



tips for youth workers

MARCH 2020

SAFE SPACES – MAKING THEM A PRIORITY

The month of April is a time to reflect and consider how and what you are doing to create safe spaces for children. It's a month to ask yourself: Do I know how to recognize when a child has been abused? Do I know to whom I should report the abuse? Have I made screening a priority? Do I know and understand The Salvation Army's Screening Process? Do I have a yearly check in with my workers and volunteers to ensure they are up to date with their screening?

Praesidium Inc (our partner in creating safe spaces) has partnered with other organizations to promote child safety through **"5 Days of Action"**. We are inviting you to make this initiative a priority at your ministry unit. **"The Five Days of Action is a week designed to raise awareness and inspire adults to take action to protect children from sexual abuse."** Throughout the week of April 13-17, 2020, we invite you to spread prevention messages on social media, host events to train parents and community volunteers, and educate the community about keeping youth safe from sexual abuse. "5 Days of Action" has free downloadable resources for you to use. We encourage you to visit: www.fivedaysofaction.org to learn more and to make an action plan for supporting this important event.

Another great resource for you to check out as you are considering safe spaces is **Darkness to Light** (www.d2l.org). D2L is working towards **a world free of child sexual abuse where adults have the courage to protect kids**. Their website provides you with information on education, prevention, research and advocacy.

Here's a simple reminder of The Salvation Army's Ministry Screening Process:

1. Read the **Abuse Prevention Policy Manual** and the **Abuse Prevention Resource Manual** (sign off on page 2 of the Resource Manual)
2. Provide a **Police Check** / Vulnerable Sector Screening (to be renewed every 3 years)
3. Complete and submit a **Statement of Application to Work with Children, Youth and Vulnerable Adults**
4. Complete the prescribed Praesidium **Armatus Courses** (Meet Sam, It Happened to Me, Duty to Report. Choose from: Keeping Your Church Safe, Keeping Your Camp Safe, or A Day at Day Camp. Then yearly complete the Abuse Prevention Refresher Course.). Print and submit your certificate.

(visit www.salvationist.ca for details and how-to help)

Whether you are a corps officer, an employee or volunteer the safety of children is your responsibility. You are to ensure their safety, that they receive the help and intervention they need if you become aware of possible abuse. Creating Safe Spaces requires your active involvement.

If you have questions or concerns, feel free to contact our Territorial Abuse Advisor:

Nancy_Turley@can.salvationarmy.org



KNOW



SEE



RESPOND

When we know how abuse happens, see the warning signs and respond quickly to prevent it, together we foster a culture of child abuse prevention.

The law doesn't require you to have evidence to report child sexual abuse, it only requires reasonable suspicion.

THREE REASONS TO REPORT:

SUSPICION



DISCOVERY



DISCLOSURE



To report abuse, call:

Local Police and contact

Nancy_Turley@can.salvationarmy.org



take action. www.fivedaysofaction.org

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