



Stop It Now!

Together We Can Prevent the Sexual Abuse of Children

NEWS

Let's Stop It Now!



BEFORE a child is harmed

Summer 2007

Greetings!

We're deep into summer. It's past time to catch up on the news from Stop It Now! - and get ready for a busy Fall.

In preparation for the coming school year, in this issue you'll find links to our substantially revised edition of our guide about sexual behavior among children and youth. You can also read a grandmother's remarkable personal story about dealing with discovery of her husband's use of child pornography.

And, there's plenty of news from the Stop It Now! network about campaign launches and expansion, community dialogues, new grants and the exploits of our wonderful supporters.

As always, we love to hear from you and thank you for your support.

Newly revised! Our guide on children and youth



Do Children Sexually Abuse Other Children?
Preventing sexual abuse among children and youth

Increasingly harsh child sex abuse laws are sweeping up ever more adolescents and children.

But Stop It Now! continues to focus on practical approaches to preventing sexual abuse.

In response, we've updated and expanded one of our most important guidebooks - [*Do Children Sexually Abuse Other Children? Preventing sexual abuse among children and youth*](#). This expanded and updated 18-page guidebook offers a clear, positive discussion about actions adults can take to prevent harmful sexual

interactions between children.

A [sample copy](#) and ordering instructions are available [here](#).

It's not well-known that adolescents and more powerful children account for more than a third of all sexual abuse of children. Acknowledging this offers all adults a real opportunity to protect children and get help for all the children involved. *Do Children* shows adults how to

- create safe environments;
- notice warning signs of concerning behaviors;
- help kids who are confused about appropriate boundaries and behaviors, and;
- access outside help.

Reflecting our trademark positive and hopeful approach, the new edition gives parents and other caring adults tools for action and practical knowledge in place of fear and dire warnings. The clear, accessible information in *Do Children* helps professionals and our [Helpline](#) callers alike understand and sort through concerning situations in their families and communities. It is backed up by the most current research and informed by conversations with thousands of individuals whose lives have been touched by child sexual abuse.

[Download a sample copy](#)

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Words of Hope



"I can't thank this line enough for all the information and support you have given me. I really didn't have any idea how to talk about this or what to say to my son. This has been so helpful.

**- Anonymous Helpline caller
(used with permission)**

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Stop It Now! Wisconsin

Together We Can Prevent the Sexual Abuse of Children

Wisconsin launches with survey - results show 1 in 5 sexually abused in childhood

[Stop It Now! Wisconsin](#) officially launched its campaign in April (Child Abuse Prevention Month) with the release of its market research, radio ads, and hosting of a Stop It Now! Dialogue. The program is co-sponsored by Wisconsin Children's Trust Fund and Children's Hospital and Health System's Child Abuse Prevention Fund in collaboration with Children's Service Society of Wisconsin.

The campaign targets adults that have questions or concerns about child sexual abuse. Campaign radio ads ([listen here](#)) encourage listeners to call the Stop It Now! Helpline or visit the Stop It Now! Wisconsin web site.

The random phone survey - the first of its kind in Wisconsin - suggests that 1 in 5 Wisconsinites experienced sexually abuse in childhood. The results are consistent with Stop It Now! research in other states. "According to this survey, it is likely that everyone in Wisconsin knows someone - a friend, a neighbor, perhaps a family member or even themselves - who was sexually abused as a child," said Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle.

Read the full survey report and press release [here](#).

View TV coverage [here](#).

Listen to radio coverage [here](#).

Olympian boosts Wisconsin program launch

Olympic speed skating gold medalist Chris Witty, a Wisconsin native, helped launched the [Stop it Now! Wisconsin](#) child sexual abuse prevention campaign in April. She was the keynote speaker at the Together for Children conference (April 19) in Stevens Point WI and also participated in a Wausau press conference.

Chris is a five-time Olympian and three-time medalist who was born and raised in Wisconsin. She was sexually abused by a trusted neighbor. After making her story public in 2004, Chris has actively promoted child sexual abuse awareness and prevention.

Read more of her remarks [here](#).

Make a Donation



What they're saying

" Thank you, thank you, thank you for your web site..."

The candid information given here offers practical & compassionate help for abusers, people at risk of abusing, and the people around them.

The healing you are making possible and the suffering you are preventing are tremendous."

- An anonymous website visitor



**Guardian
Unlimited**

'He downloaded child porn. I know we'll get bricks through the window - but he's still my husband'

This is the lead-in to a remarkable story in The Guardian (UK) that offers a glimpse into the questions of why some men view child pornography - how it impacts their life and families?

In this personal account a grandmother describes the pain of discovering that her husband of 40 years had been downloading child pornography. The woman's entire family received support from [Stop It Now! UK & Ireland](#) program, and its host organization, The Lucy Faithfull Foundation.

Read her personal story [here](#).

Dialogue Project touches new communities

Through the Stop It Now! Dialogue project, more communities are having a chance to talk honestly and openly about preventing child sexual abuse.

Dialogues are a unique and rare opportunity to learn more about preventing child sexual abuse from those directly affected by it - survivors, recovering sex offenders, family members, and treatment providers. Panelists share their own stories of hope and help us all understand the proactive role adults can play in stopping child sexual abuse before it starts.



[Stop It Now! Minnesota](#) has organized several Dialogues this spring, including at a women's prison and a sex offender treatment program.

In Virginia, Stop It Now! (national) conducted a Dialogue in late June. The Norfolk Dialogue was part of [a training event](#) about sexual violence prevention sponsored by the [Virginia Department of Health \(VDH\)](#) and [The Collins Center](#) of Harrisonburg VA.

Stop It Now! also supported the launch of Stop It Now! Wisconsin by conducting the first open Dialogue in that state. The emotionally powerful event in Wausau (May) drove home the impact of child sexual abuse and allowed honest conversation about what can be done to prevent it.

For more information about bringing a Stop It Now! Dialogue to your community, contact Stop It Now! at pub-ed@stopitnow.org

"It was phenomenal. If we can do this more often we are fulfilling an important responsibility. It was tremendous, I can't say it enough."

- A Dialogue audience member

The Long Haul: marathoning to prevent child sexual abuse

Stop It Now! has many extraordinary supporters. They support this work in so many ways. We value their commitment and creativity. All adults who want to keep children safe owe them thanks for their courage, commitment, creativity and - in the case of a blogger and a marathoner, stamina.

Last month, blogger "Anna" participated in **Blogathon 2007** to support Stop It Now! By posting blog entries for 24 hours, she collected pledges and shared resources for healing and prevention. Visit her blog (ucanhealfromabuse.blogspot.com) [here](#) and read why she supports Stop It Now!. Thank you Anna!

Later this month, Stop It Now! will benefit from the courage and stamina of Tom Gallagher (right), a retired Connecticut securities lawyer and president of Wake Up! (www.mywu.com). Tom is participating in the August 19th [Atacama Crossing](#) - a race across the Chilean desert - to raise funds for several worthy organizations including Stop It Now!.



Says Tom: *"Participating in the 155-mile, self-sustaining footrace in the Atacama Desert in Chile will be an extraordinary, personal experience. A key part of this endurance race is to raise money for worthy causes. Stop It Now! is one of those important causes. I'm pleased to bring attention to the work of Stop It Now! and to raise vital funds to further the cause of preventing sexual abuse of children."*

Thank you Tom - and good luck!

Read more in the articles linked to Tom's website [here](#).

Subscribe NOW!



Stop It Now!

PARENTtalk

PARENTtalk is a newsletter by and for parents and caregivers of youth with sexual behavior problems.

If you're interested in *Do Children*, you won't want to miss the relaunch of **PARENTtalk**, our newsletter by and for parents and caregivers of children and youth with sexual behavior problems. A new issue is due out in September. View past issues [here](#).

PARENTtalk newsletters offer parents an opportunity to break the isolation surrounding this issue and offer support to each other through personal stories. The newsletters also offer updates from some of the leading professionals in the field.

To subscribe, use the Update Subscription link at the bottom of this email - and select **PARENTtalk**. Or enter your email in the [Subscribe box on our homepage](#).

Stop It Now! [in the] NEWS

[Stop It Now! Minnesota](#) Program Director Yvonne Cournoyer succeeded in her effort to get a lengthy op-ed published in the Twin Cities' *Pioneer Press*. An accompanying article featured personal stories of a recovering child sex offender, and an adult survivor of child sexual abuse and a relative.

A member of the [Stop It Now! Board of Directors](#), Dr. David Prescott, is Director of the Sand Ridge Secure Treatment facility in Mauston WI. The Wisconsin State Journal and its website, madison.com, published a two-part series about the Sand Ridge Secure Treatment facility in Mauston WI. Read the articles [here](#). David is also a member of the Stop It Now! Wisconsin Steering Committee. and chairperson-elect of ATSA (The Assn. for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers).

A newspaper article recommends Stop It Now! to a New Hampshire community struggling with a series of child sex abuse crimes. Read the article [here](#).

THANK YOU!

Stop It Now! would like to thank all our supporters - both our long-time investors and our new donors. New grants were recently received from the Ms. Foundation for Women, Xeric Foundation, Target, Wm. & Helen Mazer Foundation, and an anonymous foundation. And, congratulations to Stop It Now! Minnesota, who also received a Ms. Foundation grant to support its program to reach out to family bystanders.

We would like to especially thank our recent interns and volunteers (Shannon, Malyna, AnnaMarie) - and several individuals and organizations that have made generous contributions of pro-bono professional services in the past year: eCivis, The Ferguson Group, Malisa Blessington, Bill Hudson and Market Street Research.

We rely on all of you to help families and communities take action to nurture and protect children. Thank you.

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[HELPLINE \(1.888.PREVENT\)](tel:1888PREVENT)

www.stopitnow.org