



Family & Children's Place

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Family & Children's Place

We CAN because you ARE!

HANDS families celebrate 2016 annual picnic

Families from the HANDS program celebrated their annual picnic Friday, July 1.

The picnic, sponsored by agency friend and partner WellCare, had a carnival theme and featured games such as can toss, cake walk, bean bag toss, duck pond and plinko; face painting, snow cones and a visit by The Bubble Bug, a car that blows thousands of bubbles. Children got tickets to play games and win prizes.

Through HANDS (Health

Access Nurturing Development Services), Family Support Workers visit new and expectant parents in their homes to share tools, training and resources that provide their baby with a healthy, developmentally stimulating, safe and happy environment.

The visits help the families deal with the stresses that often accompany a new baby, which help reduce the risk of and prevent potential child abuse, and help them manage their own needs and their baby's as well.



Sexual exploitation of children increasing drastically

WASHINGTON (SINCLAIR BROADCAST GROUP) —

Studies published recently revealed that more children are being sexually exploited than ever before.

A two-year global study found that the sexual exploitation “is an endemic phenomenon throughout the world.”

“The report findings come despite a 20-year multi-sector effort to end the Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism (SECTT),” a release on the studies’ findings reads.

“The extent of SECTT has increased drastically and its nature has changed dramatically,” according to the global report.

The study was initiated by ECPAT International, a non-governmental organization with affiliates in 85 countries and based in Bangkok, Thailand.

Chair of ECPAT’s Board of Trustees, Carol Bellamy, called the study’s findings “a wake-up

call for public and private sector leaders in the United States and around the world.”

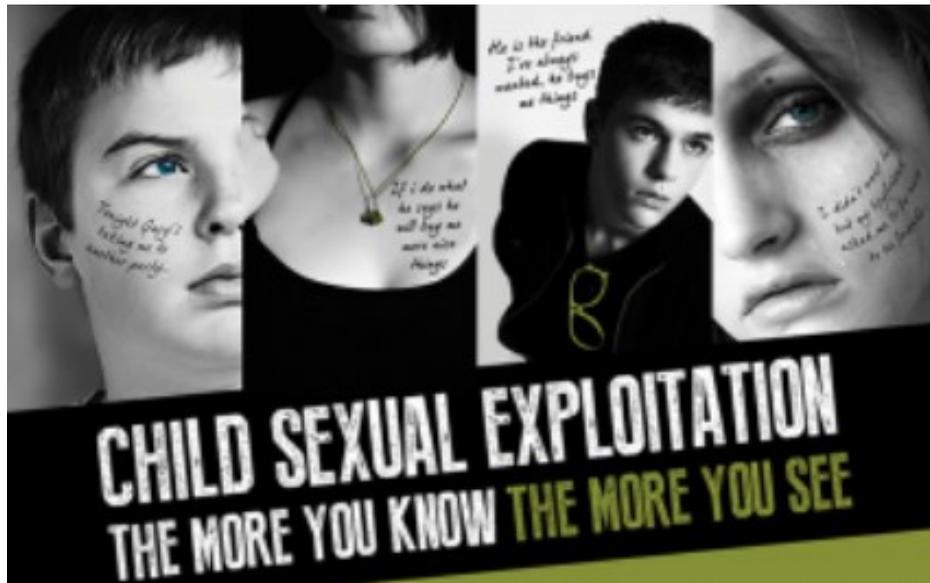
“We urge governments, regional and international bodies, the travel and tourism industry, the technology industry, law enforcement, non-governmental organizations and the public to heed the stark findings of this study and take action.”

The study reportedly “creates the largest data bank on SECTT and recommendations.”

Among the recommendations made were the expansion of rehabilitation services for victims, the creation of an “effective, proactive, global

system for law enforcement agencies to share information regarding offenders,” and converting the UN Tourism Code of Ethics into an international convention with worldwide ratification.”

For more information, please check out our blog at www.famchildplace.org.



Thompson: Special place in Heaven for agency teams

During a recent tour of Family & Children’s Place offices in Kentucky and Indiana, board member Gary Thompson noted that people focus so intently on the mission and work of the agency’s child advocacy centers – which specialize in serving child victims of sexual abuse – that they often overlook other important work, such as programs that help students and young people, homeless families, supervise visitations and children witness to or affected by domestic violence.

“We need to do a better job of connecting people to everything Family & Children’s Place does, to everyone we help,” he said, following a recent visit to Meyzeek Middle School to visit with students in the Collaborative Learning After School Program (CLASP), managed by the agency’s Family & School Services (FSS) team.

Thompson said he came away moved by the students and by how impactful the middle school-based program was.

“These are at-risk kids,”

he said, “but I was so moved by how respectful they were – to us as guests and to one another. I was touched by how engaged they were, how participatory in their own progress.”

Thompson said he was most moved by the sense of pride and purpose the students had.

“These students acted like they were under the impression that they had applied for or been accepted into this program,” though the truth was that most were referred

to CLASP by teachers or administrators.

“They (the students) didn’t see themselves at risk, or troubled or challenged. They approached everything with resolve, determined to succeed.

“And that’s just the FSS team and doesn’t consider or count the impact of our other programs. All make important differences in the lives of children and families and the quality of our communities every day,” he said.



On his visit to the Indiana offices, Thompson said he was moved by the passion, compassion and competence of the staff.

“There’s a special place in Heaven for the teams at Family & Children’s Place,” he said. “I couldn’t do what they do, so thank God there are people who do.”

