

ANNUAL REPORT 2012

Idaho
Children's
Trust Fund

Preventing Child Abuse In Idaho



The Children's Trust works...

...To prevent child sexual abuse

The Treasure Valley Initiative

"Their failure to protect the ... child victim, or make attempts to identify him, created a dangerous situation for other unknown, unsuspecting young boys who were lured to the Penn State campus and football games by Sandusky and victimized repeatedly by him."

This excerpt from former FBI Director Louis Freeh's report on the sexual abuse scandal at Penn State was just one piece of a multi-month unraveling of the events that eventually led to the arrest and imprisonment of former football coach, Jerry Sandusky and the firing of Head coach, Joe Paterno and the college's president. As the year went on, the more we realized that what had happened there could happen anywhere – including here in Idaho – if we do nothing to prevent it.

Although the Children's Trust and our Partners have been training and educating about child sexual abuse prevention for several years, the tragedy at Penn State made us realize that we had to go deeper and move quicker than we had been doing previously. What emerged from this realization was a commitment from community leaders and partners, especially the YMCA, to educate and mobilize a large number of adults to become catalysts to end child sexual abuse..

The Treasure Valley Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Initiative is a wide scale education and mobilization plan to train 5 % of the adult population of the Valley in the next five years using the evidenced based curriculum created by Darkness to Light called Stewards of Children. Reaching 22,500 adults is a tipping point laying the groundwork for widespread adoption and can change the societal norm around child sexual abuse.

We say enough. Enough secrecy and shame. Enough cover-ups. And enough prioritizing institutional reputations over doing the right things by children. If not us, who? If not now, when?

prevention

...To build protective factors

Resiliency. We talk about it as a protective factor for all families. We think of it as the ability to bounce back from tough times. It is the courage to deal with whatever comes at us — especially when it comes to providing the best for children.

Families that are resilient have hopes and dreams and skills to solve their own problems. **Research tells us that parents who are resilient are far less likely to abuse or neglect their children.**

In our prevention work at the Idaho Children's Trust Fund, we work with our partners to teach and learn how to build resiliency in parents and children. We know that resiliency can be built when families and individuals are encouraged and validated for their strengths, when we support their decision making and guide problem solving, and when they receive support for taking care of themselves. Individuals as well as programs can provide this support.

The need for resiliency, and the other supporting protective factors, is universal. No matter what culture or surroundings we come from, we all need the same things to raise happy, healthy children: nurture, supportive friends and families, our basic needs met, a few parenting skills in our bag of tricks.

"Don't worry about where you start. It's not about where you start," says the Reverend Darrell Armstrong, who was the keynote speaker at our annual Strengthening Families Training Institute. "It's about where you finish." And it is resiliency that makes that true. Without it, we are forever carrying our burdens around; with it we can overcome almost anything.



...To make people aware

Child Abuse Prevention Month: Let's Talk about It!

In April 2012, the Idaho Children's Trust Fund/Prevent Child Abuse Idaho decided to partner with domestic violence groups throughout the state to create a Child Abuse Prevention and Sexual Assault Awareness Month commemoration. Pinwheels covered the Statehouse steps as the kick-off rally began with a proclamation from the Governor on the Capitol steps. Approximately 150 people attended the rally to hear speeches from statewide child abuse prevention and domestic violence groups discussing their efforts to keep families strong and children safe. At the end of the rally, all attendees joined hands to form a human chain on the capitol steps to show their combined support for the Pinwheels for Prevention campaign.

The overarching theme of this year's campaign was "Let's Talk About It, Idaho." Abuse, and especially sexual abuse, is often swept under the rug because it is too difficult for many people to talk about. This theme was chosen to create more

awareness, bring the subject out in the light and make people more comfortable with discussing this important issue. The campaign was a successful step in the right direction because "when we start talking about it, we start being aware, we start being knowledgeable, you know then we can start doing something about it" said Roger Sherman, the Executive Director of the Idaho Children's Trust Fund/Prevent Child Abuse Idaho.

The campaign reached more people and organizations this year than ever before.



Head start students in Twin Falls catch up to Walk for Prevention

awareness

...To provide funding to community based programs

The Children's Trust provides funding to programs throughout the state that identify and build protective factors to increase the well-being of families and the long term outcomes for children and the communities in which they live. Believing that all parents want the best for their children, ICTF programs work alongside parents, listening to what they need and how to best provide for those needs.

The Multi Year Grantees, in their second of three years, measured the impact of their programs in terms of protective factor growth.

- **Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development**

82% of parents reported that they were more capable of soothing their child when they were upset.

- **Social Connections**

98% reported that they knew how to develop and maintain healthy relationships with peers

- **Parental Resilience**

85% felt their ability to talk about problems had increased.

91% felt like they were a more confident parent.

- **Social and Emotional Competence**

57% of parents anticipate age appropriate responses from their children.

Even with these significant increases in knowledge, attitude and behavior, parent participants continue to ask for more parenting support, positive and effective discipline strategies and opportunities to talk together with other parents. And one program director from Idaho Falls wrote about the year, saying "I have learned that it is the small seemingly insignificant things that often do the most to support a family – a home visit, a word of affirmation, helping a toddler, providing a daily parenting class, sharing insights. I learn something new every day from the families; we grow strong together." This is exactly what ICTF programs do EVERYDAY.



...To bring recognition to exemplary programs

2012 Ed Van Dusen Legacy Award: Giving hope and support to strengthen families

"The Navigators across the state represent a group of very committed people who are called to "think outside the box" to advocate, problem solve and assist some of our most vulnerable alumni of [foster] care, kinship families, or birth families," said Robin Sanchez, Deputy Director of Casey Family Programs in Boise, in support of the Resource and Service Navigation/Kinship Care program's successful bid to be awarded the annual Ed Van Dusen Legacy Award. "In every instance the Navigators are responsive, helpful and most importantly engaging of our families. There have been countless times staff in our office [at Casey] that have requested assistance from a Navigator to assist our clients."

"Across the state, Navigators are at the table as partners working together in their communities to improve the community's responsiveness to families in need. Not only are Navigators expected to be of support in helping clients navigate services within the Department, they are expected to be engaged and involved in helping families access community resources. This safety net of support for vulnerable families has proven to offer hope and guidance to families when they are at their most desperate point.

"In these very challenging times when resources are limited and families are challenged, families experience support, connections, and witness advocacy on their behalf. Giving hope and support to families can and does strengthen families; Navigators are at the front line doing this work every day," Sanchez concluded.

The Ed Van Dusen Legacy Award for Exemplary Practice in Child Abuse Prevention is awarded each year by the Idaho Children's Trust Fund board to one organization that exemplifies the commitment and effectiveness personified in the life of the late Ed Van Dusen.

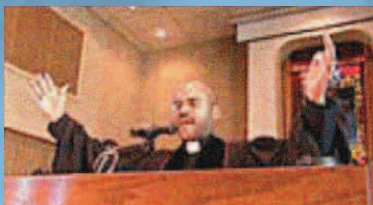


...to build a prevention community

2012 Strengthening Families Training Institute: Developing a "Mindset of Resilience"

"We can't incarcerate, adjudicate, nor medicate our way out of this problem...we must focus on 'preventing' our way out of this problem!" ~The Rev. Darrell L. Armstrong

Darrell Armstrong led off the 13th annual Strengthening Families Training Institute with his personal story of 13 years in foster care and kinship care in the Los Angeles County public child welfare system and how he overcame his family's demons of drug abuse, mental illness, domestic violence and the stigma of public welfare and assistance. In articulating his mindset of resilience he provided insight into overcoming the ravages of child abuse, neglect, abandonment and maltreatment.



The Institute attracted over 200 people from around Idaho to learn about various aspects of prevention of child abuse and neglect. People were trained to be facilitators of the Stewards of Children curriculum to prevent child sexual abuse and to be Nurturing Parenting trainers. Participants learned about how to prevent shaken baby syndrome and about the relationship between intimate partner violence and child abuse. They learned that neglect is the most prevalent form of child maltreatment and the least understood. Practitioners learned from each other through open forums, over meals and organized presentations.

Participants left with a mission "to think about a solution-based approach, a positive approach that isn't focused on the past, but focuses on the future," as articulated by Reverend Armstrong.

SETI 2012

...For Idaho's children

A Consistent Voice for Prevention

The Idaho Children's Trust Fund is the consistent voice for child abuse prevention in Idaho. Recognized nationally, the Idaho Trust Fund staff use best practices in collaboration and prevention to give voice to the prevention work. Without the numerous partners across the State, the prevention work would not get done. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to all of

our grantees, partners and collaborators who put children and their families first.

It is an unfortunate reality that it always seems like there is more to do to strengthen families, to prevent child abuse and neglect, to ensure that all children have the happy healthy childhood they all deserve. By being a consistent presence through funding, training and convening and by holding up best practices we chip away at the

problem year by year to achieve the brightest outcomes for ALL of Idaho's children. We invite you to be a part of these efforts.

Roger, Wickes and Shelli are the staff who work tirelessly to ensure that the welfare of Idaho's Children is kept in the forefront. On behalf of the Board, we're honored to work side by side with you.

We look forward to the coming year.

Mary Marshall | Board Chair

Created by the Idaho Legislature in 1985, the Idaho Children's Trust Fund is governed by a ten member board of directors appointed by the Governor and representing every region of the state.

Trust Fund financials by the numbers

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Total Trust Fund Principal | \$1,320,810 |
| Interest Earned..... | \$34,402 |
| Grants Given Out..... | \$66,000 |
| Donations and other income received..... | \$98,056 |
| Grants Received | \$223,100 |

*Detail available on request.

Thank you

to all who made donations
to the Idaho Children's
Trust Fund in 2012!