



# MEDIA ADVISORY

KNOX COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

140 Dameron Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37917-6413

## **Coalition's child sexual abuse prevention training is tomorrow**

- Who:** The Community Coalition to Protect Children, Knox County Health Department (KCHD)
- What:** Darkness to Light's Stewards of Children training, an evidence-informed program recognized by the National Children's Alliance as the most effective tool to stop child sexual abuse. Local advocate Michael Reed will also speak at the event about his efforts. The event is free and open to the public.
- When:** Tuesday, April 11 from 6 to 8:30 p.m.; local youth-serving agencies will be on hand beginning at 5:30 p.m. to offer information about their services.
- Where:** South College Auditorium, 400 Goody's Lane
- Interview:** Amy Rowling, KCHD violence prevention educator, and Ambler Brown, a Stewards of Children facilitator, will be available for interviews.

### **Background:**

The Community Coalition to Protect Children is hosting this event in honor of National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Michael Reed, a local advocate for preventing child sexual abuse, will speak at the event beginning at 6 p.m. Reed's wife Constance and their two daughters Chloe and Lily were among the victims of the Nov. 28 Gatlinburg wildfire. Prior to her death, Constance created a video about the abuse she suffered as a child and shared it on Facebook as a way to inspire other victims to seek help. The video has since gone viral. Following Reed's presentation, Ambler Brown will conduct the training. The session includes survivor stories, expert advice and practical guidance. Parents, those who work with children, and anyone who is interested are encouraged to attend.

"So many children brave horrible abuses alone. Statistics show that 1 in 10 children will be sexually abused by the age of 18, and some studies' rates are even higher," said Amy Rowling. "What's also heartbreaking is that 90 percent of victims are abused by someone they know. These statistics are staggering and speak to the need for more training for adults to help protect our children."

Created to teach adults how to prevent, recognize and react responsibly to child sexual abuse, the Community Coalition to Protect Children includes the Tennessee Department of Children's Services East Tennessee Region; Prevent Child Abuse Tennessee; Helen Ross McNabb Center's Therapy Center, Sexual Assault Center and Child Abuse Prevention Department; Community Coalition Against Human Trafficking; Renaissance Recovery; Childhelp; Anderson County Schools; Walking with Joy; Tracie Walker, LCSW; Youth Villages; Street Hope; Big Brothers Big Sisters of East Tennessee; Darkness to Light facilitators; Knox County Schools; and Knox County Health Department.

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