Each day we are reminded with letters, emails and telephone calls that what we are doing does make a difference. We now have trained facilitators in 39 states, 4 countries, 1 protectorate and the District of Columbia.

In 2004 and 2005, Darkness to Light trained a total of 170 facilitators over a course of 14 trainings. In 2006, we trained 195 facilitators over a course of 14 trainings. As of March 1, 2007 we have trained 68 facilitators, and there are 17 additional trainings scheduled. As the number of facilitators grows, so grows our ability to teach more and more responsible adults how to prevent, recognize, and react responsibly to the horror of child sexual abuse.

More and more facilitators are becoming activists in their communities. Jim and Sherri Grady were tremendous supporters of the Charleston Prevent-A-Thon™ in August, ‘06. In addition to being committed facilitators, they are realtors. They have instituted a program called Not In My Backyard. The centerpiece of this program is our Stewards of Children child sexual abuse prevention training. Jim and Sherri teach this invaluable course to neighborhood associations throughout the Charleston area. Who wouldn’t feel much safer knowing their family lived in a Stewards Neighborhood?

Grassroots, community-driven initiatives are what Darkness to Light is all about. Encourage Stewards training in your community. Become a facilitator. As more and more of us insist that care be taken with our most precious resource, society will begin to see that they must take the responsible steps and become Stewards of Children.
On behalf of the Darkness to Light Board of Directors, we want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your support in 2006. It was a year of incredible growth for the organization, and we intend to keep the momentum going.

We are delighted to serve as your co-chairs for the next year. Following in the footsteps of Stuart Christie and Isabel Jewell is certainly no easy task! We want to thank those Board members whose terms expired in December. Wilbur Johnson and Harriet Rigney made invaluable contributions to Darkness to Light, and they will be missed. We thank you two for your dedicated service to this organization, and wish you well.

We’re excited, however, to welcome Sam Jewell to the Board of Directors. Sam and Isabel have been dedicated supporters of Darkness to Light since its inception. We are fortunate to have his expertise, and we look forward to continuing to work alongside the Jewells.

We are also the grateful beneficiaries of the ongoing creative talents of CNN and Young & Rubicam. These gifted and dedicated men and women are creating new marketing products for Darkness to Light. The continued outpouring of generosity from these partners makes it possible for us to stay true to our mission of raising awareness of child sexual abuse, and teaching prevention.

If you have a local newspaper or magazine and would like to run our print ads, please let us know. We will gladly make our media package available to interested communities. This package includes not only print ads, but television and radio PSA’s and outdoor advertising. Darkness to Light is a grassroots organization. We depend on you – the parents, coaches, teachers, spiritual leaders – to insist that our children be protected from the nightmare of child sexual abuse.

We never cease to be amazed at the continuing growth of this organization, and its impact on the movement to prevent child sexual abuse. We would not be able to do it without your support, both emotional and financial. We look forward to working with you in the coming year. Together, we can protect their only childhood!

Kimberly Bealle and Lisa M. Craig
Co-Chairs

BRING DARKNESS TO LIGHT’S MEDIA PACKAGE TO YOUR COMMUNITY!

Darkness to Light is pleased to offer communities across the country the opportunity to utilize our award-winning awareness media campaign. The package includes PSA’s for television, radio, print, and outdoor.

You will receive “4 Girls Jam”, featuring Cyndi Lauper’s hit “Girls Just Wanna Have Fun”, and our “6 Boys” ad. In addition to the traditional :30 second spot, shorter spots are also included in the package.

Bend, Oregon and Fayetteville, North Carolina were the first to take advantage of this co-branding opportunity.

For more details and for pricing, contact Lane Aspinwall at laspinwall@d2l.org
So much has happened since our last newsletter! We’ve announced a Higher Education Initiative, hosted our Circle of Light Gala, spent a day with Gina Betts whose Cattle Barons’ Ball in Dallas is one of THE biggest fundraisers in the country, traveled to Dallas to begin conversations about a Texas Initiative, and we’ve been nominated for a Peabody Award. This is in addition to the usual everyday things like preparing for the ’07 Gala, gearing up for Prevent-a-thon™, and training more and more facilitators to teach Stewards of Children™. Whew!

I want to introduce you to Kim Bealle and Lisa Craig. Kim and Lisa began serving in January as co-chairs of our Board of Directors. These two women have been tremendous supporters of Darkness to Light for years and we are delighted that they have agreed to lead our Board through the next year.

Our national media partners CNN, Young & Rubicam, Lifetime, and Oxygen keep raising the media bar, and we thank them for it. CNN ran our PSA’s nearly 1300 times last year! We get emails constantly from individuals who learned about us from seeing our PSA’s. As a nonprofit, we could not purchase the coverage our media partners so generously provide. Because of their altruism, Darkness to Light is able to channel funding into training adults how to prevent, recognize, and react responsibly to child sexual abuse.

As we grow, we get more and more calls for Stewards Español. This will be a huge undertaking. If you or someone you know is looking for a terrific opportunity to make a difference, supporting our efforts to make Stewards of Children training available to Spanish-speaking communities would literally make a world of difference as well as a different world.

Together, we can protect their only childhood!
Child sexual abuse happens at an alarming rate and still the subject remains taboo. For Vernon and Andrea Glenn, finding meaningful ways to overcome this epidemic is a cause they are passionate about and willing to tackle head on.

“For young people, we can do better!” says Vernon Glenn, personal injury lawyer and founder of The Law Offices of E. Vernon F. Glenn. This sentiment is alive and well for both Vernon and his wife Andrea, steadfast supporters of Darkness to Light.

The Glenn’s unyielding compassion and creativity is evidenced through their innovative support. A bright red postage meter imprint reading “Lowcountry Lawyer Supports Darkness to Light.....darkness2light.org” adorns each piece of metered mail sent from their law office. “This modest investment of $45.00 was such an easy way to raising awareness of the problem of child sexual abuse and how others can help,” says Andrea.

Committed to supporting the cause philanthropically, the Glenns recently donated two tickets for the UNC vs. DUKE Basketball game which were auctioned off on ESPN 910 Radio “The Team”. Chris Cook placed the winning bid of $1,100.00.

Vernon finds inspiration from his father who told him, “Leave this world a better place than you encounter.” He always remembers the humble lesson of “It is in the failing that you achieve.” The Glenns also believe that “every child deserves a childhood and they can’t do it alone. We can make this world a better place.”

Darkness to Light salutes Vernon & Andrea Glenn

HIGHER EDUCATION INITIATIVE ANNOUNCED!

In October, Darkness to Light announced the start of a higher education initiative. The focus is to bring our Stewards of Children™ child sexual abuse training to colleges and universities nationwide.

The initiative started with The Citadel, the military college of South Carolina. The Citadel implemented the Stewards training program in the School of Education curriculum. Their intention is to train every cadet, faculty and staff member at the college. The Citadel had earlier implemented a Values and Respect program, a college wide initiative with a purpose to strengthen character development. Stewards of Children fits perfectly with that program.

The Medical University of South Carolina, College of Charleston, Charleston Southern University, and Trident Technical College have all agreed in principle to follow the lead of The Citadel.

The trickledown effect of this initiative is tremendous. These students will graduate and travel to all parts of the country to pursue careers in Education, Recreation, Nursing, Faith-Based professions and other fields. The knowledge and skills these students receive from participating in Stewards of Children training can be used to teach others how to prevent, recognize, and react responsibly to child sexual abuse.

Darkness to Light will continue to work with colleges and universities throughout the country to provide Stewards of Children training to their students. It is our belief that this training will not only enhance a graduate’s resume, but as they go out into the workplace, and as they become parents themselves, they will be trained to keep children safer from the horror of child sexual abuse.

Thanks to Rick Hendrick Volvo of Charleston, WCIV ABC-News 4, and the generosity of businesses and individuals throughout the Charleston community, Prevent-a-thon 2006 was a terrific success. 4,000 adults participated, which translates to 40,000 children who are better protected from child sexual abuse.

Plans are now underway for Charleston’s 2007 Prevent-a-thon. If you would like for your group or organization to take advantage of this opportunity, call now to reserve your seats. This is an excellent way to let your community know that you are committed to the safety and well-being of its children.

To reserve a training for your group or to find out how to conduct a Prevent-a-thon in your community, contact Lane Aspinwall at: laspinwall@d2l.org.
CIRCLE OF LIGHT GALA

Awarded Best Cause and Best Event by the readers of Charleston City Paper

Darkness to Light’s Circle of Light Gala has become the “see and be seen” social event of the season, and the 2006 production was no exception!

The Asian-themed evening was hosted by Gregory Woo, MTV Chi vee-jay. He made a grand entrance to the sounds of Zero Taiko, and proceeded to entrance the crowd with his good looks and radiant personality. Aided and abetted by the vivacious Angela Shelton, he kept the 600 well-dressed guests entertained throughout the evening.

The highlight of the evening was the premier of Dan Mackenzie’s song “Darkness to Light”. Dan was accompanied by the Charleston County Ashley River School of the Arts Unichorus and the Charleston County School of the Arts Chamber Orchestra.

The Corporate Voice of Courage Award was presented to Volvo Cars of North America. Evan Messinger of CNN, a past recipient, presented the award to Steve Gamble (R). Brad Davis (L) of Rick Hendrick Volvo of Charleston was recognized by Mr. Gamble.

The 2006 Gala raised over $300,000 to help Darkness to Light further its mission of keeping children safe from child sexual abuse.

Special Thanks to:
Tara Guerard of Soiree, Inc., Jeff Nickles of PDA Lighting & Sound, Keith Snyder of Snyder Event Rentals & Staffing

Plans are underway for the 2007 Circle of Light Gala. If you or your organization are interested in sponsorship of this memorable event, please contact us at gala@d2l.org.

YOU CAN TAKE ACTION IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE!!

1. Take the Stewards of Children child sexual abuse prevention training, which is available online.
2. Become a Stewards facilitator and bring this evidence-based training to your community.
3. Become a sponsor of the Darkness to Light Circle of Light Gala.
4. Make a donation to Darkness to Light.

TOGETHER WE CAN PROTECT THEIR ONLY CHILDHOOD!

Darkness to Light would like to thank all those who made donations of their time, treasure and talent. We would particularly like to acknowledge the following donors. This list includes those who made donations between March 1, 2006 and February 28, 2007.

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MANY THANKS to the additional donors who gave from $1 - $99. This support is the foundation of Darkness to Light’s valuable work.

MANY THANKS also to all the businesses and individuals who so generously donated Gala auction packages, furnishings for our office, PSA space and much more. These donations are integral to our success.

You can make a difference. Help us protect children by making a donation today.

Visit darkness2light.org and click on DONATE NOW to make your contribution easily and safely.

Our mission is to diminish the incidence and impact of child sexual abuse, so that more children will grow up healthy and whole. Our programs will 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.