

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Jennifer Tewell, 614-285-4483

**Prevent Child Sexual Abuse in the Sunbury Community**

**Sunbury, OH – February 5, 2011** – The Sunbury Community Library is mobilizing the community to take action against child sexual abuse by learning how to prevent this epidemic in real time. Taking the first step towards prevention, they will offer Darkness to Light's award-winning prevention training, *Stewards of Children*. *Stewards of Children* in the Sunbury community on Saturday, February 26, 2011.

HelpLine of Delaware and Morrow Counties, Inc. (HelpLine) partners with Darkness to Light a national non-profit organization dedicated to the prevention of child sexual abuse to offer the training throughout Delaware and Morrow counties. Over 173,000 adults have been trained in *Stewards of Children* since its implementation in 2005.

*Stewards of Children* is a two-hour workshop designed to educate adults on how to prevent, recognize and react responsibly to the reality of child sexual abuse. *Stewards of Children* emphasizes child safety as an adult's responsibility. **Trainings are open to the public and is of specific interest among parents, youth sports organizations / coaches / camp counselors, youth service organizations, teachers / school personnel and faith centers.**

Each participant will be inspired to take personal responsibility in preventing this epidemic. *Stewards of Children* facilitates discussion about the incidence and consequences of abuse, and presents information about child protection policies and reporting mandates. Continuing education hours for professionals in various fields can also be obtained.

The February 26<sup>th</sup> training will be held at the Sunbury Community Library from 1-4 pm. Contact Jennifer Tewell at [jtewell@helplinedelmor.org](mailto:jtewell@helplinedelmor.org) to register or to find out more. The training is offered free of charge and includes light refreshments, giveaways, interactive workbook and the companion brochure, 7 Steps to Protecting Our Children.

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**About HelpLine**

HelpLine of Delaware and Morrow Counties, Inc. is a private, non-profit organization that provides a 24-hour crisis support hotline, information and referral to direct services and advocacy, and serves as the area's only volunteer center. Committed to empowering people through knowledge, support and resources, HelpLine facilitates the stability and self-sufficiency of the emotional and financial needs of the Delaware and Morrow County communities. HelpLine is a contract provider of the Delaware-Morrow Mental Health & Recovery Services Board and partially funded by the Council for Older Adults. A United Way Agency, HelpLine is accredited by the American Association of Suicidology National Alliance of Information & Referral Systems and certified by the Ohio Department of mental Health. For more information, please visit: [www.HelpLinedelmor.org](http://www.HelpLinedelmor.org).

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### **About Darkness To Light**

Darkness To Light (D2L) is a national non-profit, 501c3, dedicated to the prevention of child sexual abuse through public education and awareness. Research shows that one in four girls and one in six boys are sexually abused before the age of 18. In the U.S. alone, it is estimated that 40 million Americans are victims of child sexual abuse.

D2L programs raise awareness of the prevalence and consequences of child sexual abuse by educating adults on the steps they can take to prevent, recognize and react responsibly to the reality of the sexual abuse of children.

Charleston, S.C. resident Anne Lee, a child sexual abuse survivor, founded D2L in 2000 and serves as the organization's President and CEO. Since its founding, D2L has created ongoing public education programs in 47 states and 10 foreign countries. These "Stewards of Children" training programs form a grass roots push at the community level to educate parents, youth service organizations, youth sports leagues and coaches, faith centers and teachers / school leaders.

Additionally, a nationally-acclaimed advertising and promotional campaign helps spread a multi-media message through partners including CNN, Comcast, Time-Warner, AOL, Lifetime, Oxygen and many others.

Immediate access educational resources provided by D2L include:

- 7 Steps to Protecting our Children from Child Sexual Abuse: A Guide for Responsible Adults.
- Stewards of Children: Prevention training courses for adults, provided in a workshop format by trained Facilitators and online through [www.darkness2light.org](http://www.darkness2light.org).
- Helpline: a toll-free number for community based referrals (1-800-FOR-LIGHT).
- Web: [www.darkness2light.org](http://www.darkness2light.org), features recent articles on child sexual abuse, suggested books, mandatory reporting laws, access to other educational materials and a D2L sponsored podcast talk show.
- Prevention Products: 7 Steps Booklets, rack cards, "Power of the Ant" sculptures, Risk Management Essentials and more.