

Stacey Deerwester
Soc 323-75
Community Organization Assignment

Speaking Out Against Child Sexual Abuse

1.) What organization have you chosen to explore?

SpeakingOut Against Child Sexual Abuse, Inc

2.) How big are they (number of members)?

SpeakingOut consists of three officers, and three to five board of directors. They also work with volunteers and fundraising partners (Christian Values Network, Phoneraiser, B&B Carrejo Consulting, and Terry Head/Mary Kay).

3.) What level do they operate?

SpeakingOut is a non-profit organization in the state of Tennessee. However, part of their vision is to raise awareness across America.

4.) Who do they serve?

SpeakingOut serves the home (parents, and family members), daycares, teachers, church leaders, etc. They want, not only raise awareness, but also to educate these adults on the prevention of Child Sexual Abuse. They also reach out to those that have survived this horrific crime.

5.) How do they provide services?

The service of SpeakingOut provides are numerous and they are always open for new ideas on how to spread awareness and prevention of Child Sexual Abuse.

One key service is their workshops called "A Safe Place". These workshops are usually two to four hours long and speak intensely and in depth on eight key topics: 1.)The truth/reality of CSA, 2.)What CSA is/is not, 3.)The signs/symptoms of the sexually abused child, 4.)Statistics, 5.)Information on the abusers, 6.)Information on "the system", 7.)A message to parents, and 8.)A message to survivors.

Susan Suafoa-Danino, founder of SpeakingOut, speaks publicly in Tennessee about Child Sexual Abuse, as well as anywhere across America so that she can spread awareness and stress the importance of prevention. SpeakingOut takes a public stand against Child

Sexual Abuse.

Speaking Out sets up information tables at events to spread awareness on Child Sexual Abuse. They also use informational brochures, business cards, email, their website, newsletters, fundraising events, flyers, word of mouth, public print, and in the future, possibly even a book about Child Sexual Abuse. Again, Speaking Out is open for any ideas that would help in spreading awareness and prevention of Child Sexual Abuse.

6.) What is their mission statement?

Vision:

To raise awareness on Child Sexual Abuse all across America!

Mission Statement:

*Raise Awareness one Child, one Parent, one Home, one Daycare, one School, and one Community at a time in an effort to aid in the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse...a horrific crime against innocent children of all ages...all across America.

*Speak with Church Leaders and encourage Churches to get involved and play an active role in raising awareness, assessing the needs and starting ministries in and for their communities...to provide assistance and most importantly, to share the Message of Hope.

*Work vigorously to Remove two of the greatest Obstacles in protecting children from Sexual Abuse...Denial and Lack of Education.

*Send a message to Sexual Predators by taking a Public Stand against the crime of Child Sexual Abuse...a perverse act committed against the most innocent and helpless of victims....children.

*Focus on What We Can Do.

*Measure Success by...if Speaking Out helps one child, it has been worth our efforts. What if that one child was YOUR child?

*Speaking Out on behalf of all children who have ever been (child/adult survivors), are being or will be sexually abused.

7.) What else can you say to describe their work?

I had looked at many websites on this topic and on other topics but none of them had the passion that SpeakingOut did. SpeakingOut's passion on awareness/prevention pretty much jumped out at me. They are 100% geared towards awareness and prevention on Child Sexual Abuse and educating adults. Every service they provide gets the word out. What I like is they are constantly looking for new ideas to spread awareness.

Everything that they do is key to spreading the word on awareness. Their website is a great tool in learning about Child Sexual Abuse and in learning how we can take more steps in preventing this horrific crime. I definitely have learned a lot and plan on educating my sisters and brothers about prevention. I have several nieces/nephews and if anything like this happened it would be absolutely horrible. SpeakingOut's website hits the eight key topics of their workshops, gives you other resources to provide further information, fundraising opportunities for them, events and happenings, and more to help in awareness and prevention.

SpeakingOut is purely about Awareness, Prevention, and Education and that is what it is all about.

8.) How and when did they begin as an organization? Provide a history of their formation.

SpeakingOut was founded by Susan Suafoa-Danino in Oak Ridge, Tennessee in March of 2008.

Susan was faced with this horrific crime in 2000 and felt very helpless. By feeling uneducated about this, she knew she wasn't the only parent who felt helpless. It is more than just telling children that no one should be touching you inappropriately, like touching your privates, etc....it needs to go further than just that. She wanted to take what she learned and what she is still learning, to educate parents and other adults that have children on prevention so that they are not blindsided by this horrific crime. She wanted to let every parent know that this can happen to their child whether or not they want to believe it, and that it is their responsibility to do everything in their power to prevent. Parents need to have an open relationship with their children. They need to know everything about their children's activities, everything about the friends they hang out with and the adults they will be with....they need to know EVERYTHING about EVERYTHING dealing with their children. They need to know the signs/symptoms, they need to know the truth and reality of it, and they need to know what it is and what it isn't.

Susan also wanted to educate adults on "The System". Pretty much when

the system works...the system works well, but when it doesn't...it definitely doesn't. When it works it definitely is a blessing for all child victims. When it doesn't work, it can go as far as, putting the children back in the custody of the abuser (which is appalling to me), gives the abuser protection/rights while it pretty much punishes those that take a public stand on the sexual abuse that their child has gone through. I thought the system was all about what is in the best interest of the child...placing them back into that environment is only putting them back in harm's way. This is ridiculous and something needs to be done. Susan formed SpeakingOut, again in March 2008, to do just that...educate on Child Sexual Abuse, prevention of it, and to spread awareness, and to try and make people aware of the faulty "System". If one child is helped, than again, this is all worth it.

Susan Suafoa-Danino, to me, is someone to look up to. She did not just sit back and keep all of the information she has learned to herself. She knew that there were parents and adults dealing with this same issue and wanted to prevent them from feeling helpless. I believe that she is succeeding in spreading the awareness, the education on prevention, and more. What I like about her is that she is still learning, she is still passing what she learned on to others, she still is open to new ways to spread awareness/prevention, and she is still 100% passionate about this cause as she was when she formed Speaking Out. I am sure that the board of directors, the officers, the volunteers, etc are all just as passionate.

9.) What is the source of their funding?

SpeakingOut is funded in many different ways: donations, corporate sponsorships, and fundraising.

We as a community can help by making annual pledges to help, by advertising in their monthly newsletters, by volunteering, by donating items on their wish list (old cell phones, ink cartridges, laptops, and cars), supporting the cause by shopping online through the Christian Values Network (percentage of purchase will be sent to Speaking Out), and also through shopping with Mary Kay (20% total retail order and/or 25% of any order over \$200 will go towards Speaking Out).

Speaking Out is also funded by corporate sponsors (Sonic...located at 608 Oakridge Turnpike, Oak Ridge, Tn). They have different levels of sponsorship from a SmallBiz sponsor (\$600 annually-\$50 monthly) to a Speaking Out partner (\$24,000 annually-\$2,000 monthly).

They do several fundraising events around Tennessee.

10.) How much funding do they receive?

Speaking Out has been around for two years. In that time, they have been under \$10,000 a year...due to the economy. Their goals are set much higher.

11.) When and where do they hold public meetings?

There are many opportunities of attending public meetings. Susan speaks in Tennessee but will travel anywhere in the United States for public/private events/meetings. They have frequent/regular meetings of the Board of Directors.

12.) What opportunities for participation exist for citizens?

SpeakingOut loves to have volunteers whenever possible. They do a lot of fundraising events in Tennessee that volunteers can help out with. For example, an event called Ed Fest, a Civil Appreciation Day music festival is coming up in June. Speaking Out will have a booth there to spread awareness. A lot of events like that are out there for volunteers.

13.) Contact Information:

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