

In Support of Children – Newsletter No. 4, Fall 2009

Events in the Works for IN SUPPORT OF CHILDREN 2009-2010

This year promises to be a big one for IN SUPPORT OF CHILDREN.

2009 marks the 20th Anniversary of the adoption of the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child (CRC). We are planning to get involved with the US Campaign To Ratify the CRC. This will involve learning about the CRC and educating students at ODU and in public schools about the CRC's positive message for children, parents and communities.

In addition, we will be planning events around Universal Children's Day (Nov. 20), and working to educate students on the ODU Campus and other college campuses in our area about the CRC.

Our SPEAKERS SERIES this year will focus on *Trauma in Childhood: Personal and Social Effects and What Individuals and Communities Can Do to Prevent It and Help Those Who Suffer.*

Our internationally recognized speakers include: , Dr. Judith Herman, Harvard University (Nov. 10, 7: PM Webb Center), author of *Trauma and Recovery* (video conference); Dr. John Briere, University of Southern California (Feb. 18, 7 PM Webb Center) author of *Child Abuse Trauma*, and Dr. Bruce Perry (Mar. 3, 7 PM Webb Center), neurobiologist, senior fellow of the Child Trauma Academy. And author of *The Boy Who was Raised as a Dog*,

On February 11 ISOC will be having its 5th annual Vigil in remembrance of



Nixzmary Brown and all children who have died as a result of abuse. 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?



ISOC Celebrates Children At Mt. Trashmore April 2009

Join the Campaign to Ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child in the US. SEE:

http://childrightscampaign.org/crcindex.php?sNav=index_snav.php&sDat=index_dat.php

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2009-2010 Events:

Children and Trauma Series

Nov. 10, 7–8:30 PM Webb Center, Judith Herman Teleconference.

Feb 11, 5th Annual Vigil for Child Abuse Victims 6 PM Webb Center

February 18, 2010 Webb Center, Dr. John Briere

March 3, 2010 Webb Center. Dr. Bruce Perry

ISOC Participates in Spank-Out Day Activities April 2009

Students from In Support of Children provided information for parents and child care-takers and spread the word about the



Children Wear Spank Out Day Stickers at Opening of Norfolk Little League Season 2009

impacts of corporal punishment and the need for alternatives at various events during April 2009.

These events are part of International Spank Out Day. Since 1998, over 1,000 events have been held internationally to demonstrate the need to end corporal punishment of children and promote non-violent teaching of children. At the opening of Norfolk Little League



ISOC members distributed hundreds of stickers and pamphlets to children and



Students read ISOC posters about the negative effects of corporal punishment

parents.

ISOC also observed Spank-Out Day on campus educating students faculty and staff with posters and pamphlets and lively discussion.

For More Information See: <http://www.stop hitting.com/index.php?page=spankout>

Students with disabilities—who are entitled to appropriate, inclusive educational programs that give them the opportunity to thrive—are subjected to violent discipline at disproportionately high rates.

Students with disabilities make up 19 percent of those who receive corporal punishment, yet just 14 percent of the nationwide student population.

Human rights law protects students with disabilities from violence and cruel and inhuman treatment, and guarantees them non-discriminatory access to an inclusive education.

Furthermore, as President Obama noted when signing the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on July 24, 2009, US law has attempted to ensure that "children with disabilities were no longer excluded ... and then no longer denied the opportunity to learn the same skills in the same classroom as other children. Yet in countless US public schools, students with disabilities—who already face barriers to attaining a quality education—face physical violence that further discourages them from reaching their full potential."

From: Human Rights Watch / ACLU Report: Impairing Education (2009)

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
e-mail llombard@odu.edu

Spring 2009 Speakers at ODU Educate: Impacts of Corporal Punishment and Positive Alternatives



Dr. Bryan Post, Director of the Post Institute for Family Centered Therapy provided insights into the relationship of trauma in childhood and the difficulties parents have in their interactions with their children. His 'stress model' showed how the negative childhood experiences of parents affected strategies they used to interact with their children. He described strategies for breaking the cycle of violence and improving the lives of children.

(For More Information See: <http://www.postinstitute.com/>)



Dr. Katharine Kersey, University Professor of Early Childhood Education and former Chairperson of the Department of Early Childhood, Speech Language Pathology and Special Education at Old Dominion University discussed "The 101's", a set of strategies and easy-to-use techniques to empower childcare providers, parents, and teachers to stay connected to children while helping them become more self-directed and happier.

For More Information See: <http://www.the101s.net/default.asp>

Dr. Murray Straus, Professor of Sociology and Co-Director Family Research Laboratory University of New Hampshire, discussed his recent research findings which showed that the more children received corporal punishment the more they were likely to experience symptoms of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Professor Straus was presented the First In Support of Children Award to recognize his outstanding research documenting the effects of corporal punishment of children and problems later in life.



For More Information See: <http://pubpages.unh.edu/~mas2/>

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Dr. Robert Anda, Senior Researcher in Preventive Medicine and Epidemiology at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and principal investigator with the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study which examines the health and social effects of adverse childhood experiences over the lifespan. Dr. Anda's research documents the long term health consequences of negative childhood experiences. The implications of the ACE research should make the need to stop the abuse and neglect of children a central component in health care reform.



For More Information See: <http://pubpages.unh.edu/~mas2/>

WHY CORPORAL PUNISHMENT OF CHILDREN SHOULD BE PROHIBITED

The Global Initiative to End Corporal Punishment of Children published a briefing paper explaining the need for legal reform. The report states:

Children are in the position today that in the past they shared with women, when it was perceived as men's right to hit women because they were regarded as inferior and in need of control and discipline. The enactment of laws against domestic violence the world over testifies to the acceptance of women as equal human beings with an equal right to live lives free from violence. But children have been left behind. The idea that breaching a child's human dignity and physical integrity is acceptable, normal, or even "in their best interests", perpetuates children's status as objects or possessions, and makes every other sort of extreme abuse and exploitation more likely. It is obvious that ending the legality of punitive violence against children is an essential strategy for ending all forms of violence against them. And without prohibition of all corporal punishment, no country can claim to be meeting its obligations to children under human rights law. For More Information See: <http://www.endcorporalpunishment.org/pages/frame.html>



Children Create Drawings At Spank Out Day Events



At 2009 Spank Out Day events at the Norfolk Little League Opening, at ODU, and at Mount Trashmore in Virginia Beach children were asked to draw pictures expressing how they felt when someone was nice to them. A sample of these drawings were compiled into the above collage. These pictures show the importance of the positive in children's lives.

Vigil for Nixzmary Brown and Children Whose Lives were Lost Due to Abuse Grows in Visibility



In Support of Children's Vigil for Child Abuse Victims Educates the Wider Hampton Roads Community. News stories and TV coverage of the event helps us spread the word on the need stop violence against children.

http://www.wvec.com/news/norfolk/stories/wvec_local_021209_odu_vigil_tonight.c63c7d1.html

http://www.wavy.com/dpp/news/local_wavy_child_abuse_ODU_20090212

http://norfolk.va.mycitytalk.us/article/News/Local/The_Roots_of_Child_Abuse/22387

<http://blogs.myspace.com/index.cfm?>