

The PREVENTION arm of SafePath Coalition for Child Abuse Prevention



JULY, AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2009

NEWSLETTER

*This Newsletter is in Memory of Leah Reeves, Wife of Hal Reeves with Cobb DFACS.
Our Thoughts and Prayers are with Hal and his Family.*

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NEXT CCAP GENERAL MEETING WILL BE
FRIDAY AUGUST 7, 2009 AT SAFEPATH OFFICE.
LOCATED AT 736 WHITLOCK AVENUE AT **8:30AM**

CCAP's

Mission:

We are dedicated to preventing child abuse & neglect in all forms. We are committed to providing education to the community in the prevention & elimination of child abuse & neglect. We are further dedicated to serving as the voice of those children unable to defend & protect themselves.



News from SafePath 8 Rules for Safety

SafePath is pleased to announce the winners of the "8 rules for safety" poster contest promoting child safety:
1st place: **Citialli Sandoval** of Norton Park Elementary (2nd grade)
2nd place: **Betty Gonzalez** of Milford Elementary (5th grade)
3rd place: **Raevin Green** of North Park Elementary (5th grade)

1st



2nd



3rd



Participating Organizations: Girl Scouts Troup #789, Milford Elementary, Norton Park Elementary, Riverside Intermediate, Union Elementary

Training Update.....Mark your calendars!!

- SafePath is hosting a training on September 24, 2009, with keynote speaker **Johnnetta McSwain, MSW**, who's life story was featured on GPB's "The Road Beyond Abuse". This workshop will also include the D2L Stewards of Children Training. Visit www.safepathtraining.com or contact Crystal Rosser at 770-801-3465 for more information. CEUs & Post credit available.
- CCAP is hosting a conference on November 3, 2009 on Internet Safety, Cyber Bullying, and Sexting at Chattahoochee Tech. Please mark your calendars for a great day of information. CEUs will be offered.

CCAP Membership Highlights

- New member breakfast has been moved to October 2, 2009.

Community News

The Interfaith Children's Movement is an interfaith advocacy movement dedicated to improving the well-being of children in Georgia. The purpose is: **Educating** individuals and their faith community about children's issues; **Advocating** for government policies that are good for children; **Activating** faith communities to speak up for their children; and **Networking** faith communities to direct service programs that help children. The Interfaith Children's Movement (ICM) is founded on the conviction that people of all faiths can, and must, work together-across boundaries of religious institutions and spiritual practices-to improve the lives and well-being of all children. ICM calls upon thousands of faith communities to put their faith in action and bring their compassion and commitment to the fight against social inequities that threaten our children's ability to realize their potential. Cobb Chapter is forming.



SafePath Children's Advocacy Center's
RaceTrac Teeing Off for Kids



Please join us for the 12th Annual Teeing Off for Kids Golf Classic taking place at Indian Hills Country Club on August 31, 2009. Registration will begin at 8:00 am, with a Shot-gun Start at 9:00 am. Come for a day of golf, prizes, food and fun, all while supporting SafePath. Foursomes are \$700, Individual golfers are \$175, and Sponsorships are available. For more information on this event visit www.supportsafepath.com or contact Alison Bishop at 770-801-3469.

Legislative Updates: Senate Bill 69

Having sex, knowingly or unknowingly, with an underage prostitute is child abuse, and legislation signed by Governor Sonny Perdue on May 5, 2009 ensures mandatory child abuse reporters must report victims of sexual exploitation in all cases-not just those instances where a "parent or caretaker" is suspected. Until now, Georgia law has restricted mandatory reporting only to suspected cases of child abuse that involve "parents and caretakers." Senate Bill 69, sponsored by Senator Renee Unterman, passed the Georgia House of Representatives on March 26 by a vote of 163-1. It requires mandatory reporters to report child abuse at the hands of any exploiter. Advocates working to stop the prostitution of children in Georgia say that broader language means clients-who typically aren't family members or caretakers of the victim-will now also be reported as child abusers. "What a victory for children of Georgia," says Mary Frances Bowley, director of the non-profit Well-spring Living for Girls. "Now there is an avenue for those who work closely with children to direct them to safety and restoration."

The sexual exploitation of children in Georgia is becoming of increasing public concern as more credible information emerges about the issues. Research commissioned by *A Future Not A Past* finds between 200 and 300 adolescent girls are prostituted each month in Georgia on the streets; over the Internet; through escort services; and in major hotels. "The sexual exploitation of Georgia's children is too prevalent and too devastating to its victims for us not to act. Hopefully, the legislation signed May 5th will set Georgia on a course to reduce greatly the number of its children who are victims of this type of abuse," says Heather Ewing, President of the Junior League of Atlanta, which is an advocacy partner in passing the legislation.

-Information obtained from the Governor's Office for Children and Families (404) 565-5600 or www.children.georgia.gov

"Abuse rises as finances worsen"

Some hospitals report seeing more than twice as many shaken babies as a year ago. Deaths from domestic violence have increased sharply in some areas. Calls to domestic violence hotlines have risen too, and more than half the callers said their families' financial situations has changed recently. Across this county, these and other signs point to another troubling effect of the recession: the American home is becoming more violent, and the ailing economy could be at least partially to blame. "Our children and families are suffering," said Alane Fagin, who runs a Long Island nonprofit group called Child Abuse Prevention Services. "With more layoffs expected the threat of foreclosures looming over so many and our savings disappearing, even the best parents can feel stressed out and overwhelmed." Nationwide government data will not be compiled for months so the evidence suggesting an uptick in child abuse and domestic violence has been largely anecdotal. But the Child Welfare League of American, a coalition of public and private agencies, has been surveying state child welfare agency to determine whether the numbers reflect a spike in violence. "I think a lot of people are very concerned that we are in the early phases of this," said Linda Spears, vice President for policy and public affairs. Eighty-eight percent of law enforcement officials believe the economic crisis has led, or will lead, to more child abuse and neglect, according to top police officials from Los Angeles, Boston, Milwaukee and Philadelphia who recently held a news conference in Washington. "Those of us on the front lines of law enforcement know that there is a correlation between economic distress and increased child abuse and neglect," said Los Angeles Police Chief Willam Bratton. "We have to get in front of this problem now." Just as the need appears to be growing, the recession is drying up funding to many agencies that fight domestic violence. "The period of time man well be our perfect storm: a struggling economy, an increase in stress and a decrease in funding of programs," said Fagin the Long Island child abuse prevention advocate. Not everyone is convinced domestic violence and child abuse are increasing. "So far from what I've read there is no evidence that is the case," said Ben Tanzer of Chicago-based Prevent Child Abuse. "Certainly we're concerned that certain communities may be in crisis, but we just don't know."

Featured in the Marietta Daily Journal April 11, 2009 by Frank Eltman of Associated Press; Garden City, NY