



The Watchful ShepherdSM U S A

Child Abuse Prevention

The Watchful Word.... By Donna Nardine, Executive Director

NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER 2016

“Be the change you want to see in the world.”

April is Child Abuse Awareness Month. It doesn't have to be April to have a serious discussion about the facts which provide the motivation and harsh reminder that child abuse and family violence are a reality for many. While physical scars may heal quickly, the emotional isolation and devastation can last a lifetime.

Watchful Shepherd USA works to deter volatile situations and gives families and child victims the security they need to live full and productive lives. But Watchful Shepherd's dedication and commitment does not end there. While part of our mission is to install the electronic alarm device and computer monitoring system in as many homes and emergency response centers as possible, the main goal is to protect children, prevent abuse and make a difference in communities.

The percentage of people aware of child abuse has greatly increased over the last decade. Media campaigns have educated the public about the problem and have influenced public opinion. Today, the general public realizes that everyone should play a part in preventing child abuse and neglect. With the increased awareness in our society there has come a substantial increase in reported cases of child abuse.

Since its inception in 1993, the Watchful Shepherd has served **hundreds of families and children**. The good news is that there have been **no deaths or injuries** related to child abuse in the homes where the Watchful Shepherd has been installed. It is explained to the families and the child victims that Watchful Shepherd would provide them with a wristband that could activate an electronic device that is installed in their home. The same technology has been used extensively with senior citizens in signaling emergency personnel for medical attention. This activates a computer monitoring system at our National Emergency Response Center on a 24-hour a day basis.

In addition to protecting a specific child from abuse in the home, the Watchful Shepherd also has proven beneficial for other family members where **family violence is pervasive**. Such security translates into significantly less day-to-day anxiety for the child and the entire family. Records indicate that there are very few false alarms. These children and families go to bed at night with us holding their hand. They can sleep at night because they know they are safe, that someone who cares is always close by.

Communities and our national emergency response center have adopted and embraced the program. This awareness and sense of community has pulled volunteers together in an effort to create fundraising events and programs for children. We are happy to inform everyone that we have an agreement with Connect America to provide wireless communicator units for our families as well as landline units. This has become a priority for Watchful Shepherd since a majority of families in our program do not have landline phones. We want to remove all obstacles that might stand in the way to keep children safe. A main priority for the families is to give them peace and hope. The bottom line is to help the kids and families and let them know there are people

Watchful Shepherd USA is accepting online donations via our website www.watchful.org

Go to the home page and click on the yellow DONATE BUTTON for your tax deductible contribution!

Our Mission

The Watchful Shepherd disseminates information to agencies and community leaders regarding a program to prevent child abuse, domestic violence and to unite families. The Watchful Shepherd provides supportive services by setting up Watchful Shepherd organizations throughout the United States. The Watchful Shepherd provides an alarm system for children and families referred by the courts and child protection services.

Board Members

Claudine Femiani – President

Christopher Femiani

Joseph A Femiani

Ron Galiano

Charles “Randy” Guthrie

Douglas M. Klescich

Tim Murphy

Claudine O’Connell

Wayne A Russo

Legacy Board Members

Cliff Miller

Shirley Hardy

Medical Advisor

Anthony P. Mannarino, PhD

Founder

Joseph P. Femiani

Watchful Shepherd USA Staff

Donna J. Nardine, Executive Director

Tracy Walnoha, Administrative Assistant

Office Volunteers

Hub McDonald



Take this little reminder to take to work and designate your United Way Pledge to Watchful Shepherd USA By Using Code #884988 Federal Campaign Use #9165



Resource Phone List

Our system of child protection is based upon many individuals and community agencies. No single person or agency can effectively deal with child abuse. It requires the cooperative effort of many: private citizens and mandated reporters who relay their concerns to ChildLine; legislators who enact legislation to ensure effective provisions are contained in Child Protection Service law; staff of public and private agencies who provide services to abused and neglected children; and members of the media who broadcast accurate and helpful information to all citizens. If you would like additional information or require further assistance please contact:

ChildLine 24-Hour Hotline (Report Child Abuse)
1-800-932-0313

Children’s Hospital Child Advocacy Center
412-692-5866

Christian Listening Program info 412-835-6630

KidsVoice (Lawyers for Children) 412-431-4931

Mercy Hospital – A Child’s Place 412-232-7200

Pittsburgh Action Against Rape 24-Hour Hotline
1-866-363-7273

Watchful Shepherd USA 724-941-3339

Women’s Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh
24-Hour Hotline 877-338-8255

Allegheny County CYF 412-473-2000

Beaver County CYF 724-775-4510

Butler County CYF 724-284-5156

Fayette County CYF 724-430-1283

Greene County CYF 724-852-5217

Lawrence County CYF 724-658-2558

Mercer County CYF 724-662-2703

Washington County CYF 724-228-6884

Info from a recent conference - Did You Know?

- More American households have pets than have children. We spend more money on pet food than on baby food.
- A child growing up in the U.S. is more likely to have a pet than a live-at-home father.
- In one survey of pet-owning families with substantiated child abuse and neglect, animals were abused in 88% of homes where child physical abuse was present.
- Investigation of animal abuse is often the first point of social services intervention for a family at risk of violence or child abuse.
- Abusers kill, harm, or threaten children’s pets to coerce them into sexual abuse or to force them to remain silent about abuse. Disturbed children kill or harm animals to emulate their parents’ conduct, to prevent the abuser from killing the pet, or to take out their aggressions on another victim.

Watchful Shepherd USA is accepting online donations via our website **www.watchful.org**

Go to the home page and click on the “DONATE” button for your tax deductible contribution!

PARENTING STYLE vs. DISCIPLINE vs. CHILD ABUSE

Parenting style – the way parents interact with their children – and discipline – the means by which parents teach and modify their children’s behavior – are both strongly influenced by culture. Sometimes, as an “outsider” we see an interaction between parent and child and feel uncomfortable, wondering, “Is that just the way they parent, it is a form of discipline, or is it child abuse?” Unfortunately, the answer is often not clear-cut and easy. What makes us uncomfortable about another person’s family may vary depending on our upbringing, cultural influences and comfort level with approaches that differ from our own.

Here are some things to keep in mind when we consider the complex dynamics of families:

- People sometimes assume that parents who abuse their children are “bad people” who do not love or care about their children. Often, that’s not the case; they may be parents who face many difficulties in life, and have serious needs that are unmet. The capacity to parent safely is lessened when extreme stress and outside circumstances are present in vulnerable parents.
- With the right amount of stress, with a mental health or substance abuse issue or without good coping skills, we could all possibly find ourselves in a situation where we hurt a child. However, there are some adults who intentionally harm children; these adults have a more severe set of characteristics than do parents who love their children but resort to abusive behavior when stressed or overwhelmed.
- The relationship between parent and child can influence how a parent responds to a particular child. Children who are “different”, (for example, those with disabilities or social challenges) can sometimes “push buttons” that might not exist between that parent and another child.
- Child abuse does not discriminate based on race, ethnicity, socio-economic status, profession of the parents, age, gender or other factors. Each parent brings his own background and experience to the interaction with children.

If we are witnessing an event that we are unsure of, it is important to know what to do when our concern does reach the level that we suspect abuse or neglect. At that point, a call to CHILDLINE AT 800-932-0313 may be the best response; if the child is in immediate danger call 911.

WE ARE PROUD TO BE THE OFFICIAL
DANCING FOR A CAUSE
JEWELRY SUPPLIER



\$10
of every Sculptural
Sabika Vienna® Studs
purchase in September will be
donated to Watchful Shepherd

This September, Sabika is proud to help raise money and awareness for Watchful Shepherd. With every \$39 purchase of our exclusive Sculptural Sabika Vienna® Stud earrings featuring the Sabika Cut® created by Swarovski in Denim Blue, Sabika will donate \$10 to Watchful Shepherd. Get your friends and family involved too! You can Host a Watchful Shepherd Sabika Fundraiser Party. Together, with your Sabika Consultant we will give 10%* of the total Party Sales to Watchful Shepherd.
www.sabika-jewelry.com for all the details (Starts September 1, 2016)

sabika®



1061 Waterdam Plaza Drive
Suite 204
McMurray, PA 15317

Non Profit
US Postage
PAID
Pittsburgh PA
Permit No 2328

www.watchful.org

“Prevent Child Abuse”

Has your mailing address changed? If it has, we would like to know. Please check the appropriate box below, make any changes next to the mailing label and return it to us. Thank you!

- Name misspelled
- Contact person changed
- Address incorrect
- Please remove from mailing list

MARK YOUR CALENDAR and LOOK INSIDE – FUNDRAISING EVENT

**Friday, October 21, 2016 HILTON GARDEN INN, Southpointe
“Dancing for A Cause”**



Washington County’s Official Community-Wide Day of Giving

During this one-day event, each donation you make to Watchful Shepherd USA via

www.wccfgives.org or by mailing a check so they receive it prior to September 13th with

the official charity form in this newsletter will be increased by a percentage of a bonus pool estimated to be at least \$100,000. The minimum contribution is only \$25.

printing provided by:

