neighbors making a difference

SAFE child

WAKE COUNTY'S NON-PROFIT CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AGENCY

moss ross 10+ years

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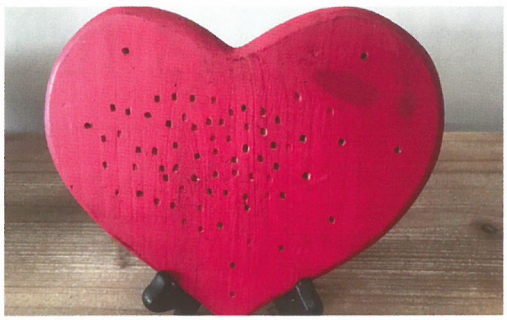
"What it's like to be a parent: It's one of the hardest things you'll ever do, but in exchange, it teaches you the meaning of unconditional love." –Nicholas Sparks



SAFEchild
ELIMINATE ABUSE. EMPOWER FAMILIES.

When I reflect on my childhood, loving memories of enjoying grilled pimento cheese sandwiches at Johnson's Pharmacy on Fairview Road and grocery store trips to the 5 Points Piggly Wiggly with my Mema Josephine Stephens rush immediately to mind. With five grandchildren only six years apart in age my grandmother regularly stepped right in with her extra helpful hands. She provided for me and my siblings what I aspire for every child in Wake County to experience...**positive, unconditional love**. I fulfill this hope for our community as the executive director of SAFEchild, Wake County's non-profit child abuse prevention agency.

Each day since the Junior League of Raleigh founded SAFEchild in 1992 the staff, board of directors, volunteers, and community partners have worked tirelessly to help adults and children create nurturing environments free from abuse and neglect. There is an impressive legacy of SAFEchild leadership residing in the Hayes Barton neighborhood who serve as a lifeline for our agency including SAFEchild's first Board President Sandy Page. Sandy is also the only leader who served as President twice! Hayes Barton United Methodist Church where my parents were married, I was baptized and my husband Frank DeRonja and our four children worship along with White Memorial Presbyterian Church invest annually in sustaining our programs specifically for mothers and children.

During this 27th year of empowering families and eliminating abuse SAFEchild will engage over 15,000 children and parents in programs that provide strategic support, guidance, and education that proactively prevents abuse from ever occurring or positively pivots and re-directs a child's future through specialized intervention and treatment. I have learned during my professional journey that my protected childhood is not the reality for well over 7,000 local cases investigated annually involving children where there are concerns of abuse and neglect. These numbers represent children living in every single zip code, attending every school, fellowshipping in every faith-based congregation, and on every playground here in Wake County, however, these numbers do **NOT** include the children in our community suffering in silence.

During this Valentine's season, I hope you are inspired to help fulfill SAFEchild's commitment to ensuring that **ALL** children are surrounded by *unconditional love*. It is a gift from your heart that can and does save children's lives and helps children thrive.

To get involved and support SAFEchild, please visit www.safechildnc.org or contact Executive Director Cristin Redwine DeRonja: cderonja@safechildnc.org.

Are you involved in a non-profit?
Let me know, we'd love to highlight it!
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