



P.O. Box 900883 • Salt Lake City, UT 84090 • Hotline 801.564.1351

Communities For Decency Newsletter

www.communitiesfordecency.org

Spring 2004

Women For Decency is now Communities For Decency

Our message is spreading! Many individuals, parents, youth, businesses owners, community leaders, and other organizations are expressing their desire to protect children and families from the harmful effects of pornography. Because of the increased interest in our group, the issues are becoming bigger and broader. We are a community! We are pleased to announce the official name change to *Communities For Decency*.

New Website Launches In April

As we accelerate our fight against pornography, we invite you to visit and use our new web site at www.communitiesfordecency.org. This new web site helps to make involvement, action, and education quick and easy. It will help you stay informed on current issues, events and seminars while continuing to fight indecency in your home and in your community.

The new web site offers the following: Education for family and community, Action Items, Legislative Issues, District Training, Victim Assistance, Media Safety, Library, Online Resources, Youth Involvement and much more.

Please take time to familiarize yourself with our web site, then spread the word! Let's increase our membership knowing there is strength in numbers. Please forward the web address to friends and family, and let's work together to raise community standards throughout the State of Utah. With this great new tool, the impact and strength of *Communities For Decency* can be immense.

A special thanks to Patty Schmuhl and Susan Lofgren for their willingness to donate their skills and time in developing our new *Communities For Decency* website.

Mission Statement

Communities For Decency will strive to protect children and families from the harmful effects of pornography by:

- Educating Utah communities about the harms and availability of pornography
- Encouraging family-friendly legislation
- Offering victim assistance resources for victims and individuals addicted to pornography



President's Message

First, let us offer our sincere gratitude to Janalyn Holt, Shelley DeVries, Kim Jensen, Kristen Flandro, Lisa Pettys, Arlaine Austin, Kimberly Nelson, and Amy Ellis. These wonderful women have devoted so much of their time, means and effort in service to children, families, and communities in the state of Utah and their influence will be far reaching.

My message to the membership is a call for **positive and fortifying community standard conversation and action!**

Our soon to be sixteen year-old daughter said two things to me not to long ago: "Mom, I am the only one at school that dresses like this!" and "All my friends get to watch that movie! Why don't I?" Sound familiar? Many of us have heard statements such as these.

A. Lynn Scoresby's book, *Bringing Up Moral Children in an Immoral World*, teaches us that if society teaches a child a different set of values than he learns in the home, then he may become confused and rebellious. We live in a world where much of society is teaching our children different values than we would like them to have. How can we solve this dilemma? I asked my daughter to be patient with my husband and I and give us three months. We talked with the parents of each of our daughter's friends. Every one of them were anxious and eager to talk about how we could come together to help our children feel like part of a society that was valuing the same standards.

My plea to our membership is to talk to every parent or guardian of your children's friends. Come together on common ground on the clothing, the curfews, the entertainment, and the Internet rules. If we do not join hands to uphold our values and standards we cause great confusion in the minds and hearts of our children. Strong moral values are the fabric of society and should cross over all lines of religion and resonate with decent people everywhere.

Let each and every one of us pledge to become more proactive in positive, standard fortifying conversations and actions with each other in our own homes, our neighborhoods, schools, churches, civic organizations and especially with the parents of our children's friends.

Help Raise the Standards in Your Community

What are COMMUNITY STANDARDS?

A COMMUNITY STANDARD is the standard of media, business, advertising, entertainment, etc. that is accepted by the citizens of a community. Courts often use community standards to determine what type of businesses and/or media is allowed in the community. The community standards chosen by one community may vary greatly from those of another.

Why are COMMUNITY STANDARDS so important?

COMMUNITY STANDARDS set PRECEDENTS. For example, if a video store sells or rents pornographic videos, then it could be argued that those types of videos are an accepted part of the community standard. This lowers the standards and sets in motion the chain reaction of more inappropriate businesses locating and operating in that community. If citizens are silent, inappropriate businesses may be allowed to do whatever they wish. However, if concerned citizens take a stand and oppose inappropriate businesses and media, the community standards will continue to remain high. Every individual has a responsibility to participate in this process.

Are we imposing values or religious beliefs on others by defining COMMUNITY STANDARDS?

No. When we make our community standards clear, we are exercising our First Amendment rights to speak out. Citizens all over the nation work together to create their community standards. National organizations that work effectively with community standards issues include, National Coalition for the Protection of Children and Families (www.nationalcoalition.org), American Family Association (www.afa.net), and Morality in Media (www.obscuritycrimes.org).

How do we define or raise our COMMUNITY STANDARDS?

Gather a group of citizens to work on the items below. More detailed information for each of the following suggestions can be obtained by contacting *Communities For Decency* through our hotline (801) 564-1351, or our new website www.communitiesfordecency.org.

- Educate citizens about what COMMUNITY STANDARDS means through group presentations, flyers, articles, etc. Informative internet articles can be found at the following websites: http://www.ccv.org/Attorney_General_Recommendations.htm, www.obscuritycrimes.org/cliches2.cfm, and www.obscuritycrimes.org/obsclawprimer.cfm,

- Teach your family to use good judgment in selecting entertainment and media. Monitor every form of media your child is involved with. Talk with them on a regular basis about what is and is not appropriate.
- Approach a member of your city council to ask him/her to sponsor a resolution that promotes a family-appropriate standard in your city. *Communities For Decency* can provide an example resolution.
- Request that your city attorney review current city ordinances regarding sexually-oriented businesses (SOB). Many city councils believe their SOB ordinances are adequate, but in most cases, they are not. Encourage the city to hire a PROFESSIONAL to tighten the SOB ordinances. Ask your city to place a moratorium on new business licenses until they have reviewed and tightened current laws.
- Ask your city attorney to draft a letter to be sent to all businesses in your community reminding them of the city ordinances and explaining the community standards. Again, an example is available.
- Exercise your economic power by only renting/purchasing media that promotes high moral standards. Only patronize those businesses that demonstrate high community standards.
- Contact businesses and stores and make a request that they remove or cover inappropriate magazines, posters, ads, media, and other materials. Express appreciation through phone calls and letters to those businesses, local leaders, corporations, etc. who model high community standards.
- Work with organizations to encourage them to support victim assistance programs and sponsor programs that educate on the dangers of pornography.
- Work with your local library to see that filters are used all computers to block pornography.
- Become involved in legislation that focuses on community standards issues by contacting your legislative representatives to lobby for strong antipornography and obscenity laws.
- Contact local and national television stations and advertisers to voice your opinion about inappropriate content in the media. Sources to help you do this are: www.moralityinmedia.org, www.cleantv.net, and www.parentstv.org. Citizens can also file complaints to the FCC regarding inappropriate media at <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/complaints.html>.

First Aid For Family Members

by Holly Passey, LCSW

Coping with a loved one's pornography addiction can be frustrating, complicated, lonely, and confusing. For most people, the discovery of the addiction is completely overwhelming. Many people feel emotionally paralyzed, and are unsure where to first turn for support and assistance. Whether you personally are working with someone you love to overcome their addiction, or assisting a friend who is trying to do the same, the following are some basics to keep in mind.

Not Alone

Reassure the family member that there is help available for both them, and their loved one struggling with the addiction. Conflicting feelings are to be expected. Many are in a state of shock when they first find out about a pornography addiction, and won't remember a lot of what you say to them in the beginning. Allow them to express themselves rather than being quick to offer advice.

Education

Encourage them to obtain as much information on the subject as possible. There are many wonderful websites

and other resources available. A few are: www.communitiesfordecency.org, www.nationalcoalition.org, and www.utahcoalition.org.

Some helpful books also include *Discussing Pornography Problems with a Spouse* by Dan Gray and Rory Reid, *Out of the Shadows* by Patrick Carnes, and *An Affair of the Mind* by Laurie Hill.

Self Care

Encourage the person to take time for him/herself. It may be helpful for them to cry, allow themselves time to grieve, talk to a trusted friend, ask someone to watch kids while taking some personal time, or exercise.

Do not delay seeking assistance

There is a tendency for addicts and their spouses to deny there is a problem once the "crisis" dies down. Pornography isn't a problem that gets better with time if left untreated. After getting informed, those affected should take immediate steps to seek professional help and guidance, including the addict's spouse. Spouses also need support, guidance, and direction at this time and help in overcoming their feelings related to the discovery of the their partner's pornography problem.

Communities For Decency Hot Line: (801) 564-1351

Utah Legislature Passes Utah Children's Internet Protection Act

Access to the Internet in public libraries offers a wonderful array of information at the fingertips of patrons. However, this technology has not come without a price. Among the problems unfiltered Internet access has caused is the exposure of children to materials ranging from inappropriate to hard-core pornography.

In 2001, our state officers began the work of contacting libraries regarding their Internet protection policies. Across the state, all libraries were in compliance with Utah law which required them to have a Internet policy, but most Utah libraries could not adequately show how this policy was being enforced. After much research, state officers concluded that pornography was a serious threat in most Utah libraries.

Safeguarding children from Internet pornography at the library is a complicated issue which involves parental guidance as well as an effective library plan. During the past three years *Women For Decency* state officers and members have educated citizens on protecting children, attended library board meetings, sent letters, written letters-to-the editor and held a press conference to encourage libraries to take responsible action by filtering computers.

On June 23, 2003, the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) was upheld by the United States Supreme Court. This law requires libraries to use antipornography filters prior to receiving federal funding. Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist said the law (CIPA) does not turn libraries into censors. Rehnquist's opinion was joined by Justices Sandra Day O'Connor, Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas. Justices Anthony M. Kennedy and Stephen Breyer, in separate

opinions, said that government's interest in protecting young library users from inappropriate material outweighs the burden on library users having to ask staff to disconnect filters. Dan Panetti from the National Coalition For the Protection of Children and Families said, "This is a great victory for families, but there is still work to do." While this law is helpful in protecting children, many Utah libraries do not apply for the federal funding which requires Internet filters.

With some investigation, state officers discovered the power of the CIPA law lay in the fact that local communities and states could pass the same CIPA ordinance or law in their area requiring their local libraries to filter. A note was sent out to Utah senators and representatives requesting such action. Representative Mike Noel responded to the letter sent by district leader Ashley Kartchner. Representative Noel and Senator Thomas Hatch agreed to sponsor the Utah CIPA bill.

With the help of Dan Panetti from National Coalition, a rough draft of the Utah CIPA bill was sent to the house legal committee who then wrote this important piece of legislation. The positive and overwhelming response from citizens and lawmakers brought this bill to a successful vote in the senate on March 3, 2004.

Utah libraries now have the unique opportunity to implement the filtering technology that works best for their community by July 1, 2004. The state officers would like to encourage library patrons to be patient and thankful to librarians and library boards as they go about the hard work of complying with our new Utah CIPA law.

Communities For Decency
P.O. Box 900883
Sandy, UT 84090

PERMITTED
SOUTH JORDAN, UT 84095
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PRESORTED STD

NEWSLETTERS TO BE SENT VIA EMAIL

If you want to continue to receive the *Communities For Decency* quarterly newsletter, you must ACT NOW! As a non-profit organization, we need to use our limited resources more effectively and ask all who are able to receive our quarterly newsletters via email.



Add your email address to our list if you haven't already by contacting us through our website www.communitiesfordecency.org.



If you do not have email or internet access, please re-send your name and mailing address to us at PO Box 900883, Salt Lake City, UT 84090 to continue receiving a physical copy of our newsletters.

You must choose either of the above methods in order to continue receiving this newsletter.

Thank you so much for your help! Our ability to make a difference will grow through decreasing expenses and increasing participation. Spread the word!

Communities For Decency is pleased to announce our upcoming annual Women's Conference to be held this summer. Our keynote speaker will be C. Terry Warner, author of *The Bonds That Make Us Free*. It will be a wonderful and informative evening focusing on pornography and decency issues as they relate to women. Look for more information in the coming weeks through our emailed action items, and on our website, www.communitiesfordecency.org.

State Officers

Mary Nielson	President
Paula Fisher	VP Education
Whitney Reich	VP Family Policy
Holly Passey	VP Victim Assistance
Kathy Merkle	Executive Secretary

Executive Board

Dr. Victor B. Cline
Janalyn Holt
Steven D. Kohlert
Glen Willardson
Frank Mylar
Shelley DeVries

Editor: Kristen Flandro (newsletter@communitiesfordecency.org)
Layout & Design: LaRay Gates (gatesgraphics@comcast.net)

To subscribe, unsubscribe or update quarterly subscription information, send an email including your name mailing and email addresses and your request to membership@communitiesfordecency.org.