

Dear Bootsie,

I hope this finds you healthy and in good spirits. With summer officially underway, and social restrictions easing throughout the area, there is a palpable sense of optimism and hope in the air. Here at SafeSpot, we are seeing the results of our community's "return to normal" in the increasing number of children being referred for forensic interviews. Already in the first six months of 2021 we have served record numbers of children, many of whom suffered prolonged, hidden abuse during the isolation of the COVID-19 pandemic.

When child abuse occurs, many people think of a single offender abusing a single victim. In reality, offenders can abuse hundreds of children before being caught. I want to share one such story with you today. In February of this year, an 11 year old boy found the courage to tell his parents that he was being abused by a trusted community member. Once his parents were aware of the abuse, they asked their other children who confirmed that they too were victims of the same abuser. For this family, the abuse had occurred repeatedly over the course of three years. The abuser was well known in the community and regularly assisted hundreds of families over the course of ten years in tutoring their children. The tutoring occurred in person in a neutral location, at family's homes, and virtually once COVID started.

Once the abuse was disclosed, and law enforcement was involved, the family was brought to SafeSpot and all three siblings were interviewed. They each disclosed sexual abuse and brutal physical abuse by the offender, and several other children were identified as victims. Those families were contacted by law enforcement and child protective services and interviews were scheduled at SafeSpot. During these interviews even more victims were identified. A total of 12 children were interviewed at SafeSpot, all abused by this same offender.

Every family received Family Advocacy Services at SafeSpot. Our Advocates provided emotional support, education, and referrals for community services. The Family Advocates worked diligently in getting the children and parents connected to appropriate therapy services, including a caregiver support group. Throughout the course of the investigation, the SafeSpot team continued to follow up with the families to assess for additional resource needs, while also working closely with law enforcement and child protective services regarding updates to the case and criminal charges.

This case, while larger in scope than others seen by SafeSpot, is a wonderful example of the success that a multidisciplinary team approach can provide. Due to the courage of these young children, the collaboration between law enforcement, child protective services, and SafeSpot staff, the offender is currently incarcerated and is serving 47 years for the crimes he committed. Just as importantly, these children were finally seen, heard, and supported. While their journey to healing will be challenging, we celebrate the fact that the journey has begun and our community is a safer place for all children.

It is only through the generous support and advocacy of our community that SafeSpot can

celebrate these and other successes. Highlighted below you will find many ways to stay connected with us in the weeks and months to come - from summer shopping to fabulous fall events, all in support of our community's most vulnerable children. Together, we can continue to offer hope, healing, and justice.

With Appreciation,
Heather O'Malley
 Managing Director

Shopping Never Felt So Good



SAVE THE DATE FOR SOME SOCIAL GOOD SHOPPING!

Shop [online](#) with **Kendra Scott** on *Wednesday, August 4th* and *Thursday, August 5th*, use code **GIVEBACK-ADLDL** in your cart at check-out, and **20% of your purchase will benefit SafeSpot!**

Want to see that necklace or ring on? Come out the [Mosaic District](#) location on *Thursday the 5th from 6 - 8pm* and mention SafeSpot at checkout.

Either way, your purchase(s) will directly benefit children impacted by abuse in our community - thank you!

Fall Events You Won't Want To Miss



Saturday, September 18th, 8 a.m.
Lake Fairfax Park

Join us for a fun-filled morning that the entire family can enjoy! In addition to our main race, we will have a fun run for children, live music and entertainment, and



Monday, October 18th, 10:30 a.m.
Westwood Country Club

Enjoy a day full of swings, sips, and spreads at the lovely Westwood Country Club. Play golf or tennis, enjoy fairway food and fun, or host a table of dinner guests. All options...all in support of children and

activities for every member of the family. Dress up as your favorite Superhero or Superhero family, and you could win a prize!

Looking to get recognition for your business while supporting a worthy cause? **[Learn about our many sponsorship opportunities here.](#)**

The early bird rate of \$35 is available through August 22nd! Children 12 and under are just \$15.

[Register Now!](#)

families recovering from abuse in our community.

Sponsorship opportunities for Cocktails and Dinner start at just \$1,000. Add a foursome and join us for the entire day for just \$3,000. **[Learn about our many sponsorship opportunities here.](#)**

Tickets for individual dinner guests are available as well. All proceeds benefit the ongoing operations of SafeSpot Children's Advocacy Center.

[Register Now!](#)

SafeSpot In the News

Fairfax City Councilman Sang Yi Donates His Salary to SafeSpot



Because of his job and seniority level in the federal government, Fairfax City Councilmember Sang Yi is professionally prohibited from taking a salary for his Council services. So each year, he donates it to worthy organizations. This year, Yi selected SafeSpot to receive \$9,000 of his \$12,000 stipend, a gift that will go a long way to helping children begin the journey to healing.

"SafeSpot helps sexually abused children," said Yi. "And hopefully, we can break that cycle of abuse by providing them with the resources they need [to help the victims]. I recently took a tour of the facility, and they're doing really important work."

[Read more about Councilman Yi's donation in The Connection.](#)

Recognition for SafeSpot



The Catalogue for Philanthropy Endorses SafeSpot!

We are proud to share that SafeSpot has been chosen for the 2021-22 print edition of the **Catalogue for Philanthropy: Greater Washington!**

The Catalogue for Philanthropy is a well-known, trusted source of guidance for philanthropists in the DC Metro region. SafeSpot was chosen through a rigorous application and selection process, conducted by a team of 170+ volunteer community advocates from local foundations, peer nonprofits, and the community.

"Having the Catalogue's endorsement as an impactful, well-run nonprofit in our region is a true honor," says Managing Director Heather O'Malley. "The increased visibility that comes with the Catalogue will bring greater resources and awareness to our critical work for children and families impacted by abuse."

[Learn About the Catalogue for Philanthropy](#)



SafeSpot Earns a "Platinum Seal of Transparency" from GuideStar

Charity watchdog **GuideStar**, now run by Candid, highlights the profiles of thousands of nonprofits, providing individuals with the information they need to make philanthropic investments that do the most good.

We are proud to share that SafeSpot has earned GuideStar's **Platinum Seal of Transparency**, indicating our commitment to providing the most accurate, up-to-date, meaningful information to our community and supporters.

In addition to providing basic program and financial information, our Platinum Seal of Transparency means that we are committed to holding ourselves accountable to the strategies, goals, and results we achieve.

Take a few moments to review our new GuideStar profile!

[Read Our Profile on GuideStar \(requires creation of a free account\)](#)

See Where it All Happens

Join Managing Director, Heather O'Malley, as she guides you through our Children's Advocacy Center.



OUR MISSION:

The mission of SafeSpot Children’s Advocacy Center of Fairfax County is to provide a child-friendly, culturally sensitive environment that promotes the safety and well-being of child victims of abuse while facilitating a comprehensive, multi-disciplinary team approach to the intervention, investigation, prosecution and treatment of sexual abuse and severe physical abuse.



Visit our website

SafeSpot | P.O Box 148, Fairfax, VA 22038

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