

Monday May 22

Dear Representative Wetmore,

We sincerely appreciate your timely request for immediate assistance for our 23-year-old South Carolina based nonprofit, Darkness to Light.

Darkness to Light is a 501c3 that is committed to empowering adults to prevent child sexual abuse. In the U.S., one in ten children will experience sexual abuse before their 18th birthday. Child sexual abuse is found everywhere—in our churches, sporting teams, summer camps, schools, and even in our very own homes. A staggering 91% of child sexual abuse is perpetrated by someone known by the child or child's family member.

In addition, the cost to society is high. Untreated trauma from child sexual abuse correlates directly to physical and mental complications throughout life. Child sexual abuse is considered by experts to be one of the most distressing experiences of the Adverse Childhood Experiences and is a proven root cause of countless societal issues including substance abuse, psychiatric disorders, and is linked to serious medical conditions such as diabetes, cancer, heart problems.

As part of our effort to combat this public health crisis, we have recently developed and launched our New Stewards of Children training. Stewards of Children[®] is a trauma and evidence informed training that teaches adults to prevent, recognize, and react responsibly to child sexual abuse. Through the lived experience of survivors and testimony of experts, Stewards of Children[®] teaches adults practical actions they can take to reduce instances of child sexual abuse in their organizations, families, and communities. This training has been the pillar of our work since our inception, but this latest version includes an improved visual experience; more diverse, contemporary survivor voices; emerging learning trends and best practices in learning theory and design; and more flexibility and audience specificities.

We are requesting that \$250,000 be given to our organization to help cover a loan we took out to create this latest iteration of the training which went to production costs, staff salaries, and paying both experts and survivors to share their lived experience with our organization. A full budget is attached for your review.

Darkness to Light has been working diligently to reduce overhead and many grantors have stepped up to assist us. The organization is on the path to financial stabilization such that Stewards of Children will continue to be available. The emergency grant will allow Darkness to Light to repay the debt it incurred to update and improve Stewards of Children ensuring the training will continue to make a difference in the lives of children in South Carolina and throughout the country.

Once again, we are grateful for your review of this request and please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,



Nancy S. Millett

Board Member - Treasurer

www.D2L.org