliminate the conditions that allow child sexual abuse to occur.”

Stop It Now! Georgia is a program of Prevent Child Abuse Georgia (PCA Georgia) that adds a focus on adult and community responsibility to the long standing child sexual abuse prevention work that has been teaching children about body awareness and safety. Funding for this project comes from a grant through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. PCA Georgia is a statewide private nonprofit organization dedicated to child abuse prevention and relies on community support and volunteers to assist in the efforts to end child abuse in Georgia. For more information about PCA Georgia’s services, resources and educational programs, please call (404)870-6565 or go to www.preventchildabusega.org.

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