



Stop It Now!®

Together We Can Prevent the Sexual Abuse of Children

Spring 2015

Dear friends and supporters of Stop It Now!,

As we near the end of Child Abuse Prevention and Sexual Assault Prevention month, here at Stop It Now! we are bustling with new activities to reach more people than ever before with our message that ***together, we can prevent child sex abuse.***

Stop It Now! continues to build children's safety by empowering one voice at a time to become stronger with the knowledge and courage to speak up. We want to share our celebration with each of you, because every adult who asks a question, reads information, shares resources and speaks up is a part of this celebration. It is about doing this **together.**

Staff Changes at Stop It Now!

We are sorry to share that Deborah Donovan Rice decided to leave her position as Executive Director earlier this year. We are grateful for Deborah's years of leadership and cannot thank her enough for all she has done to make Stop It Now! what it is today. Fortunately, Deborah and her commitment to children's safety and building community will still be a part of the Stop It Now! as she spearheads and manages our Circles for Safety for Higher Education programming .

Jenny Coleman, who has served as Help Services Director for the past four years, has transitioned into the role of Director of Stop It Now!. A licensed clinician with over 20 years in child, youth and family services, Jenny will use her expertise and experience to lead Stop It Now! into this next chapter.

A New Partnership

We are pleased to announce that **we have officially become an affiliate of Klingberg Family Centers.** For over 100 years **Klingberg** has been serving children and families to insure their safety and well-being and to help them heal from trauma. They have committed themselves to including prevention work in their hallmark services. Patricia Wilcox, LCSW, the Vice President of Strategic Development at Klingberg, will now oversee Stop It Now! operations. She brings her experience developing and disseminating Risking Connection® foundational trauma training and the Restorative Approach for implementing trauma-informed care. With this new leadership we hope that Stop It Now! becomes even more widely known and

available to anyone seeking the information and guidance we offer. Frances "Fran" Henry, MBA, Stop It Now!'s founder, has joined the Board of Trustees of Klingberg Family Centers and Affiliates.

Director's Note

Today is my mom's birthday. She was a survivor and a thriver. Sexually abused by both her parents throughout her childhood, including her adolescence, she began a local incest survivors' group and went on to both work with women who had been incarcerated, as well as with local mental health crisis agencies. She died of cancer a few years ago. She would have absolutely loved Stop It Now! and the work I get to do here. **She told me once that she just wished that one of the relatives who had seen the signs of abuse had done something; had just spoken up.**

I have been so honored to lead our renowned Helpline, as well as to help develop our Circles of Safety training. I love building one voice at a time to protect children. As the new director of Stop It Now!, I am so very passionate about continuing to embed prevention through Stop It Now!'s very specialized approach of giving individuals and communities personal tools to help build their confidence and comfort level to speak up. In honor of my mom, thank you to all the amazing brave adults who stand up to take responsibility for a child's well-being.

**With Peace and Hope,
Jenny Coleman**

We've Remodeled!

We are proud to announce the public unveiling of our newly designed website. We hope that you find it as hopeful and encouraging as our message. We have designed it to be easily engaging with helpful and instructive information to help you keep children safe. We're still adding and updating to our site and always welcome suggestions and feedback. Please visit www.StopItNow.org.

*"I love your new site, so hopeful and focused on providing help"
Molly Froelich, Personal Life Coach and Mediation Specialist*

Celebrating 20 Years of the Helpline

Our Helpline has been answering phone calls for 20 years!

We respond to adults courageously reaching out with sex abuse questions, concerns and situations. As technology has grown, so have we, and we now respond to Helpline inquiries via our phone, email and social media platforms. We have had nearly 16,000 individual engagements specifically seeking guidance on prevention.

To celebrate our Helpline's 20th anniversary, we are asking you to help us in two ways:

First, consider sharing your story of how Stop It Now!-and the Helpline specifically-has helped you create safety for a child. **Share a success story of how you spoke up** about an unsafe behavior or how you instilled a safety plan in your home. We want to create an anthology of stories to honor all the adults who have courageously taken steps to keep children safe from sexual harm. Please send your stories to jcoleman@stopitnow.org. We will be collecting these throughout the rest of the year.

"I've been looking everywhere for information and no one knew where to go. There's never enough information on this. I'll be sharing this information with all our other sites and staff as well." - Afterschool program supervisor

A second way you can help is to **become a sustaining donor** to support the free and confidential services of our Helpline. **A monthly gift of \$25 allows us to open up the phone lines for an additional hour.** We hope to add chat services soon to our menu of ways to contact us. Your support can help us reach more people through more channels. When adults can find help, children are kept safer.

Thanks to the generous support from **Thorn**, we have hired two new part-time phone consultants. Because of this, we are now able to offer dedicated phone hours from 12pm to 6pm, EST Monday thru Friday.

Thorn targets its resources to help deter adults at-risk for abusing. Through our partnership with them, we continue to provide alternatives and treatment information to those adults seeking to take responsibility and get help for themselves to protect children in their lives.

Circles of Safety - Training for Communities and for Individuals

For the past few years, as a natural follow up to our advocacy and research work, as well as our conversations about personal and real situations concerning sex abuse, we have offered individuals and communities our Circles of Safety trainings on prevention. We continue to build these opportunities for programs and communities to take preventive and protective actions.

For Higher Education

Changing the Conversation: Prevention in the Forefront

Piloting a new program has its challenges but on April 9, I had the satisfaction of delivering good news about the Circles of Safety for Higher Education© pilot project to Sue Paterno, the funder and to the Board of Governors of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE), our collaborating partner, states Deborah Donovan Rice.

"It's something we haven't talked about as a society ever," Paterno (Sue) said. "If it weren't in your yard, you didn't seem to pay attention to it. But now it's in everybody's yard and we have to open up with each other." ***Read more...***

The two-year project has reached all 14 universities across the System and 144 individuals who are prepared to work together as a team to prevent sexual victimization of children

visiting their campuses. Effectiveness is being evaluated by Prevention Innovations Research Center. A report on final results will be out this summer. Preliminary results are available [here](#).

"Called 'Circles of Safety for Higher Education', the program teaches participants to recognize warning signs, brainstorm where on campus problems could occur, role play, and nurture the 'courage... commitment... and comfort' to deal with potential instances of abuse," said Deborah Donovan Rice, the project's director. [Read more...](#)

Circles of Safety Goes to Grenada

Through funding by the Oak Foundation, we partnered with Sweet Water Foundation and Dr. Hazel Da Breo to train both students from T. A. Marryshow Community College in St. Georges, Grenada who are studying social work and representatives from the Ministry of Social Development (Including the Child Protection Authority, Counselling, and Gender Affairs) and the Ministry of Education (including HFLE Curriculum and Special Education).

By introducing prevention concepts, including the responsibility of adults and strategies to speak up when there are concerns, this extraordinary group of people began planning for next steps to keep children safe including ongoing training, establishing a helpline and affecting public policy and awareness. As always, we learned so much about challenges and risks to children's safety, as well as the resiliency of survivors and commitment of adults everywhere. We were able to hear from youth survivors themselves, who made it clear that the most important step any adult can take is to "Believe the children".

For Parents, Families and Caregivers

The Circles of Safety curriculum has also been adapted for parents, foster parents and other caregivers. Thanks to the dedicated team of the Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) program at CARES Northwest, over 280 parents and caregivers participated in Circles to Safety last year, and CARES Northwest continues to bring prevention awareness and tools to the Portland, Oregon community. Before the Circles of Safety class, 53% of the participants did not feel confident that they could talk to an adult if they were concerned about the adult's behaviors with a child. After the class, 90% said that they felt confident.

"It gave me a clearer way of seeing things. As a survivor, I have some grey areas with my kids and have to be very careful not to put my own experience/feelings into their experiences." Participant in Circles of Safety training, facilitated by CARESNW

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Three Ways to Give



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