



Happy Valentine's Day

to all the wonderful Friends of SafeSpot - donors, volunteers, staff, community partners and participants. We hope you have a wonderful, loving relationship on this special day and we thank you for your support of children who have suffered from hurtful, unhealthy relationships. Love has many definitions, but abuse is not one of them.

Director's Corner



Each day at SafeSpot, I watch as children and families walk into our center for the first time with fear and worry written on their faces. Children are referred to SafeSpot by Fairfax police and social service workers regarding child abuse concerns. When child abuse is first discovered, many people are very busy working to help stop the abuse but may not think about what justice means to the child and family.

Recently, child abuse cases in the national news shed a bright light on what children go through when abuse is discovered. Some may find justice in the courtroom, others may find justice in therapy and some may never find justice. When children are not provided a safe place to navigate healing from child abuse, justice may be hard to find.

SafeSpot provided a safe place for over 400 forensic interviews of abused children in 2017. We assisted in 14% more cases than in 2016. Hundreds of worried parents were able to talk with our Family Advocate and get the support needed to ensure information about the criminal justice process was communicated in a trauma-informed manner.

SafeSpot provides no-cost mental health services to children who are victims of abuse. In 2017, 84% of children that graduated from therapy reported a decrease in trauma symptoms. Each year, more children graduate from the therapy program at SafeSpot. Children experience significantly fewer intrusive thoughts and avoidance behaviors as well as show reductions in depression, anxiety, disassociation, behavior problems, sexualized behavior, and trauma-related shame. We are sharing a message of hope and healing with children that will last a lifetime.

Justice comes in many forms. It is our job to keep working so that children and families who walk in our building find their justice.

In gratitude,
Michele Thames, Executive Director



Champions *Fore* Children Charity Golf Tournament

Please join us for the **3rd Annual ChampionsFORE/Children golf tournament and dinner banquet on Monday, April 30, 2018** at Westwood Country Club. We are excited to have Larry Michael, the "Voice of the Redskins," as this year's dinner emcee!

Sponsorship opportunities are available and range from \$1500 - \$10,000 and include a great day of golf followed by a cocktail reception, dinner banquet, and silent and live auctions. Foursomes are limited to ensure fast and enjoyable play so [REGISTER NOW](#).

If you are not a golfer, you can support SafeSpot and join us for the evening activities which will include cocktails, dinner, auctions and fun! Table sponsorships and individual dinner tickets are available.

For more information and to register, visit www.championsforechildren.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, April 14, 9:30 a.m.
"Keeping Children Safe"
panel discussion
South County Building

Saturday, April 21, 11-1 p.m.
Field of Hope game day
Herndon, VA

Monday, April 30, 10:30 - 7:30
ChampionsFOREChildren
Golf Tournament and
Dinner
Westwood Country Club



Plant a Pinwheel Garden in April!

Pinwheels are a whimsical symbol of the fight against child abuse. They symbolize childhood hope and happiness and bring smiles to all kids! During April, Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month, we plant "pinwheel gardens" at locations throughout the county to raise awareness about the issue of child abuse. Look out for them at schools, churches, businesses and even home gardens. We also have pinwheel pots to display inside on desks or tables. If you would like to help deliver pinwheels or if you know a church or business willing to display the pinwheels, please contact Bootsie Humenansky at 703-965-5463 or bootsieh@aol.com.

Come play games with the Redskins!

Here is your chance to give your children a unique opportunity to "play for a cause" on the **Field of Hope with Redskins Colt McCoy and Ryan Kerrigan.**

The Herndon Police Department is sponsoring a fun day of games with these two football players which will benefit SafeSpot. And the new SafeSpot Junior Board will be volunteering at the event!

Registration is open to children ages 7-12 years old and is limited to 40 participants.

Saturday, April 21
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Haley M. Smith Park
Herndon, VA
Cost: \$50

[REGISTER NOW!](#)



Colt McCoy.



Ryan Kerrigan

"Keeping Our Children Safe" Panel Discussion

Join us and learn how to protect our children and keep our community safe. Learn about child abuse prevention and intervention, internet safety, and body safety programs in our community from Michele Thames of SafeSpot, Sonia Quinonez of SCAN, Iris Beckwith of connectED4safety and Cecilia Tatis of Fairfax County. Hosted by St. Luke's Episcopal Church, SafeSpot and Ventures in Community. This discussion will be on:

Saturday, April 14
9:30 to 11:30 a.m.
South County Building,
8350 Richmond Highway. Alexandria

Welcome New Junior Board!

We are so excited to announce the creation of a Junior Board for SafeSpot. These are young adults who have chosen to help SafeSpot change the lives of abused children. They are already planning several events - including the Field of Hope event on Saturday April 21. Besides the board, they have gathered a fun group of additional volunteers. If you are interested, please contact Becca Bickel, board chair, at juniorboard.safespot@gmail.com. Thank you for your support!

Volunteer Opportunities!

This is a busy time for SafeSpot as we prepare for April, Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month. Volunteers are needed for many projects with many different skill sets and most only require a commitment of a few hours. There are also great opportunities for community service hours for your children. So come help out! Contact Bootsie Humenansky at 703 965 5463 or bootsieh@aol.com. Thank you for your support!

PREVENTION



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[CONTACT US](#)

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Visit us at

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