

Safe Neighborhoods Newsletter

Safe Kids Now Network, LLC **DECEMBER 2024**
Stephanie Mann, Director

Sher Graham, Editor

Making Neighborhoods Safer for Kids & Families!

Safe Kids Now Network LLC (www.safekidsnow.com) shares information to empower and keep children, families, and neighbors safe throughout our global communities.



Children are God's love gift; they are Heaven's generous reward - Psalm 127:3

NEIGHBORHOOD BREAKING NEWS!

- **YEAR-END GRATITUDE.** Every day we have so much to be thankful, whether they are joyous memories or life's challenges. Each teaches us something about ourselves and how we respond or react to these occasions. Life is short. Be in gratitude for each person, each activity, each memory made each hour of each day of each year. Create a hand-made card or write a note to someone to tell them how much you appreciate them.
- Check out the videos on the safekidsnow.com website. Great information to share with educators, parents and professionals.
- Don't forget the SKN free download for "Ten Steps to Make A Safe Neighborhood." Share this with others and help spread awareness on keeping neighborhoods safe.

From the Director's Desk

Greetings from the Director's Desk! It is December and in a few weeks, 2025 will begin. This month, we are sharing thoughts from our network members on topics that are important to the safety of our children and communities. If you have an article you would like to share, please email to safeneighborhoods@gmail.com by the 10th of each month.

YOUR NEWS: If you have relevant announcements about important events aligned with our efforts to shed light on the problems that kids, their families, please email safeneighborhoods@gmail.com by the 10th of each month prior to our monthly newsletter emailed around the 15th-20th of each month. If it is an event, we need 60 days lead time to promote your event.

From the Editor

This month, we are talking about spiritual children, thoughts on imagination, gratitude, and more. The articles in Safe Kids Now do not necessarily reflect the vision and mission of our organization. We provide a forum for our network members to express their thoughts on current topics related to children and families. If you have any issue with an article, please let us know.

A Christmas Message

By Stephanie Mann

This headline inspired me to write this article: *"Boys as young as 12 years old were among those who made up a prolific organized retail theft ring in San Francisco, police said."*

We have heard these stories as American society gradually changed! Look at today's youthful behavior compared to 50 years ago. We now have street violence, looting, carjacking, gangs, drug abuse, and suicide as self-destructive behaviors increase. Today, Americans and their families are at risk! Over the years, we expected government programs, psychologists, and counselors to fix us. So... what went wrong?

Youth who feel powerless turned to crime and drugs because they never learned how to develop the 3Cs—courage, Character, and self-protective Conscience—or find a path to freedom for themselves, which comes from within. As citizens became more dependent on the government, politicians needed more money to "fix" the broken. We were in a downward spiral as churches closed their doors. Local governments added programs with taxpayer money, which often ends up in corrupt pockets. Drugs, crime, and homelessness became big business!

How can we, as a nation, return to the joy of Christmas? Hartford Institute for Religious Research estimates that 350,000 churches in the U.S. are looking for families. Most Americans know that we have incredible inner power if we know how to build happy, healthy lives. Here are two critical ways church leaders empower families.

1. The Bible teaches families and children about personal responsibility, doing unto others, respecting yourself, and loving your neighbor. Families grow stronger and listen to their conscience as they learn how to stay "centered" so they don't become victims or grow to be bullies. Humans are born imperfect, but they have the power to change and live a centered life with supportive families and friends.
2. A church family offers a support network of caring people who empower families and help children learn how to stay spiritually centered. An extended family will listen and will not bully, fly into a rage, or become abusive to each other. Without the ability to discern the difference between good and bad influences, many young people can be misled and pay a huge price in the future.

Personal responsibility, family, and neighborhood support are critical to bringing families together this Christmas season and in the years ahead. Families can discover what needs to change to make life worth living. Everyone has the power and ability to reduce anger and develop self-control, self-worth, and self-confidence. If you are struggling as a family or single parent, you can find people who care about you. If you are sick, have a family crisis, need help finding answers, or need help solving problems, your extended church family will be there for you. Christmas is a great time to strengthen families and find encouragement with people who will support and care about you and your family!

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from Safe Kids Now!

About the Director: Stephanie L. Mann, Crime and Violence Prevention Consultant and founder of Safe Kids Now National Network LLC. Her experiences in crime prevention has given her the insight, wisdom, and vision to advocate for safe communities and neighborhoods for all children around the world. She is the author of five books on family, home, neighborhood and city safety. Stephanie conducts workshops and keynote speeches as a professional speaker on crime prevention and safety. You can reach her at safeneighborhoods@gmail.com or visit <https://www.safekidsnow.com>

Breaking Every Chain with My Voice!

By Barbara Joy Hansen

One out of three women and one out of five men have been sexually abused. Every two minutes a child is molested. Every five minutes a woman is raped. Most never tell! The following is my story ~

I am a proactive pastor's daughter survivor of childhood, preteen & adult sexual abuse causing & exposing me to be SCARED SILENT for 38 dreadful years. As a broken little girl of age 2-8 by incest with my grandfather who also molested my dear mother and female cousins, I was unable to understand what happened to me until I began writing my inspirational true book/honest tell all memoir, *Listen to the Cry of the Child: breaking the generational curse!*

At the age of 11-12 I was sexually traumatized with PTSD or known as Traumatic Amnesia by a 27-year-old youth pastor at a Christian youth camp who also molested many of my friends. I faced, confronted and chose to forgive this clergy in 1999 with support of a Sex Abuse Case set up by eight clergy and well-known psychologist. They questioned him setting up a Committee of Discipline and a Committee of Restoration for me and three of my friends. ONLY SEVEN weeks later he fell down the stairs and broke his back and died! Using Grief Journals I shared with no one I began writing my book/honest tell all memoir as my grief spilled out of my soul. I tried to understand what happened to me. Until I became an adult and began having the courage to speak about my anger, fears, pain, worries & unresolved traumas, my grief lay dormant. My husband's dad's tragic death by suicide kept his voice SILENT for 40 years. We are OVERCOMERS and celebrated 59 years of marriage on May 1st, 2024.

I have written many Acknowledgements for authors. The following is from Michelle Colon's book which is a true story called *Monster Father* A true story of rape, abuse & redemption:

Acknowledgement written by Barbara Joy Hansen: "A double sickness caused the death of a little girl's soul, which produced guilt, shame, fear, anxiety, sadness, withdrawal, panic, nightmares and PTSD. A childhood stolen, Monster Father and Michelle Colon reeled me in as she silently screamed, See me! Hear me! Protect me! Her life came at a cost, yet Michelle realizes her self-worth and loves the women she becomes."

Everyone has a story that needs to be told but most never tell it because of shame, blame, denial, PTSD or traumatic amnesia! Share your story. Use your voice.

About the author: Barbara Joy Hansen, International Award-Winning Author *Listen to the Cry of the Child*
www.listentothecry.org

Thirty Seven Percent of High School Girls are Gender Confused

By Richard Urban

According to the *Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System*, 10 percent of high school boys and 37 percent of high school girls identified as being other than heterosexual, i.e., as gay or lesbian, bisexual or other/questioning. This shocking statistic shows that young people are being indoctrinated into believing that they are not simply male or female.

One of the primary documentation groups are public schools. Teachers, counselors and administrators may all be involved in this process of indoctrination. This is a type of abuse in itself, causing youth and their parents and families to undergo stress, anxiety and even death, as the recent Epoch Times documentary *Gender Transformation: The Untold Realities*, emphasizes. According to Breitbart.com, "More than 1,000 school districts across the United States have policies openly stating that district personnel can or should keep students' transgender status hidden from their parents."

Urban Life Training, an organization that has been active in abstinence-centered sexual health education for two decades, has authored a resolution for Boards of Education to adopt that is based on student well-being, not political agendas. The resolution follows.

Resolution for Adoption of Character and Abstinence-Based Sexual Health Education

Whereas parents are the primary teachers of their children and whereas virtually all parents want their children to abstain from sexual activity while of school age; and being that the purpose of sexual health education is to help youth succeed in life, and whereas premature sexual activity is correlated with increased use of alcohol and drugs, poor academic performance, emotional stress, increased risk of suicide, infection with sexually transmitted diseases and unwanted pregnancy;

Be it hereby resolved by (fill in name of the Board of Education) that:

The primary purpose of all sexual education curricula in (fill in jurisdiction) will be to teach the benefits of abstaining from all types of sexual activity and physical sexual contact while of school age.

Marriage will be presented as an attainable goal and the appropriate and morally acceptable place for sexual activity when we become legal adults, and also as the most beneficial arrangement for the children that may be born to married parents.

Since the discussion of same-sex attraction and gender identity is not conducive to these goals and same-sex attraction cannot be confirmed without physical sexual contact, these topics will not be included in the sexual education curriculum.

Further, the prevention of child abuse, through affirming each child's agency, is an important goal of sexual health education.

Therefore, young children will be taught that no one should touch them in the area covered by their bathing suit. Older children will be taught that no one should touch their sexual organs or other body parts in any way inappropriately.

By encouraging Boards of Education to adopt this resolution, we can help steer public and private education in the right direction. Teaching sexual abstinence in preparation for marriage is an antidote for transgender and homosexual indoctrination. When abstinence is emphasized, homosexual attraction and gender confusion are repelled.

For more information, an excellent movie about gender indoctrination in public school is *Gender Transformation; the Untold Realities*. This movie tells the actual story of a teenage girl in California. Site: Epoch Times website: <https://www.theepochtimes.com/epochtv/gender-transformation-5280005>. UrbanLife Training has posted a discussion on "Understanding parent's rights and stopping sexual indoctrination in public schools" at UrbanLifeTraining.org: <https://urbanlifetraining.org/index.php/blog/481-gender-transformation-the-untold-realities-discussion>. To reach founder Richard Urban, visit www.urbanlifetraining.org or email: richardurban@urbanlifetraining.org.

Imagination Creation of our Children

By Sher Graham

When was the last time you dreamed of something you wanted, needed or wanted to do? Who do you want to become? Are you happy with your current behavioral choices? What changes should you make now to create a happier life for yourself? It all begins with you. Do you like YOU? Do you love YOU? Do you see the beauty in who you are right now? Do you love your body the way it is? Do you like your partner? Do you like your each of your children for their own uniqueness?

Imagine your world without having the answers to these questions? Imagine a world of sadness and mistrust and loud voices and being unwanted. Imagine one person's life without the answers to these questions. Imagine not being able to ask your parents these questions. Imagine not having support for pursuing your dreams. Imagine not being liked by anyone, except the bullies who are mean to you. Imagine if no one called you nor talked to you in a room full of people. Just use your imagination. Or.....

Imagine your world with having the answers to these questions? Imagine a world of joy and trust and caring voices and being wanted. Imagine one person's life with the answers to these questions. Imagine being able to ask your parents these questions. Imagine having support for pursuing your dreams. Imagine being liked by many people, including the bullies who attempt to be mean to you. Imagine if someone called you daily just because they were thinking of you or talking to someone new in a room full of people. Just use your imagination!

Your children use their imagination every day. Sometime daily and are often tagged as 'dreamers.' We need those dreamers to continue dreaming. They are the creative visionaries of our world. They are the inventors, the activists, the social reformers, the people who serve others and change the lives of sometimes just one person. When did you last sit with your child and ask them what they want to do with their lives, what they imagine how life can be for them, or what you may need to change to make their lives better?

Imagination Creation is something we need to do daily. Write down your thoughts. Journal. Draw a picture. Describe in detail. Then let the universe guide you to make it a reality. Be a changemaker in your own life. Then change the world.

About Sher Graham. Sher is a changemaker, one challenge at a time. Wherever she lived, she was involved in the community and the life of those around her. It is one of her intentions to be involved no matter where God's plan for her takes her. International best-selling author of mental health and business anthologies, she continues to speak and share her own life story with her audiences. She grew up in a family who put conditions on everything she did, even though she rarely met the expectations of her parents. Her faith in God and the second parents and grandparents who supported her kept her grounded. Her authenticity today gives her peace. Visit her website at www.shergraham.com for a speech, online workshop or live presentation. She is a neurobehavioral strategist who recalibrates organizations, families and individuals achieving greater productivity and engagement. A Kent State University graduate, Sher may be reached via email: slgraham4969@gmail.com.

VIOLENCE IS OFTEN THE RESULT OF PARENTS NOT TEACHING CHILDREN about THEIR OWN INNER POWER.

BOOKS MAKE GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR PARENTS AND CHILDREN!

The time is now to empower youth to have a more positive mental health later in life! A child who feels love, respected, supported and heard will choose not to abuse drugs, become violent or develop mental health challenges. Parents can substance use and violence proof their children.

Stephanie Mann wrote "*Empowerment Parenting*" as a result of working in our inner cities. Most children, regardless of their environment, are not and do NOT become sexual, violent or abuse drugs. This book is necessary for every parent to read and share with their children's teachers, and other family members.

When parents have the knowledge to empower themselves, then their behavioral choices become empowerment action for their children. EMPOWER one child or a group of children! *Empowerment Parenting* provides parents, grandparents, teachers, coaches and educators the tools to help youth become centered, responsible and self-aware. Young people recognize the power of bullies and abusers. However, they need to know how to discover their inner power to handle the slings and arrows of life.

Visit www.safekidsnow.com to order the book "*Empowerment Parenting: How to Raise Resilient Children Who Become Happy, Self-Reliant Adults*". www.safekidsnow.com



2025 YEAR OF SELF-CARE CELEBRATION

Begin your year on January 1 by taking care of you first. You want to give 100% to those you serve - your family, your community, your clients and customers, your country. If you are not giving 100%, you are not giving your attention to the present of what you are involved in or choose to get excited about each day. Why short-change those who care about?

Self-care activities you might like with yourself or your family:

1. Take a short walk in the park. Be silent. Listen to the sounds of nature.
2. Create a monthly time for a family meeting. Have a jar filled with slips of paper with one topic on each slip that resonates with your family.
3. Find space in the month for a "Music Night." Each member of the family brings a song they love and get to share their thoughts on the music and musician. Learn from each other.
4. Plan one meal monthly for the kids to plan the menu and prepare the meal. No ordering out allowed!
5. Create a jar of "Thank you" that each family member has the opportunity to take one weekly as inspirational messages of gratitude.