



Presentation on “Darkness to Light: Stewards of Children®”

Information to be presented about child sexual abuse education & prevention program available to faith-based communities in Bucks County

By [Maria](#) | Aug 1, 2019 4:51 pm ET | Updated Aug 1, 2019 8:06 pm ET

This post was contributed by a community member.



(Courtesy of Network of Victim Assistance (NOVA))

Network of Victim Assistance (NOVA) invites faith-based leaders or their representatives to learn how to prevent, recognize, and react responsibly to child sexual abuse through the Darkness to Light: Stewards of Children® training program. The program will take place

on August 7 from 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. in the Gallagher Room, Bucks County Community College-Newtown Campus, located on 275 Swamp Road in Newtown, PA. To RSVP call 215-343-6543 or email .

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The goal for this exclusive event, is to educate faith-based leaders about a workshop available to all Bucks County congregations at no cost. In addition to guest speakers, NOVA will be offering a preview of the Stewards of Children, child sexual abuse prevention program.

What makes this training program different from other programs is that it uses *real people* and *real stories* to show participants how to protect children. NOVA is bringing the Darkness to Light: Stewards of Children® training to communities across Bucks County. The purpose of this program is to affect a community behavior change and empower adults to prevent child sexual abuse. The goal is to train 5 percent or 25,000 adults who live, work or worship in Bucks County by the end of 2020. Darkness to Light: Stewards of Children® statistics show that when 5 percent of the adult population in a given community receives the in-person training, the rate of child sexual abuse decreases over time.

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Speakers at this program include:

Matt Weintraub and Diane Ellis-Marseglia—Weintraub is a Bucks County District Attorney, as well as an advocate for children and works to educate the public on justice

and public safety in schools. Ellis-Marseglia is a County Commissioner and clinical social worker who has worked with children and families in Bucks County for over two decades.

Rev. Kris Schondelmeyer—Pastor/Head of Staff, Presbyterian Church of Deep Run. Schondelmeyer is a member of the Presbyterian Church (USA) National Sexual Misconduct Task Force.

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Grace Wheeler—County Coordinator, Safe and Healthy Communities Initiative, Network of Victim Assistance (NOVA). She coordinates the Stewards of Children® training in Bucks County.

ABOUT NOVA

Network of Victim Assistance (NOVA) supports, counsels and empowers victims of sexual assault and other serious crimes in Bucks County and works to prevent and eliminate violence in society through advocacy, training, community education and prevention programs. Founded in 1974, NOVA is a non-profit 501(c)(3), community-based organization operating out of three offices in Fairless Hills, Jamison and Perkasie. Services are made possible through the financial support of federal, state and local government grants and contracts, corporations, foundations and private donations. All contributions are tax deductible to the extent provided by law. For more information, visit www.NOVABucks.org.

About Darkness to Light: Stewards of Children®:

Darkness to Light: Stewards of Children® is one of four pilot projects being implemented in Pennsylvania. Through the cooperation of the Penn State Child Maltreatment Solutions

Network and the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, the Safe and Healthy Communities Initiative (SHCI) launched in January, 2018. Darkness to Light: Stewards of Children® is part of the larger SHCI. Funding for this project comes from the monetary penalties levied on Pennsylvania State University (PSU) by the National Collegiate Athletic Association as a result of the Jerry Sandusky case. The Bucks County Department of Housing and Human Services and NOVA were selected through a competitive application process. The long-term goal of the SCHI research project is to expand this effort to all counties in the state.

Bucks County is a leader in the Commonwealth on addressing the epidemic of child sexual abuse. The Office of the District Attorney, the Children and Youth Agency, NOVA, local law enforcement, schools and many community partners have worked hand-in-hand to keep children safe. However, in order to truly prevent sexual abuse, the community at large must come together and Darkness to Light: Stewards of Children is the first step.

For more information and upcoming training dates visit:

<https://www.novabucks.org/preventioneducation/child-sexual-abuse-prevention-training/>.

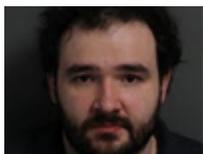
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