



S.A.F.E., Inc.

SAFE HAPPENINGS

Shelter and Assistance in Family Emergencies

MISSION STATEMENT: S.A.F.E., Inc. believes that everyone has the right to live a life free from violence. We strive to eliminate this social problem with its causes through education and community awareness. To assist victims of domestic violence and sexual assault and their children, S.A.F.E., Inc. provides shelter, counseling, advocacy and continued support.

• Tupelo, Mississippi •

• July 2011 •

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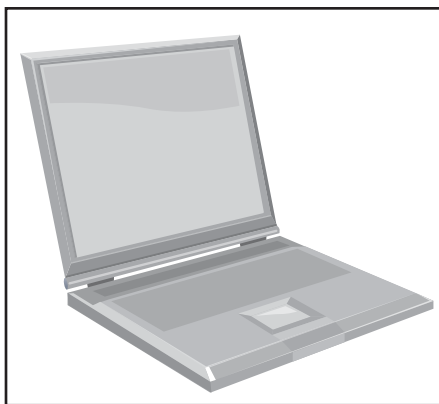
Internet Safety for Teen and Tween Parents

by Mary Katherine Spencer, Community Educator

In the summer months, parenting can be difficult, especially since most parents and grandparents didn't grow up with technology that many teens and tweens have access to every day. There are many exciting and fun things to do online and the children in your life are often busy exploring this new world on their own, with their friends and without adult supervision. It is very important to have conversations with the young people in your life about things they should be wary of in cyberspace.

Online predators come from a variety of backgrounds and most online predators are not pedophiles. Pedophiles target pre-pubescent children, while online predators typically target teens and tweens that are taking risks online. Many people who have been caught trying to lure an adolescent online have kept this part of themselves a big secret, and to the rest of the world are well-respected members of their communities.

People who use the internet to take advantage of children use their online persona to appeal to a young person's natural vulnerabilities. Predators "groom" their victims carefully and use a child's desire to "be grown up" or a child's need for extra attention. They then gain their trust by offering them attention, conversation and gifts.



Grooming can be a long process that a patient predator plans over a long period of time. This grooming is geared towards an eventual face-to-face meeting between the predator and the child. Often times, the predator uses a child's natural curiosity about sex to introduce explicit images and child sex abuse images into an online chat or series of emails. Once these boundaries have been broken down, they may use their adult status to influence and control the child's

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behavior. By continuing to offer attention and affection and gifts, they are able to manipulate a young person's emotions and insecurities.

There is no greater risk to a child's safety than an online predator who wishes to meet in person.

If you aren't tech savy, or even if you are, it is important to know that a young person will be trying to establish their own identity while they are online and will find a way to do this even if you take away their phone, computer or other technological privileges. A better route for concerned parents, relatives and teachers is to have respectful, intelligent conversations about online dangers and let teens and tweens know what they can do if someone were trying to gain their or their friend's trust.

Use these discussion starters from www.netsmartz.com to get an Internet safety conversation going with your children. Putting the ball in their court and letting them say what they know and feel first will encourage them to see you as a trusted adult who cares. The more often you talk to the kids you love about online safety, the easier it will be. Don't get discouraged if they don't respond immediately!

- What do you know about online predators?
- Have you ever met anyone online who asked you to meet face-to-face?
- What would/did you do if someone asked to meet you in person?
- Has anyone ever tried talking to you online about inappropriate or sexual things? What did you do?
- How might someone online try to gain your trust?
- Why might someone online want to gain your trust? What are the possible risks of trusting them?
- Why is it important that you come to me if someone makes you feel uncomfortable online?

Help teach your children to identify predators' methods for online enticement and set up some rules about online behavior. You can also request a class for your family or youth group by calling S.A.F.E., Inc. (662) 841-9138. Get online with your kids and let them show you around this new world-wide world!

INTERNET GUIDELINES FOR TEENS & TWEEN PARENTS



Your child should NEVER meet face-to-face with anyone they first met online without your permission and/or attendance.

Take an interest in your child's online activities and know with whom he or she is communicating.

Teach your child to refrain from talking about sex with anyone they meet online.

Teach your child not to reveal personal information.

Approve all photos and videos before your child posts them online. Make sure they do not reveal identifying information and are not sexually provocative or inappropriate.

Look for warning signs. If you feel your child is in danger, make a report to www.cybertipline.com and contact your local law-enforcement agency immediately.

Do not hesitate to ask questions, especially if your child is acting suspiciously.

Success Story

by Sonja Hamilton

Lori was 16 years old when she married. Lori has been married to her partner for 62 years. The abuse she endured was very traumatic both verbally and physically. Even though she suffered greatly, she always felt that the wedding vows she took included “ ’til death do us part”.

There were times when her partner would slap and kick her and destroy her valuable possessions. He would shoot his gun at certain parts of pictures in their home and then tell her, “That’s what I’ll do to you.” He also told her on one occasion, “I will kill you and then I will kill myself”.

Lori felt that she was a very devoted wife. She said even through the abuse, she would take care of her partner when he was sick and unable to take care of himself. She raised four children and held a steady job until she became of retirement age.

Lori stated her partner drank alcohol heavily until about 20 years ago, but the abuse continued. Lori left her partner only twice during their marriage, the last time she left him was for three months. During that time, he called her continuously and begged her to return, and he apologized for how he had treated her. Lori returned hoping that he would change, but he didn’t. His health began to fail and with the improper use of prescription drugs, the verbal abuse worsened. Lori decided that she just could not bear hearing the vulgar language, the name calling and the threats any longer.

Lori contacted the staff at S.A.F.E., Inc. and explained her story and then entered the shelter. While at the shelter, Lori attended individual and group therapy and budgeting classes. Lori viewed videos of how domestic violence impacts the marriage and children. Lori became very fond of the staff, she spent a lot of time with the counselor and social worker talking about how she regrets living so long with her partner and how saddened she was that she allowed her children to grow up in that type environment. Lori’s children were very supportive of her and encouraged her by saying that she did not have to live in that marriage any longer. Lori lived in a rural area; therefore, her children strongly felt that their own father would kill their mother. Lori and her children met with the social worker to discuss housing arrangements and Lori exited the shelter until her apartment became available near her daughter.

The shelter staff stays in touch with Lori and her family. Lori, at the age of 79, now lives in her own apartment and is free from the abuse that she endured for so many years.

FACT CONFERENCE 2011

“CELEBRATING COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS”

The FACT conference is sponsored by the Mississippi Department of Human Services, Mississippi School Attendance, Family Resource Center of Lee County, S.A.F.E., Inc. and other family-assistance agencies. It is open to the public and will be held in Tupelo at the First Baptist Church on October 11, 2011

Our theme for 2011 is “Celebrating Community Connections” and several experts will present information on ethics, diversity, social concerns and medical issues that touch the lives of those living in northeast Mississippi. The registration fee is \$60.

“FACT is for those who take a proactive role in aiding families in today’s society,” said Carla Stanford, Extension Child and Family Development Area Agent in Pontotoc County. “The subject matter will speak to those who are directly involved in the health and safety of our children and our community.” Parents, teachers, counselors, social workers, nurses and other community stakeholders are invited to visit www.factms.com and get regular updates about confirmed speakers and other events happening at the conference.

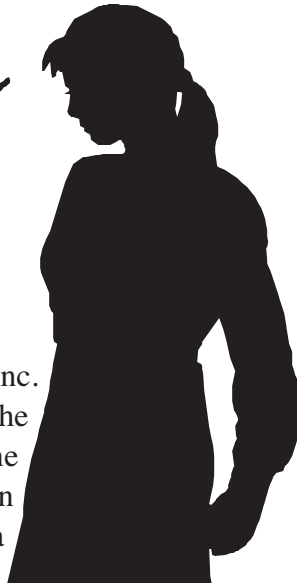
Furniture Donations Needed

Clients who choose to leave their abuser and establish housing on their own need furniture and household items. S.A.F.E. provides storage but donations will need to be delivered to the storage unit. Call 841-9138 to make a donation.

DONATE CELL PHONES

Remember S.A.F.E. when you upgrade your phone. Donated phones serve two purposes: the clients can establish service and have access to call for emergencies and obsolete phones are redeemed by Shelter Alliance for a maximum amount of \$25. Think about having a cell phone drive at your church, your place of employment or your civic organization. For more information call 841-9138.

Success Story



Meagan came to S.A.F.E., Inc. for individual counseling. She wanted to talk about the struggles she still faces as an adult after being molested as a child. She was assaulted by two different family members from the age of four until she was ten. Meagan explained that she told her mother after the first perpetrator assaulted her, but her mother encouraged Meagan to forget it and pretend that it never happened. Due to her mother's reaction to the first incident, she never told anyone about the second assault until she came to S.A.F.E., Inc. approximately fifteen years later.

Meagan disclosed that the abuse had changed her as a child and continued to affect her as an adult. She stated that as a youth, she felt that her virginity was taken from her; she continued to use sex as a way to get attention or something she wanted. Meagan also explained that she had trouble trusting others. She admitted to never having had a healthy relationship.

Meagan has been working with this counselor diligently for three months. She has already made drastic changes and noticeable progress. She has gone from multiple sexual partners to only one. Client has released herself from the guilt that she carried about the assault, as she realizes that it was not her fault. Meagan has also begun letting down her guard with her family and has begun establishing appropriate boundaries with them. Meagan identified numerous coping skills that needed to change. She has begun replacing them with things to help her continue healing and recovering from the past abuse. Meagan is a courageous woman and she is committed to overcoming the trauma of her past. She is healing everyday from the damage sexual abuse has caused her emotionally, relationally, and spiritually.



Pictured above is Alana Vaivech and Gloria Adams, employees of Bath and Body Works, who donated Mother's Day gift baskets for the clients at S.A.F.E., Inc.

WISH LIST

Black Hair Care Products

Over the Counter Medications for Children and Adults

Silverware

Plastic bowls with lids

Used Cell Phones

Used Furniture and Household Items

Towels, hand towels and bath cloths

Pillows

Diapers sizes 1-6, Pull-ups all sizes

Baby Items: bibs, lotion, shampoo, bottles, sippy cups

Thermometers with disposable covers and batteries

Unused Cosmetics for women: foundation, powder, mascara, lipstick, blush

Hair spray, hair gel, hair brushes

Ladies Watches

Ladies Shoes: sizes 8-11

Combs, Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Deodorant

Pocket size calendars

Journals

School Backpacks

School Supplies: K-12 grade

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

S.A.F.E., Inc. gives women and families a chance to get back on their feet. The help we have given these people has not been possible without the enormous efforts of our volunteers. A S.A.F.E., Inc. volunteer can be anyone - male, female, doctor, lawyer, homemaker, anyone with the desire to help others and is rewarding, fulfilling and a learning experience. Think about it, you could be responsible for turning someone's life around. If you are interested in becoming a S.A.F.E., Inc. volunteer please call us at 841-9138 or visit our web site for more information at www.safeshelter.net.

Volunteers for the Quarter April, May & June 2011

*It would be impossible for us to serve our clients
without our volunteers.
"Thank You" to all those who volunteered this quarter.*

June Byars
Rev. Gene Asbury
Fred Page
Anne Radojcsics
Payne Adkinson
Sheena Barnett
Glenda Corley
Dorothy Ford
Joellen Murphree
Jeannie Massey
Pam Hadley
Dorothy Bateman
Margaret Pickard
Anneil Gillentine
Nita Rodgers
Ika Hardianti
Summer Smith
Star Ray
Renee Ray
Shirley Moon

Thank you for your donation!

The shelter derives its strength and effectiveness from your dedicated support.

Mona Walker Circle Calvary Baptist Church	Ingram Baptist Church – Baldwyn	Class – Tupelo	Heather Behringer
Margaret Pickard	Bath & Body Works	NASTUC	Kelly Jo Brewer
Wal-Mart -West Main	Tupelo Unitarian Universalist Church	Corinth Housing Authority	Ashley Buse
Parkway Baptist Church	Susan Johnson	Living Water Community Church – Eggsville	Jennifer Fowler
Stacy Thomas	Laura Cartwright	Carol Duckworth	Kelly Gregory
Ashland Methodist Church - UMW	Cathy Higgins	West Heights Baptist Church Glow Sunday School –	Kailey Hand
Mollie E. Prather	Lee County Improvement Center	Pontotoc	Jessie Leddy
Tami Soper	City of Tupelo	Girl Scouts	Michelle Lewis
Linda Tutor – Cuddle Kids International	St. Mark UMW	Debra Smith	Keri McMillin
Stone Soup Ministry – Lee Acres Church, Tupelo	R.H. Reeds	Kristen Wilburn	Gracie Menetre
Jennifer Heard	North MS Pediatrics	Verna Butler	Emily Oxford
St. Mark United Methodist Women – Tupelo	Tupelo Housing Authority	Kathy Rosa	Swayze White
Vickie Manning – Lee County Library	Lee County Library		Annabeth Wyatt
	Rickey Thompson		By: Paige Mitchell
	Tupelo Womens Club	In Honor of:	
	Deborah Yates	Fred & Diane Page	
	New Deminison Sunday School	Joe & Anne Radojcsics	
		By: Kathy Fealhaber	



S.A.F.E., Inc.

Shelter and Assistance in Family Emergencies

Shelter and assistance for victims of domestic violence, their children, and victims of sexual assault.

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TUPELO, MS
PERMIT No. 41

Return Services Requested



A United Way Agency
"It Brings Out The Best
In all Of Us"

P.O. Box 985 ■ Tupelo, MS 38802-0985 ■ Crisis: (662) 841-2273/1-800-527-7233 ■ Business: (662) 841-9138

Yes, I would like to contribute!

- By volunteering
- \$35 will shelter a woman for one night
- \$100 provides 10 children counseling
- \$250 will shelter a woman for one week
- \$1,000 feeds shelter residents for one month.
- The Endowment Fund

Name _____

Address _____

State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (____) _____

Mail your tax-deductible donation to:
SAFE, Inc., P.O. Box 985, Tupelo MS 38802

OUR GROUP MEETINGS ARE:

Domestic Violence Support Group

Mondays at 8:30 A.M. • Iuka
Call 423-7318 for more information

Thursdays at 6:00 P.M. • Tupelo
Call 841-9138 for more information

Sexual Assault Support Group

Wednesdays at 1:00 P.M.
Call 1-800-527-7233 for more information

Batterer's Program

Tuesdays at 1:30 PM & 6:00 P.M. (subject to change)
Call 841-9138 for more information

www.safeshelter.net

Services are also offered for nonresident clients. For more information
call 841-9138 or 1-800-527-7233.

NATIONAL TEEN DATING ABUSE HELPLINE

www.loveisrespect.org
1-866-331-9474 or 1-866-331-8453 TTY