

—IN SUPPORT OF CHILDREN Newsletter —

In Support of Children—ODU

It's NEVER ok to HIT A CHILD

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Vigil For Nixzmary Brown on Valentine's Day



Nixzmary Brown

On Valentine's Day, Thursday February 14th, 2008 from 6:00 -6:30 PM In Support of Children will hold its 3rd Annual Vigil to Honor Nixzmary Brown and **the over 1,000 children who suffer and die annually at the hands of those who should care for them.** The Vigil will be held in the lobby of the Child Study Center, on 45th Street and Hampton Blvd (across from BAL).

Nixzmary Brown died in Brooklyn, NY on January 12, 2006, at the age of 7

due to repeated torture, beating, abuse and malnutrition at the hands of her step-father and mother. Nixzmary was the fourth child to die in 2 months while in the custody of parents who had been investigated by NYC Administration for Children's Services. Were we doing these children a service?

Most children who die as result of child abuse are

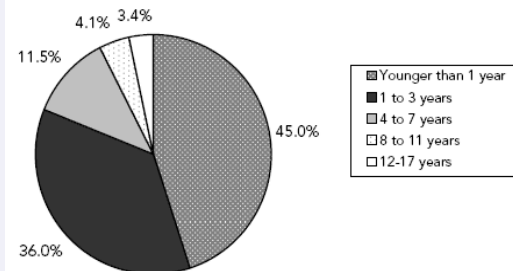


A LIGHT FOR THE CHILDREN PHOTO BY CRICK THORNE

ODU Students Light Candles to send light to children who have died from abuse and to honor their lives. Vigils will also be held at the Peninsula and Northern VA Higher Education Centers.

under 4 years of age, the most vulnerable. Most of the perpetrators are those responsible for taking care

Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities Victims by Age, 2004



of the children: 80% parents and 10% other caretakers.

This Valentine's Day Vigils to honor child abuse victims are being held on the ODU campus, at the Peninsula and the Northern Virginia Higher Education Centers of ODU.



The trial of Nixzmary's Brown's stepfather, Cesar Rodriguez is currently (February 5) underway. In Brooklyn. Jurors reportedly cried when they heard Rodriguez' taped description of how he beat and mistreated Nixzmary.

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UPCOMING SPEAKER: 03/27

Angela Shelton

Impacts and Coping with Child Sexual Abuse

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION EXTRAVAGANZA—April 5 APRIL for Child Abuse Prevention Month

In Support of Children is planning a Child Abuse Prevention Extravaganza. The event scheduled for Saturday, April 5 from 10AM—3 PM on ODU's Kaufman Mall is part of Hampton Roads region's effort to recognize April as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

The Extravaganza will feature fun and games for children, music, food, instruction in dance and basketball. In addition, agencies and non-profit organizations involved in child abuse prevention will

provide information for parents and child caretakers as well as fun activities for children. Dr. Katharine Kersey and Dr. Bryan Post, experts on positive non-violent parenting will also be available to provide information on



how to deal with a wide variety of parenting issues.

The Extravaganza is free and open to the public. Please come and enjoy a day of fun and learn how to make the world a better place for children.

If you are interested in helping in this event, please come to our meetings on Thursdays in BAL 3060 or e-mail Barb Fisher at bfisher@aol.com

In Support of Children Brings UN Leader for Children to ODU: Urges an End to Corporal Punishment of Children Worldwide

Back to the question: why is protecting children from corporal punishment necessary? It is necessary because of the negative consequences of corporal punishment for the child, because it is a human rights imperative and because it can contribute significantly to the reduction of violence against children and to a certain degree to reduction of violence in general.

—Jaap Doek

Professor Jaap Doek, former Chair of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Children, received the Marc and Connie Jacobson Raul Wallenberg Humanitarian Award for his work on behalf of Children's Rights.

As head of the UN Committee Doek spear-headed the world's efforts to bring human rights to children who are exploited in situations of child labor, sexual slave trade and prostitution and as soldiers and victims in wars. In addition, Doek described how children face the violence of physical punishment at the hands of the justice system, in schools and in their families.

Doek emphasized that corporal punishment has been found to have long lasting effects on the physical, psychological and emotional health of children. He pointed out that these effects often carry over into adulthood.

Doek stressed that if we wish to reduce violence in the world, ending corporal punishment of children in a good place to start.

As part of his visit, Professor Doek also met with the CHKD



PROTECTING CHILDREN

Jaap E. Doek, deputy justice in the Court of Appeal of Amsterdam and former chairman of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, spoke about reducing global violence and protecting children from abuse Tuesday evening in Webb University Center. The talk was the Marc and Connie Jacobson Raoul Wallenberg Humanitarian Lecture.

Child Abuse Center, with child abuse prevention leaders from Hampton Roads, faculty and students interested in human rights of children and members of IN SUPPORT OF CHILDREN

In Support of Children—ODU Student group dedicated to educating the campus and Hampton Roads communities about the impacts of corporal punishment and child abuse on the lives of children and the adults they become.

Founded in 1992 by Karen Polonko, Professor of Sociology and Criminal Justice, along with students in her Child Welfare class. ISOC advocates for an end to all forms of child maltreatment, especially physical punishment of children, and the promotion of positive parenting techniques

SEE: <http://groups.hamptonroads.com/SupportChildren/>

Other ISOC Speakers

IN SUPPORT OF CHILDREN has brought the most prominent speakers on the abuse of children to Hampton Roads. Among the speakers are:



2005 Dr. Bruce Perry, founder of the Child Trauma Academy spoke on "The Impact of Childhood Trauma and Neglect on

Brain Development: Implications for Children, Adolescents and Adults" Dr. Perry emphasized the importance of investment in early childhood programs and prevention of trauma and neglect.

In 2005 Dr. Lucille Ijoy, founder of the Motivational Institute of Philadelphia spoke to ODU and Community Audiences on multicultural approaches to creative parenting. Dr. Ijoy emphasized the need to provide children with positive non-violent parenting role models. She provided tips for calm, confident and peaceful parenting.



Dr. Bryan Post, founder of the Post Institute for Family Centered Therapy has spoken to community wide audiences at ODU on three different occasions. Dr. Post focuses on the role of fear in parent-child relationships. Dr. Post provides specific strategies for non-violent parenting.



In 2006, Dr. Eli Newberger of the Harvard Medical School and Child Protection Team spoke on "Families and Boys: The Challenge of Strengthening Them". Dr. Newberger provide insights into the formation of male character in childhood and what can be done to build traits that promote nurturing and empathy instead of an emphasis on control and violence.



Carol Smolenski Co-Founder and Executive Director of (End Child Prostitution and Trafficking (ECPAT-USA) described the international problem of the sex slave trade in children and sex tourism. Her presentation explored how international bodies are attempting to protect children from exploitation by parents, militaries and in refugee situations following natural disasters



Dr. Robert Anda, Senior Research Fellow, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Co-Principal Investigator for the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study visited ODU in 2007. Dr. Anda presented research documenting the impact of childhood experiences on the health experiences of adults. ACE study research shows the importance of childhood and how exposure to childhood traumas increases the risk of disease and behaviors that put health at risk.

