



DARKNESS to LIGHT

END CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Stewards of Children Training

Stewards of Children is a revolutionary, nationally-recognized child sexual abuse prevention program developed by the national Darkness to Light Foundation. The goal of Darkness to Light is to diminish the incidence and impact of child sexual abuse, and to raise awareness of its prevalence and consequences.

Stewards of Children training educates adults to prevent and recognize child sexual abuse and motivates them to react responsibly on behalf of children. The training program is designed for organizations, agencies and corporations that serve children and youth.

Prevention experts believe community educators and leaders should be challenged to talk about the issues surrounding childhood sexual abuse and make simple changes in their organizations where necessary. The more these conversations occur, the taboo surrounding discussions of sexual abuse will lessen, and children will live in more protective environments. When children feel safe enough to discuss these issues with an adult who knows how to appropriately respond, sexual abuse will decrease in our communities.

The Stewards of Children curriculum can be used by groups who:

- Seek training for staff and volunteers in the prevention of child sexual abuse
- Want to make a difference in their community by educating adults about the protection of children
- Need to respond to insurance requirements regarding child protection

After completing Stewards of Children training, participants will:

- Understand the facts of child sexual abuse—incidence and prevalence rates and effects on individuals in society.
- Understand how child sexual abuse happens.
- Understand that adults are responsible for the protection of children.
- Understand the importance of screening staff/volunteers who work with children and adolescents.
- Understand that abusers often become friendly with potential victims and their families to gain time alone with children. Think carefully about the safety of any one-adult/one-child situation. Choose group situations when possible.
- Have resources to react responsibly to incidents of child sexual abuse.
- Understand the pro-active role youth-serving agencies need to take to protect children and to educate their communities about child sexual abuse.

(For more information on the Stewards of Children program, or to find trainings or facilitators in your area, visit <http://www.darkness2light.org>.)

Adapted from information produced by Greater Richmond SCAN, a Stewards of Children facilitator. (www.grscan.com)