



# Honor Thy Children

*Archdiocese of Louisville continuing education for the awareness and prevention of child abuse*

## ABUSERS COME IN MANY FORMS

*Prevention starts with understanding*

While there are herculean efforts that take place each day that prevent child abuse, it unfortunately occurs on a daily basis. According to ChildHelp.org the United States loses between 4 and 7 children a day to child abuse and neglect and it comes in several different forms. For example, just in the first half of May alone the following stories were in the news. One involving a brain surgeon and nurse; another an active duty airman in the military and thirdly a trusted home day care worker. All in positions of trust, who many would not have suspected being potential abusers.

- (FROM NBCBAYAREA.COM)  
"Three Arrests in Child Abuse Case Involving Santa Cruz Neurosurgeon, Nurses. Court documents show Emily Joy Stephens was arrested May 12 in Tucson, Arizona on six felony child sex abuse charges involving three children under the age of 10 and three children under 14, the Santa

Cruz Sentinel reported Wednesday. Stephens is accused along with Dr. James Kohut, who was arrested Sunday at his home in Santa Cruz, and nurse Rashel Brandon, arrested May 9 in nearby Watsonville."



- (FROM WITN.COM) "An airman stationed at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base has been charged after his nearly one month old daughter was taken to the hospital with serious injuries. Goldsboro police say Airman 1st Class Eric Schmidt was charged this afternoon with felony child abuse with serious bodily injuries."

- FROM (KTTS.COM) "A woman from Republic, who was running an unlicensed daycare in her home, has

been charged with abuse. Prosecutors say Samantha Dillbeck is accused of causing head trauma to 8-month-old Grayson Barnhart while he was under her care. Dillbeck told investigators Grayson had fallen over multiple times from a seated position the same day the toddler was found unresponsive by emergency responders."

This further validates why we have to continue to be vigilant when it comes to protecting our children. It is imperative that all persons working with children and the elderly have been properly screened and attend the Safe Environment Training. In the training participants are taught how to be on the lookout for signs of abuse and what to do if you suspect abuse. For a complete list of Safe Environment

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### If you need support or someone to talk to:

- ☉ Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky or Indiana: 800.CHILDREN/800.422.4453 www.pcaky.org www.pcaain.org
- ☉ Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline 800.4.A.CHILD 800.422.4453 www.childhelp.org

### Signs of Possible Sexual Abuse

- Unexplained pain, itching, redness or bleeding in the genital area
- Increased nightmares or bedwetting
- Withdrawn behavior
- Angry outbursts/mood swings
- Loss of appetite or difficulty swallowing
- Sudden/unexplained avoidance of certain people or places
- Sexual knowledge, language or behavior that is unusual for the child's age.

*Cont...(Many Forms) page 2*

# HONOR THY CHILDREN TRAINING

Those employed or volunteering with youth must undergo a background check every 5 years as well as attend the "Honor Thy Children Training" that addresses child abuse, how to recognize it and how to report it. See your parish/school Safe Environment Coordinator if you have not sat-

isfied either of these requirements. The "Honor Thy Children" training is a one time requirement and is normally completed within 30 days of beginning service. Each training session lasts 2 hours. The background check MUST be completed BEFORE any service/employment begins.

## MANY FORMS (CONT.)

Trainings visit [www.archlou.org/safe](http://www.archlou.org/safe) Did you know that Kentucky is a "Mandatory Reporting State"? That means in Kentucky, all people, including a physician or nurse are required to report any abuse or neglect of a child, a spouse or a vulnerable adult. Reports should be made to your local Department for Community Based Services (DCBS) Office or the state-wide hotline at 1.800.752.6200 or of

course you can always reach out to the Archdiocese Victim Assistance Coordinator Martine Siegel either by phone 502.636.1044 or via email ([msiegel@archlou.org](mailto:msiegel@archlou.org))

## SILENT ABUSE

### *ARTICLE CREDIT TO Marie Hartwell-Walker, Ed.D.*

It's a silent problem. While newspapers and TV news shows regularly highlight stories of child physical and sexual abuse, the companion problem, child neglect, hardly gets a mention. Neglect, unless accompanied by pictures of squalor or emaciated kids, is much harder to capture in a headline or sound bites. Abuse is active and often characterized by violence and exploitation. Neglect is passive and often characterized by depression and resignation. Abuse makes a better news story.

But neglect is the bigger problem. In 2005, almost 900,000 children were victims of maltreatment. More than half — 63 percent — were victims of neglect. Less than 12 percent of substantiated cases involved child sexual abuse. Further, while child abuse steadily declined from 1990 to 2005,

the incidence of neglect didn't go down at all. Sadly, it is the youngest children who are most likely to be neglected. Linda grew up as the oldest of eight kids in rural Connecticut. "My mother needed the kind of love that babies give. Once a kid started to be at all independent, she was done with him. Looking back, I know she was mentally ill. But at the time, I just thought that babies were mom's job and everyone else was mine. I give my dad some credit. At least he worked steady and supported us but he was either working or drinking so he was no help at home."



Although her parents brought home bags of groceries now and then, Linda and her siblings never had a meal prepared for them. They foraged in the cupboards. Mom did do some laundry but Linda can't remember ever having clean sheets or a clean house. While their mother rocked the current baby, the other kids were left on their own. The kids did what they wanted when they wanted. "It's a wonder we didn't get hurt more often," says Linda. "It was only when we all regularly showed up at school with head lice that protec-

### UPCOMING TRAININGS

A current list of trainings is always available at [www.archlou.org/safe](http://www.archlou.org/safe) All trainings are at 6:30p unless otherwise indicated.

5.31.17

*St. Helen (Glasgow)*

*6:00 p.m. local time*

*7:00 p.m. Louisville time*

6.5.17

*St. Margaret Mary*

6.15.17

*St. Christopher - Radcliff*

6.19.17

*St. Leonard*

*Always be sure to check [archlou.org/safe](http://archlou.org/safe) for a complete list. Dates are subject to change and of course weather delays also effect training dates*

*Cont...(Silent) page 3*

## SILENT (CONT...)

tive services finally got involved." I've been seeing Linda for therapy for several years. Never having had order or structure or basic necessities, she finds it difficult to organize her things, manage a schedule or maintain a healthy lifestyle. Never having had love or support from her parents, she finds it difficult to love, to trust, or to reciprocate in relationships. Neglect is the failure of caregivers to provide needed age-appropriate care. In a family like Linda's, there is often both physical and psychological neglect. Physical neglect is the failure to provide the basic necessities of food, shelter and clothing. It also includes the failure to provide needed medical care or adequate supervision. As a result, the kids are at risk for malnutrition, illness, and physical harm. Having never experienced good care, they may become adults who often don't know how to care for themselves or others. Psychological neglect, though less obvious, is just as serious. Children who are constantly ignored, rejected, threatened, or belittled grow up without the inner resources that everyone needs to cope with difficult times. When children get little or no affection and physical comfort, they are

vulnerable to anyone who will give them attention. Often they become sitting ducks for people who exploit them.

Brett is trying to break a drug habit. "When did you start using?" I ask. "Oh, I think I was about eight," he replies.

"Eight?" After 35 years in this business, it takes a lot to surprise me but I still internally register some shock when I hear this kind of story.

"Yeah. My folks never looked out for us kids. They didn't like us much. We were expected to stay out of the house and out of their sight as long as it was light. The older guys in the neighborhood thought it was funny to get the younger kids stoned. We thought being included by the big guys was cool."

Brett is now 30 and trying to get his life together. Having been stoned for over 20 years, he lacks basic social skills, has low self-esteem, and can't shake a chronic depression. In many ways, his psychological development stopped at age 8.

## MONTHLY SAFE ENVIRONMENT TIP

*All coaches are required to have both the Safe Environment Training and a up-to-date background check (no older than 5 years old)*

*While Safe Environment Training isn't on the minds of many over summer break, it's actually an opportune time to complete the course and avoid the end of summer rush.*

*While not as frequent as fall, winter and spring classes, opportunities are available over the summer break for those who wish to satisfy this requirement. A complete listing can be found at [www.archlou.org/safe](http://www.archlou.org/safe)*



## CHILDHOOD ABUSE AND THE LONG TERM ECONOMIC EFFECT

### ARTICLE CREDIT - JANICE WOOD

People who suffer neglect and abuse in childhood are much more likely to have time off work due to long-term sickness and are less likely to own their own homes when they reach middle age, according to a new study. Published in the journal *Pediatrics* and undertaken as part of the Public Health Research Consortium, the study showed that the potential socio-economic impact of child neglect and

abuse may persist for decades. Researchers at University College London found that neglected children often had worse reading and mathematics skills in adolescence than their peers, which could hamper their ability to find work and progress in the job market. These factors did not explain the poorer standard of living for those reporting child abuse, the researchers noted.

For the study, the research team fol-

lowed 8,076 people from birth in 1958 until the age of 50, examining key socioeconomic indicators. A person's economic circumstances at the age of 50 are important because this is close to peak earning capacity in the U.K., the researchers explained. Poor living standards at this age can signal hardship and associated ill health during old age.

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No child or adult should ever experience abuse by anyone, especially a church minister. We all have the right to be treated with dignity and to expect our church to reflect the goodness of God in all of its dealings.

We hope that this information is helpful to all in our communities who are working to prevent and respond to childhood sexual abuse. Please let us know if you need further assistance or information by calling or emailing our victim assistance coordinator, Ms. Martine Siegel, at 502/636-1044; [victimassistance@archlou.org](mailto:victimassistance@archlou.org) or the Chancery at 502/585-3291.

We must heed God's call to care for the most vulnerable among us and to continue our efforts toward wholeness and health in dealing with sexual abuse.

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## ECONOMIC (CONT...)

The research found adults who had been neglected in childhood were approximately 70 percent more likely to have time off work due to long-term sickness and not own their home at 50 years, compared to their peers who had not suffered from child abuse and neglect.

Also, the risk of a poor outcome was greatest for people experiencing multiple types of child maltreatment. For example those experiencing two or more types of child maltreatment, such as child neglect and physical abuse, had more than double

the risk of long-term sickness absence from work, compared to those experiencing no maltreatment.



“Our findings suggest that maltreated children grow up to face socioeconomic disadvantage. This is im-

portant because such disadvantage could, in turn, influence the health of individuals affected and also that of their children,” said Dr. Snehal Pinto Pereira of the UCL Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health, who led the research.

“As well as highlighting the importance of prevention of maltreatment in childhood, our research identified poor reading and mathematics skills as a likely connecting factor from child neglect to poor adult outcomes. This suggests that action is needed to improve and support these abilities in neglected children.”