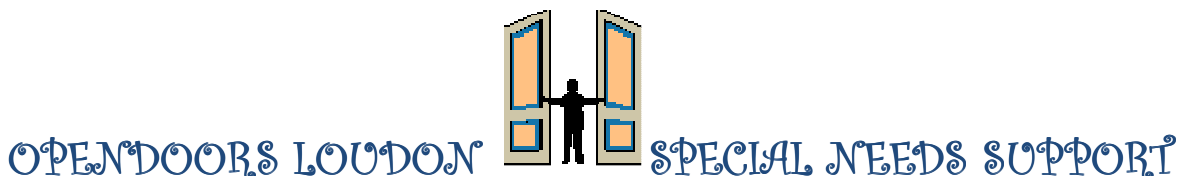


Recent Event (Lenoir City, TN)



On January 26th, SpeakingOut had the opportunity to meet with a wonderful group of parents who have special needs children and/or grandchildren...autism & other disabilities. Truth be told... unfortunately, even children with special needs / disabilities are being targeted by perpetrators of children. Child Molesters & Pedophiles generally seek out children who are in a vulnerable position or situation; a child that they can gain access to. Special needs children are just as vulnerable as children without special needs; and possibly even more vulnerable. We must remember that those who violate children are not thinking of the children; only themselves in a very selfish & distorted way. Child Sexual Abuse is the ultimate violation and betrayal of any child (birth to 17)...regardless of their age.

Meeting Topic of Discussion

America...A Safe Place for Children!

[Child Sexual Abuse Awareness & Prevention]

"Susan, I didn't know what to expect going into your program, but hearing you speak brought to me a new sense of awareness. Your program touched me. Children can be exposed to sexual abuse no matter how much we try to protect them, but by knowing how to keep our kids safe, as you so clearly presented, and signs they may show if they are exposed, gives us knowledge to keep our kids safer. You kept my attention all the way through your program. You are an excellent speaker. -- Jane Nichols (Participant of 1/26/12 Special Needs Support Group Meeting)

For approximately 1 1/2 hours, Susan Suafoa-Dinino, President/Founder of SpeakingOut, discussed details of the crime of Child Sexual Abuse in this group setting. She stressed that a very important & necessary component of prevention is awareness; even for a sensitive and scary topic such as this crime. It is crucial for all adults (especially Parents/Grandparents) to have an extensive knowledge on the crime of Child Sexual Abuse...it is imperative for your child's safety. Susan recommended that at a minimum, Parents/Grandparents need to have an in-depth understanding of ...

*The Truth & Reality of this Crime
What Child Sexual Abuse Is & Is Not
Statistics surrounding this Crime
Signs & Symptoms of the Sexually Abused Child
Information/Statistics on the Abuser
Prevention Steps for Parents*

"It's not something I wanted to think about. I also didn't know how to talk to my child about sexual abuse. I wasn't even sure if I should. The workshop helped me realize that I had to not only think about it, but that I had to talk in understandable terms. We talked about our bodies, our boundaries, and came up with a plan to follow. Awareness requires that we acknowledge the potential and then provide the education we hope is never needed. The SpeakingOut workshop helped us all to come to terms with that. Thank you Susan. What you said in the workshop gave me the motivation to take the leap and have the talk." --Pamela Weston (Participant of 1/26/12 Special Needs Support Group Meeting)