



THE VOICE

Community Advocates for Family & Youth

Youth Court Education Program Now Adult Courtroom Education Session

Since November, 2003, CAFY's Youth Court Education Program (YCEP) has assisted 175 children prepare to face their perpetrator in court and tell a jury of strangers details of the crime they suffered. Conducted as a group or one-on-one, YCEP is a non-evidentiary witness preparation for youth ages 4-17, and their non-offending parent on the court process and protocol.

YCEP has been recognized by the Governor's Office as an outstanding victim services program and by the Maryland Alliance for Children as the only non-evidentiary youth victim witness service in Maryland.

To continue building a successful court education program, CAFY now works to also educate the **adult victim**, who is often involved in the court system through no fault of their own. Adult victims also need to understand the process, the protocol, and how to be an effective

witness to hold their accuser accountable. In September, 2005, CAFY launched our "**Adult Courtroom Education**" program for adult victims and witnesses, 18 years and older. Our pilot program in September registered 13 adult victims and witnesses and the November 19, 2005 session registered 11.

The focus is on adults who want to actively participate in the criminal justice system and take ownership of the self-initiated process. Once educated in the non-evidentiary process, the victims are now empowered and ready to testify. Some comments from the Adults who attended ACEP include "the most helpful part of the program was:

- "Understanding the difference of what would be asked of you on the stand"
- "I actually got to experience what it is really going to be like on the witness stand"

- "Knowing that I can write the victim impact statement"
- "The relaxed information shared by the Judge and the State's Attorney".

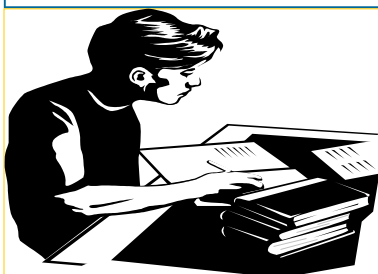
At CAFY, we believe we are one step closer to our goal—to **become the victim service provider of choice in Prince George's County**.

Our thanks to the Judges and the State's Attorney's Office for their commitment to make **Youth Court Education** and **Adult Courtroom Education** – programs that meet the needs of Prince George's County victims of crime.

YCEP and **ACEP** are open to all victims of crime occurring in Prince George's County. If we can help, please call 301-390-4092.

Sincerely,
Arleen B. Joell
Executive Director

"Empower & Embrace Our Youth Victims and Witnesses—2006"



Save the Date

Wednesday, April 19, 2006
Prince George's Community College
Largo Student Center
6:00 P. M.

Community Advocates For Family & Youth

Wish List for Youth Victim Witnesses:

- Tablets Folders
- Teen Books Journals
- Snacks Water
- Juice Packs Pens

Items for Parents

- Cookbooks Note Cards
- Calendars Journals

Program Needs

- Office space
- Group Meeting Space
- Become a CAFY Sponsor

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Holiday Shopping Safety Tips



"Unfortunately crooks and criminals don't take a holiday at this time of year."

"The three A's of crime prevention:

Be **Aware** of your surroundings

Be **Alert** to suspicious people and vehicles

and

Avoid dangerous

These tips can help keep you, your friends, and your family safe throughout the chaos and fun of the holidays. Unfortunately crooks and criminals don't take a holiday at this time of year. Follow the guidelines below to steer clear of trouble.

- ✦ Is it absolutely necessary to carry a purse or bag at all times? A wallet or credit card in a pocket would be less tempting.
- ✦ Carry only the amount of cash or credit cards that you need.
- ✦ Avoid carrying a lot of packages, it can make you look defenseless. Place all packages and gifts in the locked trunk of your vehicle.
- ✦ Avoid follow-home strong-arm robberies. As you drive home with your trunk full of gifts, look for potential danger *before* entering your driveway. Do not enter your driveway if a suspicious vehicle has fol-

lowed you. Go to the nearest safe location, or an area where there are people and call the police.

- ✦ If you are confronted in your driveway, remain in your locked car with your windows up and blow your horn.
- ✦ The distance from your car to your front door is "no man's land". And make sure the walkways, doorways, and driveways around your home are well lit.
- ✦ If someone attacks you, just give up the property. If you are afraid your attacker will knock you down, sit down. **There is nothing in your purse, wallet, or shopping bags worth serious injury or death!**
- ✦ When using the ATM, make sure that it is in a well lit location. Go directly to your car and count the cash in your vehicle, not at the ATM.

- ✦ Trust your instincts. If you suspect something is wrong, or if a situation seems dangerous, you may be right! Don't dismiss suspicious people, cars, or situations. Report them immediately.
- ✦ At home, do not display all your gifts where they can be seen from a window or doorway.
- ✦ Going on vacation for the holidays? Have a friend or family member check on your home and leave emergency contact information with them.
- ✦ Beware of holiday con-games and fraud schemes
- ✦ **Call 9-1-1 for EMERGENCY and PGCPD's NON EMERGENCY number 301-333-4000) .**

Our thanks to Prince George's County & Laurel Police Departments for lending us their tips



COPING WITH THE HOLIDAYS

AFTER THE DEATH OF A LOVED ONE OR WHEN YOU ARE A VICTIM/CRIME SURVIVOR



An excerpt, *You Can Make it Through the Holidays*" authored by **Janice Harris Lord**.

Holidays are difficult for many of us. And, then there are many among us who struggle with sadness around the "holidays when a friend or family has experienced a tragedy such as a sudden violent death or a serious physical or emotional injury.. Victims of crime, family members, friends, and work colleagues may re-experience life-changing traumas through flashbacks, nightmares, and overwhelming sadness. Some have trouble sleeping, while others don't want to get out of bed. Tears may come easily, often when least ex-

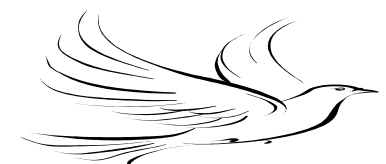
pected. Old ailments, including headaches, gastrointestinal problems, and other aches and pains may return. Many victims and families, however, have found that holidays can be manageable if *they take charge of the season, rather than letting it take charge of them.*

Families who have made this difficult journey offer some suggestions to help those who may be just starting down this path.

- ⇒ Change Traditions
- ⇒ Create a Special Tribute
- ⇒ Deliberately Notice the Positive
- ⇒ Relive Fond Memories

- ⇒ Balance Solitude with Sociability
- ⇒ Protect Your Health
- ⇒ Consider Carefully Where to spend the Holiday
- ⇒ Call Upon Available Resources

To view in its entirety go to <http://www.ovc.gov/publications/holidaytips/welcome.html>



If Mom Only Knew.

Feelings of a Victim Following Her Delayed Disclosure.

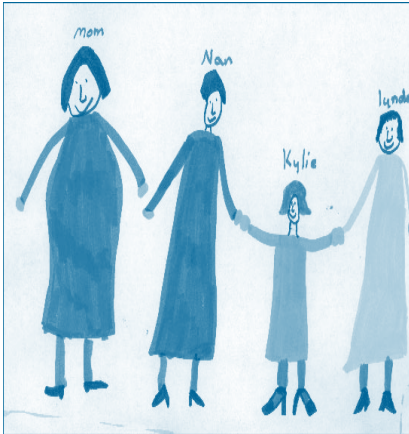


illustration by Kylie

If mom only knew,
Back in the old house,
Some of the things I had to go through.
I couldn't even start to tell you,
Some of the terrible abuse I had to live through.

Daddy started it when I was a little girl,
At the age of two.
He would always threaten to say,
Never ever tell mom or else you'll pay.

I never said a word about this to anyone,
I wanted to tell someone, to tell mom.
I never told anyone for many years,
Because I was constantly living in fear.

He did a lot of terrible things to me,
Unfortunately no one else could see.
He'd start by doing the tickling game,
Sadly I would always end up in physical and emotional pain.
Sometimes he'd come in my room late at night,

He would think I was sleeping, and he wouldn't be in sight.
I knew what he was doing and I knew he was there,
But I didn't move or say a word,
because I was too scared.

I use to think what he did was okay.
Deep down in my heart I felt he was doing wrong,
Because later in life I knew he'd pay.
One day I finally told mom,

When I felt safe and when he was gone.
She hugged me and cried, I did too.
She said to me I'm so sorry for
If I had only knew.

By Jennifer

Community Advocates for Family & Youth! would not exist without the support of sponsors. These supporters have contributed to our organization so that we can continue to reach troubled children, youth and victims who need help. We appreciate their donations and hope that you'll take the time to explore the various ways that our sponsors has enabled CAFY to maintain our programs.

- * Eureka Communities
- * NAI, Michael Companies
- * Metro Teens

- * Family Crisis Center, Prince George's County
- * Coalition of 100 Black Women

Community Forum
Victim Services In Prince
George's County

March, 2006.
Join us

Educating the community on victim services available to citizens involved in a crime through no fault of their own.

Calling for partners in the Forum
Call or email for an agency application
301-390-4092
CommunityAdvocates@comcast.net

“ Children know the truth. Love is not an emotion; love is behavior.”
-Andrew Vachss

“Create a shared vision of a safe environment for children.”



COMMUNITY ADVOCATES FOR FAMILY & YOUTH—You Can HELP

Child sexual abuse (CSA) is a silent epidemic throughout our county, state, United States and the world, creating social havoc - for the children, adult survivors, and society. It can be prevented and it can be treated, **but** a conscious and sustained effort is essential.

CSA is everyone's problem. Survivors of CSA are vastly over represented among certain populations affecting all those around them, our society as a whole, and the cost to our systems (billions each year). Statistics show that:

- 73 percent of prostitutes were sexually

- abused before the age of 16;
- 83 percent of convicted killers (men and women) were physically and emotionally abused as children, and 32.2 percent were sexually abused;
- 60 percent of teenage mothers were sexually abused as children;
- 43 percent of runaways are sexually abused;

CAFY is a 501c3 non-profit organization working with individuals, community organizations and faith-based organizations to raise awareness and funds to provide direct assistance to CSA victims and survivors. Help us make a difference

donate time, resources, funds, space, or supplies.

Youth Delegates to U.N. Special Session on Children, May2002— “We are the victims of exploitation and abuse... you call us the future, but we are also the present...we are children whose voices are not being heard: it is time we are taken into account...”

For more information, call 301-390-4092 or email CommunityAdvocates@comcast.net.
ID: 20-2416443.

Community Advocates for Family & Youth
P. O. Box 4419
Capitol Heights, MD 20791



People taking time to change the world by making extraordinary contributions

Contact Us:

Phone: 301.390.4092

Fax: 301.249.1805

E-mail: CommunityAdvocates@comcast.net

www.communityadvocates.info (coming soon)

Community Advocates for Family & Youth

A 501c3 IRS tax exempt organization dedicated to assisting victims of crime to regain control of their lives after the trauma of crime. Our mission is to improve the outcome for victims by helping them prevail through advocacy, education, and support.

Our Core Services

Victim Services: We act as a ConstantLink through the criminal justice process offering case management, court companionship, court preparation, and victim impact statement assistance. CAFY is currently working on forming Victim Impact Panels.

Restoration Session: Through discussion and mediation session we facilitate reunification sessions for families with at-risk youth or youth returning from victimization or detention.

Outreach Education: For Youth and Families; We provide Community education such as:

- Youth Court Education and Parent Court Awareness
- Adult Courtroom Education Sessions
- *Helping Youth Succeed in Court*
- *Identity Theft for Seniors* and
- Knowing Your Rights

Each session is a collaborative effort with other agencies in our county serving citizens to help make our community healthy.

CAFY Events:

Cultural Exchange , Welcome to America, sponsored by GapBuster Learning Center, Inc on **December 4, 2005**. This year's theme focus is educating South Africa youth on Youth Challenges in America.

Youth Court Education Program—To educate youth between the ages of 4-17 on what it means to be a witness in the judiciary system. The next session is **January 21, 2006**. If you are working with youth who will be witnesses in a Maryland or DC court , you can register them for YCEP. Call or email to register your youth.

Adult Courtroom Education - To educate adults, 18 and over, on becoming an effective witness and courtroom protocol. The next session is **February 25, 2006**.

Victim Services Forum—March, 2006. Educating our community on victim services available to crime victims of Prince George's County. A Call for Forum Participants, contact CAFY.

Empowering Youth Victims and Witnesses—2006—April 19, 2006. Prince George's Community College. Vendors Welcome. Silent Auction Items needed.

CAFY Volunteers — If you are interested in giving back to your community, Volunteer for CAFY, call for information.