

From the Ladies of Serenity Shelter (Knoxville, TN)

Serenity Shelter...a Program of Knox Area Rescue Ministries

The 2012 "SpeakingOut" Class with the ladies of Serenity Shelter is now complete. There were a total of 13 sessions from August 10th - December 14th. Topics discussed were as follows...

- ◆ Personal Experiences of Susan Suafoa-Dinino, President/Founder of SpeakingOut, with the crime of Child Sexual Abuse
- ◆ Overview on SpeakingOut & What We Do
- ◆ Message to Survivors
- ◆ Truth & Reality of Child Sexual Abuse
- ◆ The Statistics
- ◆ What Child Sexual Abuse Is
- ◆ Signs & Symptoms of the Sexually Abused Child
- ◆ Why Most Children Don't Tell
- ◆ How Sexual Predators Silence Children
- ◆ Information on the Abuser
- ◆ Information on "The System"
- ◆ Message to Parents on Prevention

"SpeakingOut against Child Sexual Abuse, Inc. has recently partnered with Knox Area Rescue Ministries' Serenity Shelter. Serenity Shelter is a program that provides restoration and recovery to women with various life struggles. SpeakingOut's President, Susan Suafoa-Dinino is providing a weekly group session with the ladies of Serenity to educate and inform regarding the facts and myths surrounding Child Sexual Abuse and to process some of the personal struggles faced by some of the women at Serenity surrounding sexual abuse. The ladies of Serenity have welcomed Susan into their home and their lives and are eager and willing to learn." ~**Barbara Davis, Program Director, Serenity Shelter (September 2012)**

Did you learn anything new and/or helpful from this class?

"Yes. It helped me to open up, talk about my own abuse." ~Anonymous, Serenity Shelter Client

"Although it is an uncomfortable subject, as a community, it is our responsibility to protect children from this crime. Be aware, be educated and always be available to listen to a child who may be in danger." ~**Kate, Serenity Shelter Client**

"Put children the first thing you take care of, feed them, put clothes on them, give them a place to live. But #1, protect the children of the world. Children are our future. Love the children of the world. Let each child be a child. They grow up fast enough. Keep their innocence as long as possible. The ability to know of the world is at their door. Keep the safety of all children upper most in your mind. This is where a child decides who or where safety is. When there isn't, they will find a place/person, but this may not be safe. Report any and all suspicion of child abuse/neglect that you know or actually see. It just may be your child, brother, cousin, nephew, niece, or a child without someone who needs protection." ~**Betty, Serenity Shelter Client**

"Listen to your children. Investigate. Don't put your children in bad situations. If you can't raise your children in a safe environment, give them to someone who can." ~**Robin H., Serenity Shelter Client**

"When I first started the class, I thought it sucked. But as I began to listen, I realized that this stuff (abuse) happens more often than I thought. And I want to be aware and know how to handle it. And I am willing to learn more. Thank you." ~**Tina B., Serenity Shelter Client**

"This class was helpful in the way that I thought I could teach my daughter about abuse, but through this class realized I needed to know more on this matter. This class has helped me to more effectively know how to go to my daughter to teach her how to be more safe and aware." ~**Jennifer F., Serenity Shelter Client**

"She (Susan Suafoa-Dinino) was very brave to have come and told her story and able to help others." ~**Kathy, Serenity Shelter Client**

"It is very good that Susan Suafoa-Dinino took out her time to teach this class." ~**LaTerria, Serenity Shelter Client**

WHAT CAN YOU DO ABOUT THE CRIME OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE?

- "Tell people what I learned about the signs." ~**LaTerria**
- "Pay attention - Allow open communication with children." ~**Kate**
- "Talk to my children and/or stepchildren." ~**Robin H.**
- "Open up a conversation with friends & family on this awareness so it can be brought to the attention of people I know." ~**Melinda**
- "Be cautious of surroundings." ~**Kathy**
- "Tell others what I have learned. Talk with my own daughter about what I have learned." ~**Jennifer F.**
- "Speak out if I know its happening." ~**Tina B.**
- "Turn in any and all suspects/suspicious. Drop a dime. You just might save a child's life." ~**Betty**