

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**July 20, 2010**



### **HelpLine to Offer Free Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Trainings in August**

**Mt. Gilead, OH** – Ninety percent of children who are sexually abused are violated by someone they know and trust including teachers, coaches, ministers, mentors, counselors, and parents. HelpLine of Delaware and Morrow Counties, Inc. (HelpLine) will offer Darkness to Light's, Stewards of Children - a free training to empower adults to prevent, recognize and react responsibly to child sexual abuse - on Wednesday, August 18 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 and August 25, 2010 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., at the Community Service Building, 619 W. Marion Road, Entrance B, Mt. Gilead, Ohio.

Designed for concerned parents, community members and organizations that serve children and youth, the training integrates the simple principles of choice, consciousness, and personal power to promote an understanding of the nature and impact of child sexual abuse. The curriculum is direct about holding each adult accountable, and generous in providing powerful, specific support for personal change.

"We know that most people feel very strongly about protecting and nurturing children, but often don't know what steps to take," said Julianna Nemeth, Prevention Director at HelpLine. "Stewards of Children will provide the tools, strategies and information that will empower adults to play an active role in the prevention of child sexual abuse."

A compelling video is the core of the curriculum, which includes the stories of several courageous individuals who were victims of sexual abuse as children and who have contributed a great deal of time and effort as adults toward ending the cycle of abuse.

Additionally, the training can be used by organizations that need to meet licensing and insurance requirements, while also providing three continuing education units to social workers and counselors who attend.

"If it takes a village to raise a child, it will take a community to protect one," said Nemeth. "Child sexual abuse is preventable and we hope that parents, caregivers and youth serving organizations will come away knowing that they are authorized to take an active role in shielding children from the risk."

Child sexual abuse has enormous costs: children are victimized, families are devastated, the reputations of organizations are destroyed, and insurance settlements are astronomical. Our community can't afford to ignore it and must protect their only childhood. For more information or to register, contact HelpLine at 1.866.367.5444.

#### **About HelpLine**

HelpLine of Delaware and Morrow Counties, Inc. is a private, non-profit organization that provides a 24-hour support and information line, prevention education and serves as the area's only volunteer center. Committed to empowering people through knowledge, support and resources, HelpLine responds to the emotional, financial and informational needs of the Delaware and Morrow County communities. HelpLine is a contract provider

of the Delaware-Morrow Mental Health & Recovery Services Board and partially funded by the Council for Older Adults. A United Way Agency, HelpLine is accredited by the American Association of Suicidology, National Alliance of Information & Referral Systems and certified by the Ohio Department of Mental Health. For more information, please visit: [www.HelpLinedelmor.org](http://www.HelpLinedelmor.org).

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