

In Support of Children – Newsletter No. 2, Fall 2008

3rd Annual ISOC Valentine's Day Vigil For Nixzmary Brown expands to three ODU sites:



Nixzmary Brown

On Valentine's Day, Thursday February 14th, 2008 from 6:00 -6:30 PM In Support of Children held its 3rd Annual Vigil to honor Nixzmary Brown and all Children who have died at the hands of those who should love them.

This year, students at the ODU Northern Virginia and Peninsula Higher Education Centers participated by organizing Vigils at their Centers.

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'?



Northern Virginia Higher Education Center Vigil

Over 1,000 children suffer and die annually in the US at the hands of those who should care for them.

The work of social services often comes too late for children who are the target of abuse.



Students at ODU- Northern Virginia Higher Ed Center Join in Child Abuse Prevention Vigil

Most children who die as result of child abuse are under 4 years of age, the most vulnerable. Most of the perpetrators are those responsible for taking care of the children, 80% parents and 10% other caretakers.

On March 17, 2008, a jury in Brooklyn acquitted



Nixzmary's step father of murder but he was convicted of manslaughter, unlawful imprisonment, weapons possession and endangering the welfare of the child. He faces a maximum of 29 years imprisonment



ODU Students Light Roses to the Spirits of Murdered Children

ISOC Sponsors CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION EXTRAVAGANZA— April 5, 2008 for Child Abuse Prevention Month

In Support of Children provided information for parents and child caretakers as well as fun activities for over 1500 parents and children at its April 2008 Child Abuse Prevention Extravaganza.



SGA co-sponsored the event. ODU President Roseann Runte welcomed

guests. Rabbi Lawrence Forman called on all to recognize the importance of preventing violence against children. Dr. Katharine Kersey provided useful information on positive parenting techniques.

Also participating in the event were 15 community agencies and non-profit organizations who provided a wealth of information to parents and children. In addition, fraternities, sororities and other ODU Student organizations as

well as numerous commu-



Children intently watch Spectrum Puppets 'Simon Says,

nity groups provided fun activities and entertainment for children and parents. The City of Norfolk Public Schools also provided support for the event.

Inside Stories

Progress on Abolishing Physical Punishment of Children: US Lags 2

Spank Out Day Events 2

Celebrating Children Fair 2

“According to the Office for Civil Rights at the US Department of Education, 223,190 students nationwide received corporal punishment at least once in the 2006-2007 school year. . In Mississippi, 7.5 percent of public school students were paddled during this period, the highest percentage in the nation. The actual numbers almost surely are higher. Human Rights Watch interviewees reported that corporal punishment is often administered in a chaotic environment in which many instances of the practice are not recorded. One administrator reported that 37 students in a single day were sent to his office for corporal punishment. A high school student in another district estimated that as many as 60 students a day are paddled at her school.”

From: Human Rights Watch, *A Violent Education Corporal Punishment of Children in US Public Schools* (2008).

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.

For Information on ISOC
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Abolition of Legal Support for Corporal Punishment of Children Making Progress World Wide: US lags behind

The Global Initiative to Eliminate Corporal Punishment reports that in 2007 seven countries managed to achieve complete elimination of legal support for corporal punishment of children, including in the family.

There are now 23 countries that have achieved complete abolition. This past year, Portugal, Spain, Chile, Venezuela, Uruguay, Netherlands and New Zealand passed legislation forbidding all violence against children, even that done by parents in the name of discipline.

In addition, 23 other countries have indicated that complete elimination of corporal punishment is under consideration. .

In the United States today all 50 states still permit corporal punishment of children as a form child discipline in the family.



As of May 2008, 106 countries have banned corporal punishment of children in schools. These countries have recognized that physical intimidation of children has no place in the educational process.

In the United States, 21 states permit the use of corporal punishment of students. In a 2008 report, Human Rights Watch concludes:

“For hundreds of thousands of school children in the US, violence inflicted by those in authority is a regular part of their experience at school. All corporal punishment, whether or not it causes significant physical injury, represents a violation of each student’s rights to physical integrity and human dignity. It is degrading and humiliating, damaging the student’s self-esteem and making him or her feel helpless.” In the US, Texas (49,000) and Mississippi (38,000) lead in the number of students subject to corporal punishment.



Paddles made from Baseball bats

ODU STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL SPANK OUT DAY

Each April In Support of Children—ODU participates in SPANK OUT DAY. This educational effort aims to give widespread attention to the need to end corporal punishment of children and to promote non-violent ways of teaching children.



Students at the ODU Peninsula Higher Ed Center participate in SPANK OUT DAY.

EPOCH USA (End Physical Punishment of Children) has sponsored SPANK OUT DAY on April 30th each year since 1998. All parents, guardians, and caregivers are encouraged to refrain

from hitting children on this day, and to seek alternative methods of discipline through programs available in community agencies, churches and schools.

EPOCH-USA is a program of the Center for Effective Discipline and part of an international effort to end corporal punishment of children through education and legal reform.

You can do something to stop

children from being hit, even if you only have a few minutes to help. Go to <http://www.stophitting.com/spankout>



Educational Materials at the Peninsula Center Spank Out Day

ISOC participates in Virginia Beach Event

For the second straight year, ISOC spread the word that “It’s Never OK to Hit a Child” at the Virginia Beach—Families for a Lifetime Celebrating Children Fair. Students involved ISOC talked with parents and children about the negative effects of corporal punishment, distributed its “Parenting from the Heart” booklet and enjoyed playing “Plinko” and doing arts and crafts with children.

