



## E-Quipped for Prevention

October 2011

Stories, resources, and training for  
Cherish Our Children Leaders

### Education

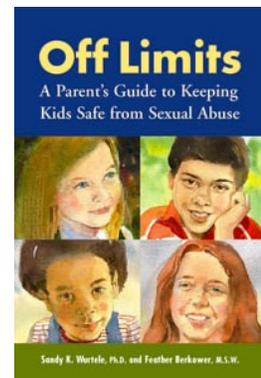
Resources for Learning and Growth

- **Taking Faith Home** (submitted by Erica Larson (EL), Minneapolis Area Synod)

Teach members of your congregation to utilize the *FOUR KEYS for practicing faith*, which includes *Caring Conversations, Devotions, Service, and Rituals & Traditions*. In its extensive survey of thousands and thousands of teenagers across the country, Search Institute discovered that the top two developmental assets for youth are family support and positive family communication. These life assets are integral to healthy development and strong decision making, which may mean decisions that keep children safe from those who seek to exploit or harm. By "taking faith home" and utilizing the FOUR KEYS, families can foster these fundamentally important life assets. You can find information about the FOUR KEYS at [Vibrant Faith Ministries](#).

- **Reading Materials** (submitted by Amy Hartman (AH), National Director)

[Sandy K. Wurtele, Ph. D.](#), is a psychologist and professor at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs. She has written several books on the issue of childhood sexual abuse, including *Off Limits! A Parent's Guide to Keeping Kids Safe from Sexual Abuse* and *Out of Harm's Way: A Parent's Guide to Protecting Young Children from Sexual Abuse*. She is an international expert in child sexual abuse prevention.



- **Rachel's Day** (submitted by EL)

Many children live with fear on a daily basis. They fear that they will not grow up to be adults. They fear drugs, guns, gangs, abuse, poor education, hunger, unsafe streets, being alone, and so much more. If these fears resonate with you, plan a Rachel's Day observance in your congregation on the first Sunday in

May each year, or at any time that it works in your setting. Rachel's Day takes its name from Jeremiah 31:15-17, where Rachel grieves for her children. It is a time to mourn the loss of our children and renounce the forces of evil and fear that plague our nation. You can find multiple resources for observing Rachel's Day on the [ELCA website](#).

- **Safeguarding God's Children: Train the Trainer Event** (submitted by EL)

October 11, 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m., Woodlake Lutheran Church, 2525 Oliver Ave S., Richfield, MN. A training for Children, Youth, and Family ministry leaders in the "Safeguarding God's Children" materials, equipping participants to train other ministry leaders within their ministry setting. Cost is \$100 per congregation and includes one training guide (additional guides are \$10 each). Pre-registration is required by October 3. You can [register online](#). You can find "Safeguarding God's Children" training resources on the Church Pension Group [website](#).

Don't live in Minnesota? Check with your local Episcopal Diocese for trainings in your area.

- **Prevention Connections** (submitted by AH, EL)

The mission of [Darkness to Light: End Child Sexual Abuse](#) is to empower people to prevent child sexual abuse. Their programs raise awareness of the prevalence and consequences of child sexual abuse by educating adults about the steps they can take to prevent, recognize and react responsibly to the reality of child sexual abuse.

For more prevention ideas, go to the [National Center for Missing and Exploited Children](#).

- **Child Safety Policies** (submitted by EL)

You can find guidelines for [creating safety policies](#) in your congregation from Church Mutual Insurance Company, which insures many congregations.

- **Technology and Youth Ministry** (submitted by EL)

For multiple links on [technology and youth ministry](#), try the ELCA website. With links including *Sex and Tech: What's Really Going On* (the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy), *Tech and Youth: Wise as Serpents, Innocent as Doves*, and *Social Networking Sites: Safety Tips for Tweens and Teens*, there are a wealth of resources just one click away!

- **[www.cherishchildren.org](http://www.cherishchildren.org)**

Find current and past *Wednesday Prayers* and other newsletters, join the mailing list, catch up on other activities.

- **[Find us on Facebook](#)**

"Like" Cherish Our Children, the Wednesday Prayer, and other links.

## How have you built relationships in the community?

Send your ideas to Erica Larson, E-Quipped Coordinator ([elarson@lakenokomis.org](mailto:elarson@lakenokomis.org)), by October 10 for the November 2011 issue of *E-quipped for Prevention*. The topic for November is "Relationship-Building" - working on prevention with others in the community. Please send stories of what you have done, with whom you worked, meaningful outcomes, and helpful tips.

## Cherish Our Children

**Cherish Our Children is a national Lutheran ministry of prayer, education, relationship-building, and action to prevent child sexual exploitation.**

We believe that "Love born of faith in Jesus Christ calls us all to attend to, discuss, resist, and reject the system of sexual exploitation"  
([ELCA Message on Commercial Sexual Exploitation](#), pg. 1.)

**You are invited to [give financially](#) to support this ministry.** Thrivent members may designate Cherish Our Children to receive Choice Dollars. Donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

**Cherish Our Children**  
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