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Stop It Now!

Together We Can Prevent the Sexual Abuse of Children

NEWS

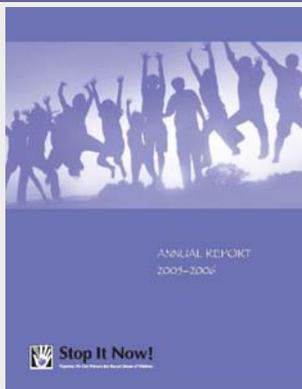
January 2007

A New Year for Prevention

In this issue

- [NEW! Annual Report](#)
- [NEW! Online safety resources](#)
- [Amplifying prevention messages](#)
- [Are policies working?](#)
- [Now! is a 'helpful web resource'](#)
- [Your support matters](#)
- [An awareness 'racing' event](#)

NEW! Annual Report



Our [2005-2006 Annual Report](#) is now available. The report offers an overview of the Stop It Now! message, network and programs – and highlights the accomplishments of the past year. You will find evidence that our strategies to attack the underlying causes of child sexual abuse are effective – and are catching on. International interest

Dear Friend,

Happy New Year! As we begin another year, we always find new ways to feel refreshed and hopeful in this work. One boost came recently from a person who called the Helpline again (*after eight years!*) to report on the progress in her family since that initial call.

"You were integral in helping our family, in helping us get educated about the reality of the problem, helping us understand the power of the denial and what we needed to do...Your materials are so helpful." (used with permission)

Thank you to everyone who responded so generously to our Year End Appeal. We exceeded our financial goal, and are especially grateful for the generosity of several new major donors. If you haven't yet become a Stop It Now! donor - or renewed your support - please [make a gift now](#). We will use your investments wisely.

This issue of [Now! NEWS](#) includes new resources, program updates and upcoming events. Stay tuned for news about the 2006 Helpline review, release of updated and expanded guides, our presentation to a Council of State Governments Legislative Briefing - and more news from the field.

Thank you for your ideas, commitment and support.

Together we *can* prevent the sexual abuse of children.

in Stop It Now! has never been greater

If you received a copy of the Annual Report in the mail last month, we hope you have a chance to read it. **The growth and breadth of activities in the Now! network is a testimony to what you - our supporters and allies - have helped build.**

You can read the report online or email us to request a print copy (communications@stopitnow.org).

[Read the Annual Report](#)

Quick Links...

- [About Stop It Now!](#)
- [Letter from our Founder](#)
- [Stories of Hope](#)
- [Make a donation](#)
- [FAQs about child sexual abuse](#)

Join our mailing list!

NEW! Online safety resources



[The Internet and Children - What's the problem?](#) is the title of a new guide published by our sister organization, [Stop It Now! UK & Ireland](#). This valuable guide

encourages people to question their own use of Internet technologies and to seek advice. It contains the information needed to recognize the signs that someone may be using these new technologies in sexually inappropriate or harmful ways and enables people to build up confidence to do something about it. It also offers tips about how to help children stay safe online.

We at Stop It Now! (USA) have developed a brief, supplemental resource list for US audiences called [Resources for Keeping Adults and Children Safe on the Internet](#). The resources are organized under the following headings:

- Prevention resources for families
- If you are concerned about your own or someone else's behavior online
- Reporting Internet crime

The volume of "Internet safety" advice, information and technologies has expanded rapidly - especially in response to fears about social networking sites like MySpace. Our manageable selection of resources is informed directly by our experiences addressing the needs of Helpline callers, working with communities, and cooperating with those in allied fields.

[Access resources for keeping safe online](#)

Amplifying prevention messages



We love it when our materials are reproduced or adapted for specific audiences by others.

Last month, our Holiday Recipe for Prevention was picked up by the Minnesota chapter of Prevent Child Abuse America, who featured it as the [cover story of their current newsletter](#). Last fall our program reports and guide for grandparents were reprinted in the [Crime Victims Report](#), a publication of the Civic Research Institute. We are grateful for our decade of cooperation with the Institute and its editors.

The Civic Research Institute also publishes [Sex Offender Law Report](#) and other specialized [publications on interpersonal violence](#).

“Community re-entry recast as prevention,” an article by our Public Policy Director, Deborah Donovan Rice, appeared in the Aug/Sept issue of *Sex Offender Law Report*. To read this article, subscribe to our Policy Update list or contact Deborah (policy@stopitnow.org).

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[Scan our archive of commentaries](#)

Are policies working?



Policy updates are now a regular feature of our effort to contribute to the conversation on how to create safer communities

and inform advocates for the movement to prevent child sexual abuse.

Leaders and citizens who are informed about policies related to child sexual abuse have never been more important

Why? Because current legislative action meant to increase community safety and prevent sexual violence - although well intended - is not supported by evidence that these policies are effective.

More restrictive residency laws have had the unintended effect of making it more difficult for sex offenders to succeed in re-entering the community. For example, a survey of sex offenders in Florida indicated that housing restrictions increased isolation, created financial and emotional stress, and led to decreased stability (Levenson & Cotter. 2005. The impact of sex offender residence restrictions: 1,000 feet from danger or one step from absurd? *Int. Jnl. of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*, 49(2): 168- 178)

We were recently contacted by Kate Fitch of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to

Children (UK) about the impact of community notification and sex offender registry laws enacted in the US. Her **review of US policies** includes five US state case studies, along with key findings and analyses. *She found no evidence that widely releasing sex offender information to the public prevents sexual crimes.* The report also emphasizes the need for a broader debate about preventing sexual abuse including public education and increased treatment resources.

For more information about this report, **subscribe to our Policy Updates** or email Deborah at policy@stopitnow.org.

For an overview of the issue see Lori Robertson's **article, "States Aim to Stop Sex Offenders, Will New Laws Keep Children Safe?"** in *The Children's Beat* (Fall/Winter, 2006).

[Read "States Aim to Stop Sex Offenders.."](#)

Now! is a 'helpful web resource'

We recently learned that Now! has been included as a "Helpful Web Resource" in a new a new book about keeping safe on the internet. *Look Both Ways: Help Protect Your Family on the Internet* "teaches the simple steps families can take to help identify and avoid Internet dangers and enjoy their time online (Press release, PRWeb, 12/13/06)."



More about the book and its author, Linda Criddle, can be found at www.look-both-ways.com.

REMINDER: References by Stop It Now! to outside resources do not constitute an endorsement or imply a verification of the information, services or products advertised or described therein.

Your support matters



Your financial support matters to thousands of individuals and families that are doing the hard work of preventing sexual abuse before children are harmed.

You are helping spread the resources and tools that adults need to create safe and nurturing environments for our children. Through the Helpline, you are helping to guide and support adults to protect children from sexual abuse. *What could be more valuable?*

Please do what you can to support our work to prevent child sexual abuse. Invest in prevention today.

[Make a donation today](#)

An awareness 'racing' event



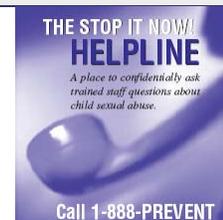
On April 14, 2007, [Stop the Silence](#), a child sexual abuse prevention organization working in the **Washington DC** area, will hold its fourth annual **International Race to**

Stop the Silence. The Race includes a 10K Race, a 2.25 mile Fun Run/Walk, and a 1K Kids' Fun Run. The event raises awareness and helps fund support services in the District and Northern Virginia, as well as outreach to media and policy makers.

[Find out more about the race](#)

Share our resources

Visit stopitnow.org to access the information, resources and support you need to protect a children in your family, neighborhood and community.



From [our website](#), you can email key resource pages to others – or use the Forward email link at the bottom of this message to introduce us.

If you need to help with a personal matter or have specific questions about preventing child sexual abuse, we encourage you to [contact the Helpline](#) (1.888.PREVENT), 9AM-6PM EST, Mon-Fri.

[Review our prevention resources](#)

Email: info@stopitnow.org
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WWW <http://www.stopitnow.org>

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