



# SpeakingOut News

October 2010

SpeakingOut

**against Child Sexual Abuse, Inc.**

*(A 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization)*

**"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves..."**

*(Proverbs 31:8)*

## Inside this Issue:

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| "A Safe Place" Workshop                | 2   |
| Message to Parents about Prevention    | 3   |
| More on Prevention for Parents         | 4-5 |
| Sponsor of this Month's Newsletter     | 6   |
| Become a Sponsor of SpeakingOut News   | 6   |
| Open Volunteer Positions               | 7   |
| Fundraising Opportunity for Your Group | 7   |

## **Child Sexual Abuse Awareness & Prevention**

**We also Touch on Healing!**

### **Our Primary Purpose**

To Raise Awareness on Child Sexual Abuse in an effort to Aid in Prevention.  
We are not a Reporting Agency, nor do we offer Legal Advice.

### **Our Intent**

It is NOT our intent to raise panic; rather to Raise Awareness.

### **Our Primary Focus**

On the Home (Parents & Grandparents)

### **Other Focal Points**

Churches, Daycares/Caregivers, Schools & Anyone who works with or around children

### **Our Approach**

To be proactive; Prevent & Stop Child Sexual Abuse before it happens.  
Presented from a Parent's Perspective & in some areas, a Survivor's Perspective.

### **Our Vision**

To Raise Awareness All Across America

## **Message from SpeakingOut Board Member**

***America...  
A Safe Place  
for Children!***



SpeakingOut against Child Sexual Abuse

"Children are the most precious treasure a community can possess... They bear the seeds of the character of future society which is largely shaped by what the adults constituting the community do or fail to do with respect to children. They are a trust no community can neglect with impunity." ~Ridvan Message, 2000

"It's difficult to believe any society could regard children as such a precious resource, yet treat them so cruelly. That's how I felt after meeting Susan and learning how often child abuse happens in today's society – right here in America and across the globe. Children are being abused daily, and much of that abuse is child sexual abuse. The effects of child sexual abuse may include depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, propensity to further victimization in adulthood, and physical injury to the child, among other problems. Are these the "seeds of the character of future society" we should be planting? It's time to speak up for those who can't speak for themselves." – **Tom Shope**,

*Director/Board of Directors, SpeakingOut against Child Sexual Abuse, Inc.*

# “A Safe Place” Workshop

## [Child Sexual Abuse Awareness & Prevention]

On Saturday, September 25th, “A Safe Place” Workshop was held at the Oak Ridge Civic Center in Oak Ridge, TN & was presented by Susan Suafoa-Dinino, President/Founder of SpeakingOut. This was a 4 hour session from start to finish. We had a great, diverse group of participants with representation from the Community Coalition Against Human Trafficking, Oak Ridge Schools Extended Childcare, Oak Ridge High School and Trinity Baptist Church. There were others in attendance as well who simply came to gain more knowledge on the crime of Child Sexual Abuse out of concern for the safety & well being of Children.



“A Safe Place” Workshops are interactive sessions in which participants are encouraged to share their input, knowledge & concerns as well. There were 8 Major Topics of discussion as follows...

- The Truth & Reality of Child Sexual Abuse**
- What Child Sexual Abuse Is/Is Not**
- The Statistics**
- The Signs & Symptoms of the Sexually Abused Child**
- Information on the Abuser**
- Information about “The System”**
- Message to Parents on Prevention**
- Message to Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse**

I would like to thank each & every person who took time out of their weekend to join us. You were a wonderful group and your input was greatly appreciated.  
That’s what its all about...

*Coming together as Leaders in our Homes, our Churches & the Community to Address the Issue of Child Sexual Abuse in America... and right here in Tennessee!*

**TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE  
IN THE LIVES OF CHILDREN!**

## Message to Parents about Prevention

*Never assume that just because you know where your child is & who they are with, that this could not happen to them.*

Unfortunately, Child Sexual Abuse can happen Anywhere, Anytime, to Any Child  
*Please understand that 95% of Children who are Molested/Raped/Exploited know the person abusing them & in many cases, loves & trusts this person.*

*Never assume that if this happens or is happening to your child that they will tell you.*

Sexual Predators know how to silence children.  
And as a Parent, your understanding of this horrific crime is imperative for your child's safety.

### ***What Can YOU Do?*** ***(Parents/Grandparents)***

*You can take preventive steps to lessen the likelihood that your Child will ever be faced with such a violation as is involved when a Child is Sexually Abused.*

**Learn All that You Can**

**Talk to Your Child**

**Know Your Child's Surroundings**

**Inquire about Safety Precautions Taken by Others**

**Know & Remember the Statistics**

**Tell Others**

**Break the Cycle**

***(More on Breaking the Cycle in Next Month's Issue of SpeakingOut News)***

## More on Prevention for Parents

### Learn All That You Can...

- ⇒ Get Educated on the crime of Child Sexual Abuse
- ⇒ Continue Education & Keep up to date
- ⇒ Familiarity with the Internet & Cell Phones (what teens & child predators are doing)



### Talk To Your Child...

- ⇒ We talk to our children about many other things... importance of education, dangers of drugs & alcohol, no one should ever touch their private parts, don't talk to strangers, etc...
- ⇒ By not talking to children about Child Sexual Abuse, Parents may be unknowingly enabling their children to be "easy prey".
- ⇒ You cannot protect your child from this crime without talking to them specifically about Incest, Molestation, Rape & Exploitation; at the age-appropriate level.
- ⇒ Children need to know the dangers out there.
- ⇒ They need to know that if this happens or is happening to them that they can come to you.
- ⇒ They need to know that no matter who may be doing this to them, that you will believe them.
- ⇒ Children need to feel Safe to Tell on their Abuser
- ⇒ Explain to your child that although they are to respect adults/authority, there are exceptions to that rule.

### Factors to Consider when Talking to Your Child

- ◆ Age of Child (i.e. Safe/Unsafe or Appropriate/Inappropriate Touch)
- ◆ Maturity of Child
- ◆ Personality of Child
- ◆ Parents Know their Child better than Anyone; in most cases
- ◆ There must be Communication between Parents & Childcare Providers & Teachers
- ◆ Utilize Available Resources
- ◆ Seek Professional Help, if needed, prior to talking to your child
- ◆ Talk About in Small Bits; But Often (Repetition = Retention)
- ◆ Start with the Swim Suit Area, but Don't Stop There



## OVERALL GOAL

**Open Up the Communication Line between you  
and your Child or Grandchild;  
Not to Install Fear**

## More on Prevention for Parents

### Know Your Child's Surroundings...



*Home  
School  
Childcare Facility  
Church, etc...*



- ⇒ Online Resources – Sex Offender Registries – National & Statewide Searches  
Family Watch Dog  
U.S. Department of Justice
- ⇒ Check with local Authorities on information they have available as well – By City
- ⇒ Ask for References & Follow Through
- ⇒ Background Checks – Online – For a fee

### Inquire About Safety Precautions Taken by Others...

- ⇒ Schools, Churches, Daycare Providers, Other Groups/Activities
- ⇒ Background Checks
- ⇒ Sex Offender Registries
- ⇒ Don't Be Shy; its your Child's Safety we're talking about.

### Know & Remember the Statistics; primarily...

*95% of Children who are Sexually Abused know their Abuser  
and possibly Love and Trust that person.*

### Tell Others...

The more Parents who are aware of the reality & possibility of Child Sexual Abuse, and the more Children who know the dangers, the Safer our Children will be... All Children.

It's time we send a message to those who prey on Innocent Children by... SpeakingOut against Child Sexual Abuse!

**It is Not our Intent to raise panic; rather to Raise Awareness in an effort to aid in the Prevention of this horrific crime against children.**

**Every Child Matters!**

## Sponsor of This Month's Newsletter

### **S.M.A.R.T. Ritual Abuse Newsletter and Conferences**

**P.O. Box 1295**

**Easthampton, MA 01027**

**E-mail: [smartnews@aol.com](mailto:smartnews@aol.com)**

**<http://ritualabuse.us>**

S.M.A.R.T. started out in 1995 as a bimonthly newsletter with information about severe child abuse, ritual abuse and extreme abuse in group settings. Since then, we have added annual international conferences every summer in Connecticut, a full web page with resources on child abuse, ritual abuse and dissociation and Internet discussion groups for survivors and co-survivors of ritual abuse. We have over ninety issues of our newsletter online and have been having conferences since 1998. The newsletter can be received for free by e-mail by writing [smartnews@aol.com](mailto:smartnews@aol.com)

Our web page at <http://ritualabuse.us> contains a full list of scientific journal articles on the topic of ritual abuse and information for therapists and helpers on how to work with ritual abuse survivors.

S.M.A.R.T. also has speakers available to make presentations on ritual abuse and related topics. Please contact us for more information.

Information on next year's conference and past conference recordings is at <http://ritualabuse.us/smart-conference/>

## Become a Sponsor of SpeakingOut News

### **Advertise in SpeakingOut News for only \$10....**

**Advertise Your Agency or Company  
An Upcoming Event  
Your Book, etc...**

For a \$10 donation, you can become a Sponsor of one month's issue of SpeakingOut News. This in turn allows you the opportunity to place an ad in our newsletter. Advertise one time, monthly or periodically... you decide. SpeakingOut News is generally distributed by the end of each month, or the very beginning of the month for that month's issue. Your Donation & Ad must be received by the 20th of each month.

Approval of your ad is required & must be obtained from SpeakingOut prior to placement.

***Email your Ad today to request approval & become a Sponsor of SpeakingOut News.***

## AKA SpeakingOut

*SpeakingOut*

**against Child Sexual Abuse, Inc.**

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**Visit Our Website...**  
**[www.speakingout-csa.com](http://www.speakingout-csa.com)**

**Follow Us on Twitter...**  
**[www.twitter.com/  
speakingoutcsa](http://www.twitter.com/speakingoutcsa)**

## Open Volunteer Positions

If you or anyone you know may be interested in serving as a Director on our Board of Directors, contact us today. We currently have 2 open positions that we would like to fill to add to the three

### Directors Currently on Board...

Susan Suafoa-Dinino

Gayle D'Ambrosio-Crabtree

Tom Shope

### Other Board Members

Lisa Bowling (Officer/Secretary)

### Non-Board Member Volunteers

Susan Otto (Administration)

Kathy Ely (Accountant)

*To learn more about the possibility of serving as a Director on SpeakingOut's Board of Directors, please contact Susan at 865-230-8600 or by email at [susansd@speakingout-csa.com](mailto:susansd@speakingout-csa.com). To serve as a Director, you must be located in/ around the Knoxville, TN area or surrounding areas as the majority of our Board Meetings are held in person, generally in Knoxville or Oak Ridge, TN.*

## Fundraising Opportunity for Your Group

### During the Month of October...

**A Fundraising Idea... a way for your small group to partner with us to raise funds for both our cause and for your own small group, team, organization, etc...**

**During these hard economic times, you may agree that every dollar matters.**

**This program has the potential of raising a total of \$2000 this month.**

**And we are willing to donate \$800 of that to the group or groups that participate... those who help us raise the funds.**

**By participating, you will also be joining us in Raising Awareness on the crime of Child Sexual Abuse in America, as Awareness leads to Prevention!**

**This fundraising opportunity & everything that SpeakingOut does on a daily basis is for Children.**

**You do not necessarily need to be in the Oak Ridge, TN area, or even in Tennessee to participate. However, some restrictions do apply.**

***Contact Us Today to Discuss the Details!***

*Call 865-230-8600 or Email [susansd@speakingout-csa.com](mailto:susansd@speakingout-csa.com)*