



**COMMITTED TO  
PREVENTING SEXUAL ABUSE  
& SUPPORTING SURVIVORS**  
**LANCASTER, PA**

## ***Word from the Director***

### ***“Can you help us?”***

**The older couple was ashen faced and holding hands.** I had just finished speaking at a church about how to recognize warning signs of sexual abuse in a young child. Their granddaughter was exhibiting several of the concerning behaviors I had described we often see in sexually abused children. When I asked if they had talked to their daughter, the child’s mom, tears began to roll down the grandmother’s face. They feared she was in an abusive marriage. I knew then this family was in a crisis. We sat down, and I helped them discern their next steps. When we parted, the woman took my hand and said:

***“Everything we’ve been seeing with our daughter and grandchild suddenly makes sense. I thank God that you came to our church today. Our eyes are open now, and maybe we can do something to help.”***

It's impossible to overestimate the value of education about child sexual abuse and offering support to people in the community in their time of need. While many in churches, schools, parents’ groups, sports clubs, and other places don’t want to discuss this painful and complicated issue, I can tell you from years of doing this work that we cannot protect children, nor can we recognize signs of abuse without education about the issue.

Learning about child sexual abuse is important not only for mandatory reporters or those who are actively raising children, but for everyone who cares about children! That includes grandparents like this couple who was finally able to put together what had been nameless to them before.

Please reach out to us at the slightest whim to inquire about our prevention workshops! Because of people who support this work through their financial contributions, Safe Communities has a veritable treasure chest of workshops to meet the needs of various groups.

People who know us say we are a hidden treasure. Because we are small, we can’t buy billboards or commercials like larger nonprofits. We don’t want to be hidden but offer the gifts we have been given to the community in service of our vision of stopping sexual abuse and supporting survivors as they heal.

***Can you help us?***

*Spread the word, share our newsletter with your friends, become part of our donor community, volunteer with us, and – talk to your friends and family about child sexual abuse. For the sake of the children.*

**Linda Crockett**, Director  
March 2022

## **Spring 2022 Newsletter, *In this issue:***

- **Child Abuse Prevention Seminar - April 2022**
- **Job Opening at Safe Communities**
- **Call for Speakers for Survivor Voices Series**
- **New Material for 2022 - Flyers we will use for our work in Plain Communities**
- **Volunteers Needed**
- **Workshop of the Month!**
- **Thank You for your Support! - our wish list and storefront**
- **A Lenten Reflection**

## **SAVE THE DATE!**

# **Child Abuse Prevention Seminar**

**Friday & Saturday, April 29 & 30, 2022**

**Held in Lancaster, PA**

**Safe Communities is joining forces with A Better Way** for a Child Sexual Abuse Prevention conference on April 29 and 30, 2022. The conference will be held in Lancaster, PA. Location has changed. The new location is **Faith Mennonite High School** 5085 Woodland Drive, Kinzers, PA 17535. Horse hitches will be available for those arriving by horse and buggy.

A Better Way, based in Ohio, was founded by Hope Ann Deuck, a survivor from a Plain community, whose story of abuse and healing was featured in a series of award-winning articles in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette in 2019 on sexual abuse within Amish and Mennonite communities.

**We'll have a wide array of speakers** on topics related to child sexual abuse, and on healing from childhood sexual trauma. Get training from professionals on how to identify, report, and respond to abuse and empower children and parents to make our homes, churches and communities safe places. Credit may be offered by some foster/adoption agencies for this training. Click below link to see list of topics and speakers. **Counselors will be on hand** to lend support to anyone that needs it while attending. Meals, snacks and beverages will be provided.

**Registration is now open and links have been posted on our website.** Invite your friends and neighbors and plan to attend what we believe will be a beautiful mix of Plain and English\* people learning together how to better protect children and help

survivors to heal.

*\* Amish and Mennonite are referred to as Plain sects, and call people outside of their own communities English*

**CLICK HERE FOR CONFERENCE  
INFO**

# Child Abuse Prevention Seminar

Friday & Saturday  
**April 29 & 30, 2022**

*Location:*

**Faith Mennonite High School  
5085 Woodland Dr. Kinzers, PA 17535**

*Registration Open!*

Come and get training from professionals on identifying abuse, reporting abuse, and healing for those who have experienced abuse. Let's make our homes, churches, and communities safe places.



**A Better Way**



**For workshops list and to register visit:  
<https://abetterway.org/events/lancaster-2022>  
or call Safe Communities at 717-560-9989**

## **Some of the Presentations:**

- When School Is Not a Safe Place - *Linda Crockett*
- Child Sexual Offenders: What We Need to Know - *Scott MacDerment*
- Surviving Sexual Abuse: Understanding Trauma's Lifelong Effects in Adulthood and Finding Pathways to Healing - *Brittany Leffler*
- Panel Discussion: Plain Communities Task Force (PCTF) of Lancaster County  
- *Moderator: Hope Anne Dueck*
- Self Care in Advocacy - *Crystal Sayre*
- Understanding why Sexual Abusers Continue to Abuse Children - *Tara Mitchell*

*and more!*



[CLICK HERE FOR CONFERENCE  
INFO](#)

## JOB OPENING AT SAFE COMMUNITIES

Are you passionate about protecting kids and supporting survivors? We are looking for a mission-driven Assistant Director/Fundraiser for approximately 28 – 30 hours a week.

Responsibilities include donor cultivation, fund raising campaigns, marketing, budgeting, and program revenue growth. Preferred candidates have at least 5 years of experience in nonprofit management and proven skills in fundraising and marketing for nonprofits. Click the button below for details, and how to apply.

[CLICK HERE FOR JOB  
OPENING](#)

## Speakers invited for Survivor Voices Series



Safe Communities hosts a live Zoom interview series called “Survivor’s Voices” and is looking for several speakers for 2022!

This is a public platform, and is only recommended for survivors who have done considerable healing work and are ready to be, or have been, public with their stories. The series is intended to educate the public about how child sexual abuse happens, the long-term impacts, what healing looks like for different people, and the strength and resilience of survivors. It’s also a platform where survivors inspire and give courage to others.

To learn more about the platform and past speakers, [click here](#).

If you are interested, please click here to fill out a request form and we’ll be in touch!

[CLICK HERE TO FILL SURVIVOR VOICES SPEAKER FORM](#)



**NEW MATERIALS FOR 2022!!**  
**New PCTF flyers we will use for our work in**  
**Plain Communities.**

**HELP WANTED:** Hands, feet and clicks to spread the word about  
child sexual abuse prevention!

The Busy Beaver, a widely distributed advertising booklet to Amish communities, pulled our child abuse prevention ads for inappropriate content because we used clear language about how to prevent the child sexual abuse that is so prevalent in many Amish communities. What was “inappropriate” was to even talk about child sexual abuse and to encourage Amish to call Childline to report it, rather than contacting religious leaders or committees as many have been instructed to do. The ads were developed by Lancaster County’s Plain Communities Task Force, of which Safe Communities is a member. Many Amish we work with in Lancaster County were in full support of the content of the ads and were shocked and disappointed in the Busy Beaver’s decision.

The ads have now been reformatted into handouts that will serve Amish, as well as others, to help keep all children safe! Please help us distribute these to as many people as possible! They can be accessed from the Plain Communities page on our website and downloaded or shared electronically. You can also pick up hard copies at our office to distribute. Contact Neeta Dedhia at [info@safecommunitiespa.org](mailto:info@safecommunitiespa.org) or call 717-560-9989.

**[CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE NEW FLYERS](#)**

**TOGETHER WE COULD  
MAKE A CHANGE!**

**Spread Your Kindness**



## **Volunteers Needed!**

Are you looking for a way add your light to a world weary of sexual violence? If you are, please consider serving as a volunteer with Safe Communities in 2022! We have multiple opportunities and have listed a few below.

1. Volunteers for various tasks during the Child Abuse Prevention Seminar on Friday & Saturday, April 29 & 30, 2022, held at Faith Mennonite High School, Kinzers, PA.
2. Safe Communities administrative tasks (remote option available)
3. Safe Communities social media updates (remote option available)
4. Spring Fundraising event

Volunteers are vital for the success of any organization! Safe Communities needs you! Please fill out the volunteer form and click submit. Our Office Manager will contact you to discuss upcoming opportunities within a few days after the form has been submitted.

[\*\*CLICK HERE FOR VOLUNTEER FORM\*\*](#)

## **Workshop of the Month!**

### **SUMMER CAMPS ARE COMING UP. ARE YOU READY TO KEEP KIDS SAFE?**

- Did you know it is estimated that 30-50% of children who are sexually abused are victims of
- children and teens under age 18?
- Are your staff and volunteers well versed in best practices for child protection?
- Are all of your certifications up to date, organized, and on file?
- Do you know what you would do if a sexual incident occurred between two campers?
- Is your training interesting and engaging so your staff feel passionate about child safety?
- Do you need help with communication with your constituents?
- Do all your staff and volunteers understand mandated reporting?
- Do you know how to respond to a child's

disclosure?



## **DON'T LET YOUR CAMP BE THE NEXT HEADLINE. WE WANT TO HELP YOU.**

We are experts in the field of child sexual abuse prevention and have developed evidence-based research material for workshops. We can help train your volunteers and staff to be proactive about keeping kids safe while they are at your camp this summer. Let's not let your camp be the next headline of a sexual abuse incident occurring on your watch. We have workshops on various topics like Child on Child Sexual Abuse; CSA 101; Mandated Reporting; and Consultations for camp leadership about certifications, best practices, compliance, communication to constituents etc. Contact us to get more information and schedule your workshop.



### **From a counselor:**

*Such much was accomplished in my client's life after attending one of your retreats! It was a very effective and powerful experience for her to be with other survivors. She has made amazing progress since then. You have been a big part of her healing process, and I thank you!*

**Your Donations Are What Make this Work Possible**





*We are THANKFUL for the valuable support of our individual donors, gifts from business such as Clark Associates, and key foundations including Touchstone Foundation (formerly LOHF), LMC Legacy Foundation, The Alpern Family Foundation, Tecumseh Milestone Foundation, Lancaster County Community Foundation, and the High Foundation.*

***Your little help goes a long way! This work would be impossible without you! Thank you!***

Safe Communities needs every day items to keep our programs running. We have created a wish list of our most needed items on Amazon.com. Your aid will help us in continuing our work of educating people about Child Sexual Abuse and assisting Survivors. Please click on the link below to view our wish list.

[CLICK HERE TO SEE OUR WISH LIST](#)

If you have not already done it, please check out our storefront for some cool merch. Your purchase will help Survivors of child sexual abuse move forward in their healing journeys and lead more fulfilling lives.

[VISIT OUR STOREFRONT](#)

If you would rather support us directly, you can click below to give online, or send a check payable to, our Fiscal Sponsor, Humanitarian Social Innovations (please write Safe Communities in Memo line only) - 313 W. Liberty St., Suite 242, Lancaster, PA 17603.

**DONATE  
NOW**



# A LENTEN REFLECTION

I was privileged to be invited to contribute to the 2022 Lenten Devotional of Bethel United Methodist Church. The theme for the Devotional is “The Lord is My Light and My Salvation Whom Shall I Fear” Psalm 27.1. Each contributing writer was asked to describe experiencing the love and beauty of God in the midst of the pandemic, some storm, or a situation that brought fear and uncertainty.

*Linda Crockett, Founder and Director*

***Palm Sunday, April 10th** - Matthew 14:29-32 29 Jesus said, ‘Come.’ So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came towards Jesus. 30. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, ‘Lord, save me!’ 31 Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him.*

## **A Near Drowning**

I left my position at a counseling center in 2019 to establish a non-profit focused on preventing child sexual abuse, and healing-justice for adult survivors. I had worked at the Center for sixteen years, developing programs that reached hundreds of churches and thousands of survivors. However, these growing services required more financial subsidy than the board was willing to approve. Despite the challenges, I knew these programs were literally saving lives, and that God called me to this work. I stepped out on faith and launched Safe Communities in January 2020. Three months later, the pandemic hit with full gale force, shutting down even mature nonprofits as donations plummeted. I felt like I was in a tiny boat on a raging sea, trying to make payroll, pay the rent, find loans, and meet the sharply rising needs of children sheltering in place with perpetrators and survivors isolated from their support systems. No matter how hard I rowed, waves towered above me. The winds were against us. Who was I to think I could do this? I didn’t even have a solid business plan! God had called me to this work, and then abandoned me. We were going to drown. And then came Jesus, calling out to me as he did to his disciples that night on the stormy sea, walking to them upon the water. And I heard him say, “Don’t be afraid. It’s me! Give me your hand”. I did, and in 2021 we served more than 1,300 people.

Prayer - Lord, save me!

*Linda Crockett*

## CORE VALUES

**Our core values:** **Respect:** Recognizing the worth and dignity of each person of every race, culture, and socioeconomic status. **Integrity:** Adhering to moral and ethical principles, keeping commitments, doing the “right thing”. **Social Impact:** Eliminating root causes of systemic social problems so that individuals and communities can flourish. **Equality:** Embracing non-hierarchical models within our organization, and our work. **Accountability:** Being transparent and accountable to those we serve and the donors who support us.

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**Please share this newsletter with your friends, family, clients, colleagues and faith communities to help spread the word that prevention and healing are possible.**

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**[www.safecommunitiespa.org](http://www.safecommunitiespa.org)**

**We welcome your questions about any of these programs.  
Contact [info@safecommunitiespa.org](mailto:info@safecommunitiespa.org) or 717.560.9989**

