

Vision of Hope

Their Hope | Our Vision

*Our vision is their hope ...
Touch a life, make a difference,
shape a future*

The campaign dedicated to generating and advancing solutions to protect our children from sexual abuse.

Imagine...

"...a childhood disease that effects one in four girls and one in six boys before they reach age 18; a disease that can cause dramatic mood swings, erratic behavior, and even severe conduct disorder among those exposed; a disease that breeds distrust of adults and undermines the possibility of experiencing normal sexual relationships; a disease that can have profound implications for an individual's future health by increasing the risk of problems such as substance abuse, sexually transmitted diseases, and suicidal behavior; a disease that replicates itself by causing some of its victims to expose future generations to its debilitating effects.

Imagine what we, as a society, would do if such a disease existed. We would spare no expense. We would invest heavily in basic and applied research. We would devise systems to identify those affected and provide services to treat them. We would develop and broadly implement prevention campaigns to protect our children... wouldn't we?"

— James Mercy

Why we need to act ...

1
in **5**

1 in 5 children will be sexually assaulted by their 18th birthday

1 in 5 youth (ages 13-18) are sexually solicited online

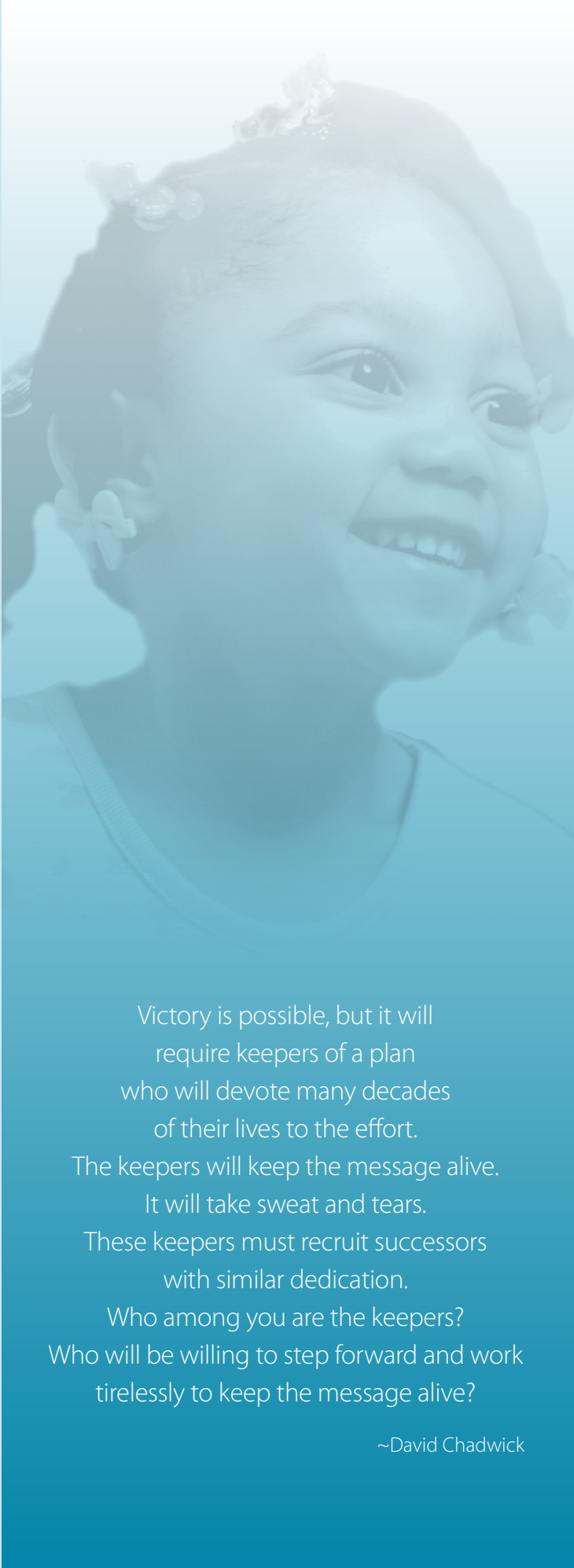
1 in 5 children are likely to suffer from a lifetime of physical and social difficulties as a result of childhood sexual abuse.

If we pay attention, we can count on one certainty: we will read or hear about the sexual abuse of a child. And the sad truth is that we do not need to look too far - for these stories regularly appear within our community newspapers, on our local news report, or through our preferred source for national news.

Unfortunately, sexual assault is one of the most common forms of abuse perpetrated upon our children. It is an upsetting issue, one that causes many individuals to turn their heads and look the other way. This lack of interest is not from lack of caring, but from difficulty in comprehending that such despicable acts can - and do - occur against our precious children. In truth, many adults simply lack the tools and know-how to intervene.

If ignored, sexual violence continues, killing hope and destroying lives.





We have shown that adverse childhood experiences [notably child sexual abuse] are both common and destructive. This combination makes them one of the most important, if not the most important, determinants of the health and well-being of the nation.

We found many other measures of adult health to have a strong, graded relation to what happened in childhood: hepatitis, heart disease, fractures, diabetes, obesity, alcoholism, occupational health, and job performance.

Vincent J Felitti, MD, FACP
The ACE Study (Adverse Childhood Experiences)

Victims can experience a lifetime of adverse behaviors and conditions – from depression, panic attacks, substance abuse, and suicide, to heightened acting out, bullying and other aggressive behaviors, and most dangerously, the abuse of their own children and other children in their environments.

And now, with the emergence of new technologies, the Internet has become a powerful educational and communications tool, placing vast, new worlds of knowledge and information at our fingertips. Unfortunately, the Internet has also been hijacked by the sex industry and sexual predators. The two primary Internet dangers today are children's free and easy access to all types of pornography and sexual predators' easy and anonymous access to children.

It is estimated that nearly one-quarter of the United States population have been victims of child sexual abuse. While much has been done to identify the root cause of child sexual abuse and to provide services to victimized children and their non-offending guardians, we need to now begin investing in solutions that stop the abuse before it starts. This investment will help assure that children receive an upbringing filled with hope, possibility, and a future that is as bright as their dreams.

Victory is possible, but it will
require keepers of a plan
who will devote many decades
of their lives to the effort.

The keepers will keep the message alive.

It will take sweat and tears.

These keepers must recruit successors
with similar dedication.

Who among you are the keepers?

Who will be willing to step forward and work
tirelessly to keep the message alive?

~David Chadwick

Our Strategy ...

The Vision of Hope Fund will support activities in three critical programmatic areas: Prevention, Protection, and Intervention. Emphasis will be placed on researching, developing, and funding “best practices.” Best practices embody research-driven solutions designed to eliminate sexual violence and ameliorate its effects on individuals and our society.

Our funding focus is grounded in a scientific model for prevention, protection and intervention. This public health model promotes simultaneous efforts at multiple levels — societal, community, relationship, and individual — in order to effect change.

Prevention ...

An often-quoted parable describes a man and a woman who are fishing on the banks of a river. They begin to notice person after person floating down the river, drowning and struggling for life. As each victim floats by, they devote all their energies into rescue efforts. They are able to save some, but not all.

After a time, the man and woman become exhausted and discouraged. They finally decide to go up the river to see why people are falling and how they can prevent this from happening in the first place.

Your investment in child sexual abuse prevention efforts will enable Vision of Hope to fund critical research that will examine conditions “up river” and determine the best and most effective strategies to prevent child sexual abuse — BEFORE it happens

What makes this project [Vision of Hope] unique is that it looks at primary prevention—far upstream as possible—as well as the other critical stages of prevention.

Robert Zimmerman
Former Regional Director of the U.S. Department
of Health and Human Services and former
Pennsylvania Secretary of Health under
Governors Tom Ridge and Mark Schweiker

Prevention research efforts will focus on identifying, replicating, and disseminating best, evidenced-based practices that will inform and support the work of diverse stakeholders and communities of practice **at all levels across a spectrum of prevention.**

For example, research efforts funded by Vision of Hope will focus on investigating and informing the child sexual abuse prevention community on the best ways to:

- **Strengthen Individual Knowledge and Skills (Individual and relationship levels),**
- **Promote Community Education (Community level),**
- **Educate Providers (Community level),**
- **Change Organizational Practices (Community level), and**
- **Foster Coalitions and Networks (Community and societal levels), among other multilevel, community-based strategies and approaches**

With your financial commitment, we will be able to engage some of the brightest and most well-respected researchers in the field in order to determine the most effective courses of action to prevent child sexual abuse.

Examples of fundable research activities include:

- **Evaluating the appropriateness and efficacy of existing treatment procedures and protocols commonly used with abused children and their families.**
- **Conducting reviews of current research literature and studies and synthesizing results that identify models of best practice.**
- **Translating current theory, research, and practice into practical recommendations to support the prevention of child sexual abuse.**

Protection ...

1 in 5 adults say that they do not know how to intervene in the life of a child who they suspect is sexually abused.

Yet, 4 in 5 adults think that it is their responsibility to protect children

The Vision of Hope Fund will focus on strategies that help adults protect children.

Your investment in this area will support the development and dissemination of innovative strategies that provide adults with the knowledge and tools to recognize risk factors or signs associated with child sexual abuse, what to do if they suspect abuse, and learn to become the interveners and protectors of children. Examples of fundable protection strategies include:

- **Reducing child sexual abuse through adult-based education and public awareness**
- **Providing adults with information to prevent, recognize, and respond responsibly in the face of child sexual abuse**
- **Shifting responsibility for stopping child sexual abuse from the child to adults**
- **Motivating adults to move beyond bystander behavior to become active protectors of children**



Intervention and Treatment ...

As we work towards our goal of eliminating child sexual abuse, we will still be pulling young victims out of the proverbial "river." Crisis intervention and therapy are absolutely critical to the future health and wellbeing of child victims/survivors if they are to become vibrant, productive, happy individuals.

Your investment in intervention and treatment will directly support children's crisis and counseling centers as they reach out to sexually abused children and their families. It is equally critical to identify the most effective treatment interventions in helping young victims recover and to disseminate these treatment protocols to mental health professionals, victim/witness advocates, family/juvenile court judges, prosecutors, child protective services personnel, and other practitioners who come in contact with sexually abused children and their families.

*I was one of the lucky ones.
I got help...*

— Jenna, Survivor of Child Sexual Abuse

Examples of fundable activities in this area include:

- **Providing training for children's crisis advocates and counselors in cutting-edge treatment strategies such as trauma-focused play therapy**
- **Disseminating effective, family-focused intervention treatment modules and parent/child therapy protocols to professionals working with families where a child has been sexually abused**
- **Promoting parenting training in households at high risk for child sexual abuse**
- **Investing in offender-focused interventions such as the treatment of juvenile sex offenders**

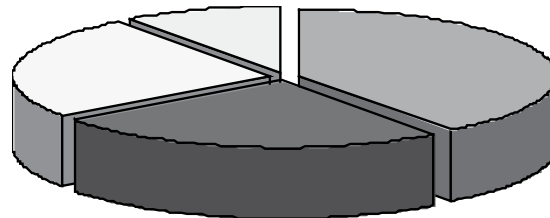
If you would like your tax deductible gift to support a specific crisis center or children's counseling program, or to benefit a particular state/geographic area, please provide this information on the enclosed donation form.

About Vision of Hope ...

Recognizing the pervasiveness of child sexual abuse and its devastating effects, the National Sexual Violence Resource Center and the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape launched Vision of Hope in July 2005 with the intention of developing a key resource for child sexual abuse prevention and intervention. Vision of Hope is a campaign designed to raise funds to promote critical research, effective prevention strategies, adult responsibility and accountability, and crisis response to victimized children.

Vision of Hope Funding Goal ...

\$2 million by 2009



Prevention – 40%
Protection – 25%
Intervention and treatment – 25%
Administration* – 10%

You can choose to direct your support to fund critical research, activities, and services in any programmatic area or to support regional activities.

**Providing support to oversee and to manage the Fund to include: fundraising, accounting and administration of the funds, mailings, communications and outreach, as well as education and public awareness efforts*

Our Mission ...

Vision of Hope will protect our nation's children from the devastation of child sexual abuse by directing critical funding support to build and to promote effective and innovative prevention, protection, and intervention strategies.



Vision of Hope Advisory Council

Leading the campaign is former Pennsylvania First Lady and mother of two, Michele M. Ridge. Supporting her in this effort is an impressive cadre of researchers, business leaders, policymakers, medical and criminal justice experts, practitioners, and advocates who are dedicated to promoting solutions that protect children from a lifetime of devastation. For a complete listing of advisory council members, please refer to the separate booklet contained within these materials.

Michele M. Ridge (left) joins PCAR Executive Director Delilah Rumburg (right) in protecting the hopes and dreams of our precious children.



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www.theirhope.org and Vision of Hope is a project of the National Sexual Violence Resource Center/ Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape.