

Plain Sense

Plain Sense from High Plains Mental Health Center

Emotional Child Abuse

April is Child Abuse Prevention Awareness month, and while the physical signs of abuse may be readily apparent, the effects of emotional abuse are not as easily recognizable yet can last a lifetime. Emotional abuse includes child neglect, unreasonable threats, put-downs, and using extreme forms of discipline or punishment. Neglect of a child also involves withholding love, affection and physical attention that is needed for their well-being and healthy development.

Children depend on their parents and the adults in their life for security, acceptance and guidance. Yet, they are most often abused by someone they know and trust such as a parent, relative or family friend. When they are harmed by an adult, especially someone they know, they will become fearful and uncertain, and their emotional development can be seriously limited. As a result when these children reach adolescence and then adulthood, are often unable to express their feelings properly, or they have difficulty understanding or relating to the feelings and needs of others. A lack of trust plus poor emotional development makes it very difficult to form and

maintain meaningful relationships as an adult, including marriage and parenthood. In addition, adults who were abused as children often treat their own children the same, and the cycle of abuse continues.

Adults who abuse children come from all social and economic backgrounds. They usually have a history of being abused as a child, low self-esteem, and poor control over their own feelings and emotions. Contributing factors include a lack of understanding of child development, poor parenting skills, strained personal relationships, stress and substance abuse.

If abuse is obvious or even suspected, it needs to be reported in order to protect the child from further harm and to get help for the family and adults involved. Every state has laws requiring certain people such as teachers, childcare providers, health-care workers, and mental health professionals to report known or suspected cases, and there are many resources available for help and referral information.

Contributed by Karen Schueler, MS, LCPC, Manager, PEO - Prevention, Education and Outreach Department.

Mail questions to High Plains Mental Health Center, Plain Sense, 208 East 7th, Hays, KS 67601.



A PIANO WITH A STORY. This piano was used by Stuart Earl Churchill moved to St. Francis with his family in 1914. Famous for being both a musician and composer, Mr.

Photo courtesy of Margaret Bucholtz

Musician remembered with piano

Taken from the St. Francis Herald Obituaries of Mrs. Churchill, Winston and Stuart.

Stuart Earl Churchill was born on Jan. 15, 1907, to Clifford and Ethel Curry Churchill at Long Island, Kan.

He moved with his parents and brother Winston to St. Francis in November of 1914.

His mother had received her education in Orleans, Neb., where she specialized in music. Though she gloried in the attainments of her own family, and might have been satisfied with that, she unselfishly sought to bring to the front the budding talents of others - not only furnishing the music but spending many patient hours in practice.

She was the church pianist and sang in the choir for many years.

The younger brother, Winston, studied violin and trumpet, early becoming semi-professional playing both instruments with small musical groups and bands.

Following the war he joined the Forsythe-Dowes Amusement Company of Sterling, Colo., and became the operator and arranger of "Dancing Waters," a water,

music and lights spectacular playing home shows, state fairs and other shows throughout the west and mid-west.

As a boy Stuart began playing the saxophone and drums. In college at the University of Michigan, he started playing the xylophone, piano and bassoon.

While he was in college he played in a band and began singing tenor in the glee club. Stuart graduated from the University of Michigan in 1929.

He later was invited by Fred Waring to sing and play with his band, the Pennsylvanians. The group grew and later formed a separate chorus and band. Stuart was the tenor soloist. Stuart left the band in 1935 and sang on his morning musical radio show "Musical Reveries."

In 1942, he joined the U. S. Army and was assigned to an Army show. From 1942 to 1945, he was featured soloist with "This is the Army," an Irving Berlin show that traveled around the world.

After the war, he rejoined the Pennsylvanians. He also did some solo work and musical arranging. In 1952, as television became more popular, "big bands" began to fade.

He left the Pennsylvanians and opened a piano and voice studio in New York City. He attended Columbia University in New York City and in 1957, received a bachelor's degree and a master's of music education degree. For one year, he taught music in a New Jersey grade school.

The next year, the family moved to Ellensburg and he taught music at Central Washington College of Education there. In 1959, they moved to Lewiston where he was an associate professor of music and later the director of the music department at Lewis-Clark Normal school, now Lewis-Clark State College.

Stuart directed several choirs in the Lewiston-Clarkston area over the years. In 1966, he formed the Lewiston Symphony Orchestra, and resigned as director of the group in 1969. After that he moved to the Pullman, Washington area.

He continued to teach piano, voice, guitar and other instruments privately at his home. He also worked arranging music, organizing concerts with in the community and performing solo and in community productions.

His musical work also included

arranging more than 150 songs for publication, including "Washington My Home," the Washington State song. Helen Davis wrote the words and music and the arrangement was by Stuart Churchill. The Washington Legislature approved it, unanimously, on March 19, 1959.

Several years after Stuart left St. Francis, in 1924, his mother sold the piano to Esther Wilbur. Both of her sons took lessons and practiced on this piano. When her boys went to college Esther loaned the piano to the Christian Church. Esther was killed in a car accident and the piano remained at the church.

After many years it was sold and the buyer then resold it. The second buyer gave it to Mona Frick's tenant who later abandoned it and left it in Mona's rental house. Since the tenant owed Mona a large bill she took possession of the piano not realizing whom the piano had belonged to.

Later Mona donated it to the Cheyenne County Museum. The piano is in the back room for all to enjoy and remember the famous Stuart Earl Churchill.

Student News

University of Kansas

Sheryl Miller, daughter of Terry and Mary Beth Miller, a junior in the Liberal Arts program, has been named to the University of Kansas spring honor roll. She is a graduate of St. Francis Community High School.

Crystal Thompson, daughter of Kevin and Teresa Mears, a student in the Pharmacy Professional Prof 1, has also been named to the spring honor roll. She is a graduate of Cheylin High School.

The students are among more than 4,900 undergraduate students at the university to earn honor roll distinction for the semester.

Honor roll criteria vary among the university's academic units. Some schools honor the top 10 percent of students enrolled, some establish a minimum grade-point average and others raise the minimum grade-point average of each year students are in school. Students must complete a

minimum number of credit hours to be considered for the honor roll.

Fort Hays State University

Fort Hays State University deans have named 766 students to the deans honor roll for the spring 2008 semester

The list includes undergraduate students only. To be eligible, students must have enrolled in 12 or more credit hours and have a minimum grade point average of 3.60 for the semester.

Students named from Cheyenne County include:

Cheylin: Aubrey L. Kehlbeck, Brittany N. Kehlbeck

St. Francis: Danielle Flemming, Schuyler Coates, Lori Faulkender, Heath J. Owens, Jonathan R. Zweggardt.



Upcoming Promotions

For more information contact Casey McCormick at:

The Saint Francis Herald

P.O. Box 1050, St. Francis, KS 67756 • 785-332-3162

Tri-State Antique Engine & Thresher Show

Featuring stories about the demonstrations, buildings, history, shows and Queens.



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