



Child Welfare Tshwane
NPO Reg No 007-612

Child Welfare Tshwane NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 1 / 2012

APRIL 2012

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

How to protect your child from being a victim of an online predator (continue) 2

How can I help? 2

Future Events 3

Facelift at Adoption Unit 4

How to protect your child from being a victim of an online predator

The web allows our children the freedom to make friends, play games and research home work with a click of a button. This can pose a potential danger to our children as they can be targeted by online predators and cyberbullies.

The question comes to mind, 'what is an online predator'? An online predator is an adult internet user who exploits vulnerable children or even teenagers, usually for sexual or other abusive purposes. Online victimization of children can include child grooming, requests to engage in sexual activities or discussions by an adult, unwanted exposure to sexual material (e-mail with naked pictures, etc.) and online harassment, threats or other aggressive communications that are not sexual in nature but causes distress, fear or embarrassment. Chat rooms, instant messaging, internet forums, social network sites are the sites where the online predators will target your child.

Online predators are usually male, seductive, introverted, sadistic and sexually indiscriminate people living amongst us every day. Some online predators gradually seduce their targets through the use of attention, affection, kindness and even gifts. They are often willing to devote considerable amounts of time, money and energy to this process. They will be aware of the latest music and hobbies likely to interest kids, they will listen and sympathise with our children's problems. They will lower our children's inhibitions by gradually introducing sexual content into their conversations. The other type of online predator engage in sexually explicit conversations immediately. This approach can include harassment or stalking. The predator may also be evaluating the children they meet online for future face- to- face contact.

Video chatting is the way of direction that we are headed in when it comes to digital communication. Skype has taken the world by storm, cell phones and tablet PC's are being built with front facing cameras. Video chatting is a tool great way to connect with family and friends overseas, and it is a great tool for businesses. However, like most digital technologies, video chatting has its own dark side.

Jailbait, is a one to one video chatting "game" that was created and is being "played" by online predators. Jailbait is a "game designed to target young girls to get them to take their clothes off. The young, more naïve girls are the easy targets. This game is played over anonymous webcam video chatting sites, like Omegle, Chatroulette and iMeetzu. A way for online predators and pedophiles to record your child's actions and post them on child pornography forums and sites. These footage will be shared and viewed by thousands of other people. This "game" works on a point system. The point are

useless, but it provides an incentive to a younger audience where “virtual status” can mean a lot.

Tips to safe guard our children from online predators:

- Encourage your children to tell you about things that happened to them that made them feel scared, sad or even uncomfortable.
- Install a safety browser on your computer that you can block inappropriate websites from your child. "K9" is a free program you can download from the internet.
- Teach your child to never give out their last name, address or phone number to a person on the internet and never meet an internet friend in person without a parent's supervision and consent.
- Always keep the computer in a public place in the house – not in a child's bedroom.
- Always know the sites your child is visiting on the internet.
- Always teach your children about internet safety.
- Teach your children to never respond to instant messages or e-mails from strangers

Some internet safety statistics

- 89% of sexual solicitations are made in chat rooms or instant messages
- 75% of youth who received an online sexual solicitation did not tell their parents.
- 81% of parents of youth that makes use of internet are not careful enough when giving out their information.
- 76% of parents don't have rules about what their kids can do on a computer.
- 4,000,000 children are posting content to the web everyday.
- 15,000,000 youth are using instant messaging
- From 2007 – 2009 MySpace has deleted 90,000 accounts because they were created by registered sex offenders.

How can I help?

**Please donate
all unused items
to us**



**Donate
non-perishable
foods**

Example of food to be donated:
Flour, Tin Food, Sunflower Oil,
Mielie pap, Long life milk, Spagetti,
Macaroni, lentels, sugar beans, sugar,
coffee, Tea, etc.



**Depositing money
into our bank account**

Banking Details:
Child Welfare Tshwane
ABSA, Brooklyn
Acc no: 4045889029
Ref: Name, Surname, CHR01



Future Events

GOLF



CHILD WELFARE: WISH LIST

support our Annual
'ROUND FOR HOPE' GOLF DAY

When: **Tuesday, 22 May 2012**

Where: **Waterkloof Golf Club [old Monument Golf Club]**

4 Ball Price: **R4000**

* Golfer's Gift / Golf Carts / Halfway House / Prize Giving Dinner

T-Box Sponsorship: R2000 per hole

* 1 table + 2 chairs + table cloth + 2x lunch tickets

Vehicle / Motorcycle Display: R4000

* 6-8x Units on grass embankment behind the 18th Green

Format: 4-ball Alliance [Scramble Drive]

Shot Gun Start @ 11:15 | Halfway House: Grab and go

Prize Giving Dinner @ 18:00

*great entertainment *exclusive prizes / auction | *cash bar available

Caddies: available @ R140 per caddy *including halfway house meal of R30

* with your payment or prize/product donation to CHILD WELFARE TSHWANE, you will receive an 18A TAX certificate, which is a Tax Rebate

event coordinator
ART 2 EVENTS

For bookings, please contact Ansie
at ansie@art2print.co.za / 012 430 2309



Adoptions Unit

Adoptions: What do we do?

- Support and counselling to biological mothers
- Care for babies and young children
- Screening of prospective adoptive parents
- Family adoptions
- Search of origin-to adult adopted children and parents

There are continuous referrals of abandoned babies and there are also mothers that want to give their babies up for adoption mainly due to poverty. The investigation process has prolonged due to the processes and all the documents that have to take place or be obtained before the babies are adoptable and can be matched and placed with successfully screened adoptive parents.

The biological mothers who want to give their babies up for adoption are counselled and guided through the process by the social worker. The biological fathers have to be made part of the process and have equal rights. Therefore the social worker tries her utmost to trace them and advertisements are also placed in the newspaper to do so.

Many applications have been received from people who want to go through the adoption screening process. We are planning to have an orientation group meeting with new applicants in May to explain the adoption process and its implications to them.

The application of Family adoptions have increased greatly due to the fact that all adoptions have to be done by accredited adoption social workers. Many referrals are received from lawyers who cannot process the adoptions any more. There is clearly an increase in the demands of the Adoptions Unit and its workers due to an increase in referrals and in parents who would like to adopt babies or children.

We deal with each referral and application individually according to their needs. Each baby or child that is reported to us is unique and special and our main aim or goal is to act in the best interest of the child, as we realize that their future is in our hands and our work and the decisions we make will influence them for the rest of their lives. We try our best to find the right family for a child and believe that God guides us with our placements.

We do not discriminate and are open to screen single parents, same sexed couples and individuals from any religious group. It is therefore important and necessary to empower and extend the Adoption Unit's capacity in order to render a even better service to our babies, to biological parents and to prospective adoptive parents.

The search of origin service is also in great demand and really rounds off our adoption service to the Tshwane community.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Wonderful, Friendly, Competent, Open-minded, Hard working Staff, who care and go the extra mile.
- Beautifully renovated offices which were given a personal touch by interior decorating students from IN-SCAPE (NAME??)
- Our individual donors, especially Dr Ahmad Haeri and the Good Start Foundation, Absa staff....
- Our very special Temporary Safe Care Parents who care for our babies and are always ready to assist us in crisis situations
- The many enquiries, applications and referrals which we receive which is a clear indication that we will not be running out of work very soon at the Adoption Unit.

The bond that links your true family
is not one of blood, but of respect and joy in each other's life." Richard Bach