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## Phoenix Children's Hospital Teaches Arizona Adults How to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse

PHOENIX, Ariz. (April 18, 2006) – Experts estimate that one in four girls and one in six boys will be sexually abused before their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. Less than one in ten kids will tell anyone.

Phoenix Children's Hospital is teaching Arizona adults how to prevent child sexual abuse through a new training program called “Stewards of Children.” Developed by the Darkness to Light organization, this 3-hour program teaches adults how to prevent, recognize, and react responsibly to child sexual abuse in seven steps. Training is provided statewide to schools, businesses, day care centers, and community organizations serving children and youth.

### Program Features:

- A complete sexual abuse prevention package includes training for staff and volunteers created by experts in sexual abuse prevention, as well as guidelines in organizational policies and procedures.
- An interactive workbook and training VHS/DVD discuss the principles of choice, consciousness, and personal power to motivate individuals to action.
- The “7 Steps to Protecting our Children” is the core educational tool for sexual abuse prevention. Some steps include minimizing opportunity, talking openly about abuse with kids, and staying alert.
- Survivor and professional perspectives are provided, having a motivational impact on many participants.

“It’s unrealistic to think that a young child can take responsibility for fending off sexual advances by an adult. Adults are responsible for the safety of children and should be taking proactive steps to protect kids. They just need to learn how,” said Marcia Stanton, Child Abuse Prevention Coordinator at Phoenix Children’s.

The Stewards of Children program is available free of charge to community groups. Costs are covered by a grant from the Arizona Child Abuse Prevention License Plate fund. For additional information about the Stewards of Children program or to schedule a training session, contact Marcia Stanton at 602-546-3342 or [mstanto@phoenixchildrens.com](mailto:mstanto@phoenixchildrens.com), and visit [www.darkness2light.org](http://www.darkness2light.org).

Phoenix Children's Hospital is Arizona's leader in pediatric care and is one of the 10 largest free-standing children's hospitals in the nation. The most comprehensive array of pediatric specialists in the State practice at this one organization. The outstanding clinical expertise, as well as high patient volume, and an unwavering commitment to caring only for children, all contribute to Children's leadership position. For information about Phoenix Children's, visit the Hospital's award-winning website at [www.phoenixchildrens.com](http://www.phoenixchildrens.com).