

THE RED CORD

ISAIAH 61:1

JUNE 2022

Monthly Newsletter of the Red Cord



COULD THIS HAPPEN TO YOUR FAMILY?

IT'S FRIDAY NIGHT AND YOU'VE JUST LEFT YOUR 12-YEAR-OLD SON, DAVID, AT HIS FRIEND'S HOUSE FOR A SLEEPOVER WITH FOUR OTHER BOYS. YOU KNOW NATHAN AND HIS FAMILY, SO YOU FEEL CONTENT THAT HE WILL BE FINE AS YOU DRIVE AWAY LOOKING FORWARD TO A QUIET EVENING AT HOME.

ALL IS WELL UNTIL YOU GET THIS TEXT AT MIDNIGHT:

HI MOM. CAN WE GO GET ICE CREAM?

YOU IMMEDIATELY GRAB YOUR KEYS AND MAKE THE QUICK DRIVE TO PICK UP DAVID. YOU KNOW IT'S NOT ICE CREAM HE WANTS. IT'S THE CODE YOU'VE CREATED THAT MEANS: *COME GET ME NOW!*

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David tells the other boys there is an emergency at home and his mom is on the way to get him. As you make the drive home, you find out the truth: “Nathan was showing nude photos on his phone to me and the other guys. I felt really uncomfortable and wanted to get out of there. I’m sorry, Mom. I won’t go back there again.”

First, you take a deep breath. This isn’t David’s fault. Calmly, you say, “You did the right thing, son, by texting me. I’m glad we had the code already in place. We’ll talk more about the situation tomorrow.” David has been empowered to make the right choices because you’ve prepared him for this uncomfortable and potentially dangerous situation from escalating. You know that impressionable preteen boys are easily influenced. They don’t want to seem weak around their friends. But the habit can lead to a pornography addiction. You’ve helped him make good choices now to prevent that.

Meanwhile, when tomorrow comes, you have a decision to make – do you tell the boy’s parents what happened?

What would you do? School is out for the summer in our area. While that brings some time to rest and relax, it also brings more time for your children to spend on the internet. ECPAT International (the world’s largest influencing network solely focused on ending the sexual exploitation of children, <https://ecpat.org/>) reports that one in three internet users are children. Human traffickers are aware your children are more available in the summer months and vulnerable to their cleverly disguised attempts to trap them into a life of slavery.

What more can you do? Please read the June blog from Ahsha, The Red Cord President.

JUNE IS NATIONAL SAFETY MONTH. THE RED CORD WANTS TO HELP YOU KEEP YOUR CHILDREN SAFE FROM TRAFFICKERS. WE HAVE SOME INFORMATION AND RESOURCES PREPARED FOR YOU. PLEASE DOWNLOAD AND READ:
SAFETY TIPS FOR TEENS AND PARENTS OF TEENS:
[HTTP://THERECORD.ORG/WP-CONTENT/UPLOADS/2021/06/10SAFETYTIPS-PARENTS.PDF](http://theredcord.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/10SAFETYTIPS-PARENTS.PDF)
SAFETY TIPS FOR CHILDREN:
[HTTP://THERECORD.ORG/WP-CONTENT/UPLOADS/2021/06/10SAFETYTIPS.PDF](http://theredcord.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/10SAFETYTIPS.PDF)



Ahsha Morin, President, The Red Cord

JUNE BLOG: Parents Ask: How Do We Keep Our Kids Safe?



Ahsha Morin

Q. First, how do I know that my child is in danger? What are the signs I look for?

Some indicators that a child is in contact with are trafficker are:

- Change in behavior
- Change in friends
- Withdrawn from family and friends
- Has new friends that you have not met
- Change in appearance
- Has expensive gifts from unknown sources
- Allows older adults to show interest in them in person or online
- Refuses to allow you to monitor their phone
- Hides apps from you
- Uses multiple cell phones
- Uses drugs and/or alcohol

Q. Who are the people who want to harm my children? How do I keep my kids safe?

The best form of online protection from predators is YOU – the parent. You have the right and duty to check your kids' devices. Explain to them that you are there to protect them from the dangers of those who are looking to exploit them. Make a plan with your child for when, not if, someone approaches them online or in-person with questionable behavior, sexual photos, or sexual content. Read David's story on the home page to see how to develop a code word.

<https://theredcord.org/>

Be aware that sometimes the predators are family members. If a child feels uncomfortable around a certain family member, take note of it and do not force your child to spend time with them.

Traffickers always look for a vulnerability to exploit. All kids are vulnerable because they are kids. The internet is used to groom children into thinking that the trafficker/predator is their saving grace to life's problems. It can be a slow grooming process, or it can take only days. The trafficker will build trust with the child and ask them to keep the relationship a secret so they will not get in trouble. Nude pictures will almost always be asked (CONT.)

JUNE Blog – CONT.



for and the child will receive nude pictures as well.

Traffickers/predators feel safe behind a screen. They feel that they can hide better vs. grooming in public. However, at some point, they will ask to meet with your child.

Q. I have a hard time talking with my kids about these sensitive issues. What do I do?

Download the Safety Tips Sheets:

·Safety Tips for Teens and Parents of Teens:

[http://theredcord.org/wp-](http://theredcord.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/10Safetytips-parents.pdf)

[content/uploads/2021/06/10Safetytips-parents.pdf](http://theredcord.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/10Safetytips-parents.pdf)

·Safety Tips for Children: [http://theredcord.org/wp-](http://theredcord.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/10Safetytips.pdf)

[content/uploads/2021/06/10Safetytips.pdf](http://theredcord.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/10Safetytips.pdf)

Use those to connect with your child. But if you are still not comfortable discussing trafficking, pornography, etc. with your child, then contact us. We will be happy to talk with your child and family!

Blessings!

Ahsha

MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN JUNE:

PRAY. Download and share the June prayer guide.

<https://theredcord.org/prayer/>

Receive urgent prayer texts: <https://verified-broadcast-9201-5jcrmm.twil.io/subscribe.html>

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·**GIVE.** Help share anti-trafficking awareness each month by giving here:

<https://secure.processdonation.org/theredcord/Donation.aspx?donationrefid=F98CJ6689698E>

CONTACT us for more information!

redcord@theredcord.org

On Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/theredcord>



EVENTS

CELEBRATE What we did **TOGETHER IN MAY**. Thank you for your involvement.

- Training at Apache Hotel & Casino
- Staff training at the Pregnancy Resource Center
- Two-day staff training in Tulsa at Beyond Awareness hosted by the Demand Project
- Training for Oklahoma Dental Hygiene Association
- Winners of the Essay contest were chosen and presented checks at the awards ceremony on May 22nd
- Summer outdoor sporting items and art supplies donated to Parker Point

COMING IN JUNE – Join us as together we:

- **LAUNCH THE GALA** – More information coming soon. Tickets will soon be available for purchase for this September event.
- Delete Snapchat -- June 1st is National delete Snapchat day
- Gather for our Monthly Community Training -- Friday, June 17, 6:30 – 8:00 pm; Ft Sill Credit Union, 67th St., Lawton