



THE CHURCH CONNECTION GRANDFATHER HOME FOR CHILDREN

Keeping Our Children Safe



The prominent sexual abuse allegations against once trusted staff at Penn State and other universities have put the issue of child sexual abuse and suspected abuse in the headlines for the past several months. These tragic events are a reminder that sexual abuse doesn't just happen "somewhere else" and with "bad" people. It can happen anywhere and

often involves people we, and the children involved, believed they could trust.

We, at Grandfather Home, see every day the terrible toll this abuse takes on children who are the victims. We applaud the systematic efforts of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and its requirement that church professionals and volunteers receive training on setting proper professional and personal boundaries to reduce the likelihood of abuse happening in its congregations. Here are a few things your congregation can do to offer a safe environment for children and families:

- Develop a training program for your congregation. Take advantage of resources and training events from your denomination and insurance company.
- Be sure that all staff members are aware of the legal requirements for reporting suspected child/sexual abuse.
- Have written policies and procedures in place for all congregational leaders.
 - Require teachers/leaders to work in pairs.
 - Use both background and reference checks for all staff and volunteers.
- Train your staff to respond appropriately if abuse does occur:
 - Show the child that you are listening carefully and want to hear what they have to say.
 - Write down what is told to you so you can pass accurate information on to those investigating the abuse.
 - Have contact information readily available to report suspected abuse.

Together, we can help prevent child abuse!

The Child Now Before Us



These sweet little girls, Moriah and Jackie, have been under the care of Grandfather Home since May 2011. They came into our program when the Department of Social Services (DSS) called to have them removed from a horrific situation. The social worker described the scene. There were feces in the toilet, tub, and sinks. The bathtub was overflowing with water, and the floor in the hallway had fallen through. The oldest child, Moriah age 5, was left home alone to take care of her younger sister, Jackie (age 4). Jackie was found heating oil on the stove with plans to make cookies. Thankfully, the police arrived before she could badly injure herself. Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) had to clean the girls before they could be taken anywhere.

The girls are now doing very well. One of our foster families has provided excellent care to little Jackie and Moriah. DSS cannot believe the difference in the girls after seeing them the night they were taken versus seeing them now. These girls are a joy to talk to and it's amazing they were able to survive. God definitely had his hand of protection on them! Grandfather Home Case Manager, Rezuba said, "This is what keeps me doing what I do and I'm sure what keeps other staff doing their work as well. There are so many Jackie's and Moriah's that need our help. I am so thankful for foster parents like Mike and Lori and many others who step in and lovingly change these children's lives for the better!"

Please keep all our children in your prayers!

A Merry Christmas!

THANK YOU to everyone whose generosity helped make this Christmas a special one for the children at Grandfather Home! You helped make so many wishes come true. Here are photos of the holiday celebrations.



Dates to Remember:

April 6, 2012 Circle of Courage, Noon
May 4, 2012 Circle of Courage, Noon

Interested in volunteering?

If so, please contact Mae Weed at
m.weed@grandfatherhome.org
or 828-898-5465.

Grandfather Home for Children

PO Box 98
Banner Elk, NC 28604
828-898-5465
www.grandfatherhome.org
(Click on "Connect" tab for church information)

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Volunteers from the Banner Elk Key Club took on numerous holiday projects in 2011.

They decorated the cottages on the Banner Elk campus with Christmas lights.



They also put up the Grandfather Home Angel Tree at the Tanger Outlets in Blowing Rock, NC. Weeks later, they returned to help wrap gifts for the children!



We thank you, Key Club!